

Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)

Minutes of the Delegate Assembly on November 27, 2007 in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center

Programs: Prior to the business meeting programs were presented at 6:30 PM and 7:15 PM in conjunction with the MCCPTA Health and Safety Committees. Handouts were provided by the MSRA panel and questions from the audience were included for both topics. Topics were:

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MSRA)

Judy Covich, Director of School Health Services for Montgomery County Health Dept.

Pam Montgomery, MCPS Safety Supervisor

Dr. Roberta L. DiBiasi, infectious disease specialist

(Dr. DiBiasi's comments followed the presentation on Transportation because she arrived late.)

Transportation – John Matthews, MCPS Director of Transportation

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order: President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm

Mission Statement: VP for Programs April Keyes read the PTA Mission Statement

Agenda: The President stated that there would be no report from the Legislative Committee because the Vice President for Legislation could not attend this evening. A Nominating Committee report was added to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the Delegates Assembly on October 23, 2007 were reviewed. A correction was made to the Calendar Committee Report on page 3 by inserting "met" in the first sentence. The first sentence as corrected is, "Patti Twigg reported that Stacy Menendez, Kelly Giblin and she had met with MCPS about the school calendar." There was a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dale Ryan reviewed the Profit and Loss report from November 1, 2007 through November 27, 2007. To date our membership is approximately 21,000, which is short of our goal of 55,000. Dale noted that 50 PTAs have not reported their dues, yet. Each \$1.00 of dues is equal to one member. She will identify these schools for the next Board of Directors meeting. Insurance invoices will be sent out at the beginning of December 2007. The Budget vs. Actual for July 2007 – June 2008 (as of November 27, 2007) was explained. By the first of the year insurance should be in and we should not be in the minus column. The Balance Sheet as of November 27, 2007 was reviewed, too. MCCPTA currently has \$27,180.40 in total bank accounts.

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS

Resolution on Crossing Guards and EFOs –

President Jane de Winter and John Hall, Operating Budget Committee Chair, gave background information for this resolution. It was presented under new business at the October 23, 2007 Delegate Assembly, posted on the listserv and distributed to delegates tonight. Educational Facilities Officers (EFOs) and Crossing Guards are paid by the Montgomery County Police. The goal is to create a positive interaction with students and staff, ensure safety and enforce laws. Currently there are 178 Crossing Guards, with 12 schools still requesting additional guards even though all positions have been filled.

Approximately \$4 million per year is needed to fund EFOs and Crossing Guards out of the county police department budget.

Because the resolution was moved from the committee no second was needed.

Bill Jacobs, delegate from Olney ES PTA made an amendment to the resolution in the third sentence of the last paragraph to insert, "to include re-introduction of EFOs at elementary schools", so that the sentence would read, "Now, therefore, be it resolved that MCCPTA supports and will advocate for increased crossing guard and EFO support across MCPS schools to include

re-introduction of EFOs at elementary schools, and for improved....” This amendment was seconded. Discussion included: no EFOs are currently assigned to elementary schools per se; 1 EFO is assigned to each high school with one exception for 1 EFO who covers 2 high schools; Argyle MS, Clemente MS, Martin Luther King, Jr. MS, and Mark Twain each have an EFO assigned to them. EFOs were originally assigned by cluster, but this has changed over the past two years to assignment by high schools or middle schools. The delegate from Wood MS suggested adding middle schools to the amendment. It was suggested that it be offered as a friendly amendment to read, “and expansion to all middle schools” at the end of the original amendment. This friendly amendment was seconded. Discussion of this addition clarified and emphasized expansion from the original model. A voice vote passed the friendly amendment portion with two dissenting votes. There was no second for an additional amendment offered by delegate Sharon Schulman to add, “expansion of the EFO program” to the last paragraph replacing “EFO support”. A voice vote passed the amendment, and the amended resolution was also passed by a voice vote. The last paragraph of the resolution now reads, “Now, therefore, be it resolved that MCCPTA supports and will advocate for increased crossing guard and EFO support across MCPS schools to include re-introduction of EFOs at elementary schools and expansion to all middle schools, and for improved coordination between EFOs and MCPS Security at local schools, in order to provide the safe, secure learning environment to which Montgomery County schoolchildren and staff are entitled.”

Operating Budget Compact

Pam Moomau, Operating Budget Committee member, presented the MCCPTA FY 2009 Draft Operating Budget Compact. This draft was presented under new business at the October 23, 2007 Delegate Assembly, posted on the listserv and distributed to delegates tonight. Because the motion to approve the compact was moved from the Operating Budget Committee no second was needed. Pam provided background information for each goal. Goal bullets for the Strategic Plan were developed from the MCCPTA summer area meetings and comments. A question from a delegate regarding acronyms resulted in the suggestion to spell acronyms out the first time that they're used. Patti Twigg also referred delegates to the acronym list on the MCCPTA website. Jane de Winter stated that technical and grammatical changes would not require an amendment. Goals 1 through 5 were reviewed in order.

Goal 1 - Monique Riddick, Brooke Grove ES delegate, made an amendment to strike the word “Additional” and substitute the words “A larger” to the third bullet in the second set of bullets for Goal 1 of the MCPS Strategic Plan. It was seconded and passed by a show of hands. Bob Monsheimer, Blake HS delegate, made a motion to amend the fourth bullet of Goal 1 by adding the words, “when and where appropriate” to the end of the fourth bullet in the first set of bullets for Goal 1. It was seconded. Discussion of the amendment included comments about Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), inclusion and mainstreaming by delegates and cluster coordinators. A delegate made a motion to amend the amendment by striking the words “when and where appropriate” and substitute the words “for each child” at the end of the fourth bullet. It was seconded and passed by a voice vote. Karen Smith, Wheaton Cluster Coordinator, made a motion to strike the words, “in order to ensure the success of a move toward promoting education in the least restrictive environment for each child.” It was seconded. Discussion included an explanation of hours based staffing and the phrase success for every student. The motion to strike the words from “in order...” forward passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Goal 2 – Nancy Fitzgerald, Hoover MS delegate, made a motion to strike the words, “increase rigor and” in the first bullet of the second goal. It was seconded. The motion failed by a voice vote.

Goal 3 – Beth Kennington, Lakelands Park MS delegate and Grading and Reporting Committee Chair, made a motion to strike the words “Ed Line” in the third bullet of Goal 3 and replace it with the words, “on line achievement and reporting system”. It was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Goal 4 – Bob Monsheimer, Blake HS delegate, made a motion to strike the first bullet of Goal 4, which reads, “Reduction in high turnover rate for staff from principals to building services staff”. It was seconded. Discussion included: the average turnover rate for principals; source of the statistics for turnover rates; and turnover rates from individual schools vs. MCPS system. The motion failed by a voice vote. Dinitry Dantley, Stonegate ES delegate, made a motion to remove

the word "high" from the first bullet of Goal 4. It was seconded. A voice vote was inconclusive, so a show of hands was conducted and the motion passed to remove the word "high" from the first bullet.

Goal 5 – Laurie Halverson, Churchill Cluster Coordinator, made a motion to add the words, "and preventive building and portable maintenance" to the third bullet of the third set of bullets for Goal 5 following the word "routine" and eliminate the words, "building system maintenance". It was seconded. The motion failed by a voice vote. A delegate made a motion to add the words, "staffing for" to the first bullet in the third set of bullets for Goal 5, so that it would read, "Increased staffing for recess supervision". It was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

A voice vote passed the entire Operating Budget Compact as amended.

MCPS Employee Background Checks

This resolution by Rich Edelman, Robert Frost MS delegate, was presented under new business at the October 23, 2007 Delegate Assembly, posted on the listserv and distributed to delegates tonight. The Safety Committee Chair provided some background information on MCPS policies. A state law in 1986 required fingerprinting. A check of criminal databases is reported back to MCPS, and principals are notified. If an arrest is found then Human Resources is notified and the Director of School Performance and staff contact the principal. First offenses vs. subsequent offenses were discussed as applied to the three incidents at Robert Frost MS that led to the resolution. Question of who pays for the background check was raised. Several years ago the focus was on contractors. Bill Jacobs, Olney ES delegate, made a motion to refer the resolution to the Safety Committee. It was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Reports

Legislation – The Vice President for Legislation was absent, so no report was given.

CIP Committee – The CIP Committee Chair was absent, but Jane de Winter reported that the Board of Education was meeting tonight to approve the Superintendent's CIP. MCCPTA needs to improve their advocacy efforts for special schools and holding schools.

Grading and Reporting Committee – Beth Kennington, Grading and Reporting Committee Chair, reported that at the last Delegate Assembly we voted to oppose the recommendation of the Grading and Reporting workgroup that all students enrolled in AP/IB/CIE courses during semester B are exempt from the traditional two-hour final exam administered during final exam week, but will complete an end of the course activity/assessment. New committee recommendations as of November 19 addressed the need for consistency of the culminating activity/assessment that will count as 25% of the semester grade (same as the final exam). The culminating activity/assessment will be developed by school-based subject area teams and based on centrally developed guidelines. The committee's recommendation will be posted on the MCCPTA website.

Calendar Committee – Patti Twigg, MCPS Calendar Committee representative, reported on three items that MCCPTA advocated for, beginning school on a Tuesday, 1/2 day of school on the day before Thanksgiving and planning a calendar out more than 9 months in advance. Dr. Weast has said that school could begin on a Tuesday next year, but that is not necessarily a practice that would continue in future years. There will be a 1/2 day on the day before Thanksgiving, too. MSA testing dates are determined closer to the testing dates, so Dr. Weast said that spring break dates couldn't be set far in advance, therefore, planning a calendar out for more than 9 months is difficult.

Nominating Committee - Andrea Bernardo, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that Stacy Menendez has been nominated by the committee to fill the vacancy for the MCCPTA Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors, which is the position that Stacy has held on an interim basis. No other nominations were made from the floor. Stacy was elected to the position by a voice vote.

Report from the MD PTA Convention – Three attendees from MCCPTA at the MD PTA Convention in November reported to the assembly. Dale Ryan, MCCPTA Treasurer, was insulted by comments made about first time convention attendees, and noted that the critical issue at the convention was insurance. If we had had more MCCPTA members in attendance, the results of the insurance vote would have been different. It was a very close vote. Karen Smith, Wheaton Cluster Coordinator, thinks that if we have a big enough delegation that we can change the rules. She commented on "rubberstamping". The convention will be held in Frederick next year, so we

can send more people. We need to plan in advance and she proposed that a group be formed to determine how best to approach MD PTA and prepare for next year. Carol Salsbury, Bethesda-Chevy Chase delegate, noted that the program used the word adoption, as if the proposed bylaw changes were not to be discussed.

President's Report - Jane de Winter encouraged local PTAs to budget in the cost of sending local representatives to the MD PTA convention. She mentioned the changes that will take place now that MD PTA will determine the insurance carrier. When we have a quote for additional coverage MCCPTA will vote on it. Next school year the insurance company that MD PTA chooses will bill each local PTA unit. Jane also reported on the awards given to Montgomery County PTAs at the MD PTA convention, among them, Lakelands Park MS for the largest increase in membership, a certificate for Martin Luther King MS and Betsy Fallon, Westland MS, who received the Golden Apple Award. Jane and Vice President for Educational Issues, Kay Romero, participated in the Operating Budget process with MCPS. Dr. Weast will present the Operating Budget on December 13 at Rockville HS at 7:30 PM. The presidents and principals dinner will be held on May 21 at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center. MCCPTA Directories (blue books) have been sent to local schools. Each school should have received 6 copies. Please give a copy to the principal, PTA president and delegates. Let the MCCPTA office know if any entry for your school is incorrect.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 pm.