

**Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
March 23, 2010
Carver Educational Service Center**

Call to Order:

President Kay Romero called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm.

Mission Statement:

Patti Twigg, MCCPTA Secretary for the Delegates Assembly, read the PTA Mission Statement.

Approval of Agenda and February 23, 2010 Minutes:

The agenda was amended to move “Presidents/Principals Dinner” before “Officer Reports,” “Officer Reports” to after “Operating Budget,” and to add under “New Business”, before the “Nominating Committee Slate for 2010-2011,” “Union Joint Advocacy request discussion.” It was approved as amended by a voice vote.

The minutes from February 23, 2010 were reviewed and approved as submitted by a voice vote.

Treasurer’s Report:

MCCPTA Treasurer, Jaimie Jacobson, reviewed the treasurer’s report. He noted that dues are still coming in, and he asked the Delegates to remind their PTAs to send in their dues. Maryland PTA shares with us membership numbers from the dues they receive, and currently PTAs have paid MD PTA but are lagging behind in paying MCCPTA dues. Dues should be paid every month as new members come in.

Our big event is the Principals and Presidents dinner. While the majority of the money for the dinner comes from paid tickets, we also look for sponsors and donors. So far we have only received \$5,400.00 from that source, so we need to keep working for more.

The audit of the MCCPTA books is still being prepared. He reminded locals that it is important for them to do an audit annually. Locals can get help if needed from him.

There being no questions, Kay Romero stated that the treasurer’s report would be filed.

Kay noted that while it is called an audit, it can also be just a financial review, unless the local has a very large budget. They do not have to hire a CPA to do the audit, it can be done by a committee of PTA members, or within a cluster or area, and PTAs can help each other out by auditing each other’s books.

Kay also reminded local PTAs that if your bylaws say that you are a member of MCCPTA, then you must pay MCCPTA dues. It is important to not wait and make one payment at the end of the year, since we need the funds for our daily operations.

Reports:

Presidents/Principals Dinner

Dale Ryan, Presidents/Principals Dinner Committee Point of Contact, reported that the response to most of our letters sent requesting sponsorships was “sorry.” We do have a promise of \$2,500 from Verizon, but in general, we are lagging behind past years, with about \$8,000 total so far. She will put out a request on the listserv for local PTAs to please get in touch with any possible sponsors of which they are aware.

As in past years, Leon Harris will be the emcee, Pat O’Neill, President of the BOE, is our guest speaker, and she is waiting to hear from the President-elect of the National PTA to be our keynote speaker. Kay added that the President-elect is waiting for approval from the National PTA President before confirming with us. Rocky Hill MS will provide the entertainment.

Dale requested feedback from the Delegates as to whether or not we should “go green” this year and send invitations and response cards electronically. Hard copies would still be mailed to dignitaries. The delegates were in favor of this approach. Dale added that PTAs would also get an electronic response that their checks had been received. The dinner will be May 19, with the meet and greet from 6-7 pm, and the dinner from 7-9 pm. Delegates received a packet on the handout table containing the basic information for the dinner and information on nominating people for the PTA Lifetime and Partners for Education Awards. This information is also posted on the MCCPTA website.

A Delegate asked about the different levels of sponsorship, and Dale responded that there was a wide range, and we always accept additional donations of any amount. More than four hundred letters were sent, and not much response has been received.

Legislative

Our VP for Legislation, Rebecca Smondrowski, was unable to attend the DA due to a family illness.

Operating Budget

Pam Moomau, Operating Budget Committee Chair, gave an update on the operating budget. The State Legislature voted to forgive the fine for Montgomery County not meeting MOE for FY 2010, which is consistent with a resolution passed at the January DA. The amount of the fine had been negotiated down to \$23 million, and then it was forgiven altogether.

We will be giving testimony before the County Council the first week of April on the Operating Budget. The school system receives 70% of its funding from Montgomery County. Last week the County Executive submitted a budget that was \$137 million below the MOE level for the upcoming year, but considering that the entire Montgomery County budget is seeing a proposed cut of \$700 million, the amount affecting the schools is not overly severe. Recent memos from Dr. Weast regarding the budget, and MOE waiver are posted on the MCCPTA website.

There are \$37 million in state funds being held in reserve for next year. Teacher retirement health obligations are being deferred this year. When we are in the depth of a recession, it is not unusual to defer some, but it is unusual to defer all as is being done. County employees, including all MCPS employees, have given up their COLA increases already, and this year they are also forgoing their longevity step increases, so this budget is very bare bones for the employees. The savings from foregone step increases for MCPS employees is approximately \$26 million.

Dr. Weast's proposed response to the budget recommended by the County Executive includes increasing the student to teacher ratio by one system wide. This will result in a savings of \$16 million. There are also \$6 million in Central Office cuts, and then \$10 million in "other savings and reductions." There are also other possible areas to cut, such as the inflation factor for fuel and books is lower than anticipated, so that will result in some savings.

On the MCPS website, under budget, there are links to the proposed budget reduction documents.

What does this all mean for us? Pam reminded the Delegates that the County Council does not micro manage the MCPS budget, and since we will not have another formal opportunity to speak before the BOE, if a school community feels strongly about something that is proposed to be cut, they should contact the BOE directly.

It is also important for us to tell the County Council what is important. We need to remember that the MCPS budget is half of the entire County budget. This year, the MCPS budget is being cut less than other departments, but last year MCPS was cut more than other departments. It is best for us to focus on how important full funding is.

Paul Scott, Richard Montgomery HS Delegate, asked about the resolution passed in January regarding the MOE waiver. Specifically, he is concerned that we were careful to stress that we considered our support to be good for only one year, and he wanted to know if there were efforts to try and extend the waiver for another year? Pam replied that she shared his concerns, and noted that Dr. Weast is already requesting the BOE ask for a waiver for next year. This is exactly where concern was expressed in the discussion of the resolution supporting an MOE waiver for FY 2010, since this new budget spends \$1,000 less per student next year, but considering the state of the economy, there are not a lot of options.

Vivian Sretchen, Northwood HS Delegate, asked what exactly is meant by the dollars spent per student amount? Pam replied that it is the pure dollar amount spent on each student, and is not broken down per category.

Paul Scott, Richard Montgomery HS Delegate, asked for further clarification on the MOE waiver, and if any penalties in the future would apply to the school system or the County? Pam replied that she was unsure, and would find out and report back.

Laurie Halverson, Churchill Cluster Coordinator, asked how the MOE level is determined, whether or not it would be last year's figures or the figures from two years ago? Pam explained that by state law, they take the amount of money contributed from County revenues, divided by the number students, and then project for the future with the number of students expected and multiply by the per student figure from the past year. It is hoped that in the future, the figures will be based on the FY 2010 amount, as that is higher than FY 2009 or the proposed FY 2011.

Therese Salus, AVP for Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Wheaton and Whitman clusters, stated that if class sizes were increased by 1 student, that could be absorbed, but if class sizes were increased by 2 students, that would likely cause layoffs.

Pam reminded the Delegates of the importance of bringing out their communities to the County Council hearings in early April, specifically to convey the message of no further cuts in the budget. The County Executive and County Council are also searching for more revenue sources, such as ambulance fees, which have been explored in the past, and each community needs to consider how they feel on this issue.

Paul Scott, Richard Montgomery HS Delegate, asked if there would be transportation cuts for special programs? Pam replied that this is one of the possible cuts under the "other" category. She reminded the Delegates that the more effective place to advocate regarding this is to the BOE, since the County Council does not micro manage the MCPS budget. Paul continued that he had heard that some special programs would be cut, and in his opinion, we needed to advocate for no cuts in this area. Pam referred all the Delegates back to the fall resolution on Operating Budget priorities and the Operating Budget Compact as our basis for organizational advocacy. She advised against getting too detailed as an organization, since that might end up pitting us against each other.

Mary Griffin, Rosemary Hills ES Delegate, asked where the County Council and BOE hearings take place? Pam stated the information on the hearings can be found on the MCPS and Montgomery County Government websites.

CIP Committee

The CIP Chair, Steve Augustino, was not in attendance, so his report was postponed.

Officer Reports

Juan Johnson, VP for Administration, reported on the upcoming Operating Budget hearings before the County Council. We will not have the exact schedule until closer to the dates of testimony. Juan will put out the information on the listserv as soon as he gets it. Kay added that we will put out more info on the testimony.

Kristin Tribble, VP for Educational Issues had nothing to report.

Kay Romero reported that the Unions wanted MCCPTA to participate in their planned rally on April 6, 2010, advocating for the budget. They have a publicity flyer and want to put our name on there as a supporting organization. The rally will be at 6 pm, and free shuttle buses will be provided to take people from Carver to the County Council building.

Paul Scott, Richard Montgomery HS Delegate, moved:

Motion to support union rally and add MCCPTA to draft flyer.

The motion was seconded.

Kevin David, Seneca Valley Cluster Coordinator, spoke in opposition to the motion. He requested that word salary be removed from the flyer before we support adding our name.

Laurie Halverson, Churchill Cluster Coordinator, spoke in opposition to the motion. She stated that nowhere on the flyer does it say children, and the rally is being held during MCPS spring break.

Paul Morrison, Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator, asked for clarification. He had concerns with the wording of the flyer, and wanted to see it more reflective of the MCCPTA mission.

Diane Laviolette, Rock View ES Delegate, spoke in opposition to the motion, stating that we should not put our name on a draft document without seeing the final wording.

Jim Roberts, Takoma Park MS Delegate, spoke in favor of the motion. He stated that the wording on the flyer contained all the things we wanted to remain constant.

Lara Wibeto, Darnestown ES Delegate, spoke in support of the motion. She stated that adding our name is not about supporting the unions, but about supporting the teachers.

A vote was taken on the motion, and it passed on a standing counted vote, with 44 in favor and 28 opposed.

Old Business:

Foreign Language Workgroup

Jen Pories, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, and Jack Suzich, Maryvale ES, two of the MCCPTA representatives on the Foreign Language workgroup, led a presentation of the concerns brought back in response to the charge at the February DA. Last month, the Delegates directed them to bring to the March DA a list of comments and concerns with the MCPS documents provided.

The first page, front and back, of the document presented were their comments. The attachments were from MCPS, and have been presented last month. It was noted that Johanna Walk and Gloria Salas-Kos were the other parents representing MCCPTA on the workgroup.

Jen and Jackie took turns presenting and explaining the list of concerns from the parents who served on the workgroup. The first two concerns related to the fact that despite their names being on the document from MCPS, they were not part of the vetting process and had a difficult time getting a copy of the document. Kay reiterated that whenever MCCPTA puts representatives on MCPS Workgroups or Committees, it is done with the upfront statement that we will only participate if we are permitted to share information with our members and get their feedback.

Concern 3 specified the upset with the fact the MCPS document was not presented to many people, which was different than the outcome from the math workgroup, which was more widely distributed. Concern 4 was due to the fact that the deliverables were referred to but not included in the document from MCPS.

Concern 7 was more detailed than the others, and incorporated concern 2. Concern 8 relates to the fact this was discussed as part of the MCPS Strategic Plan, and it had been decided that it was more desirable to do a small number of language well, rather than a large number poorly.

Concern 9 regarding student proficiency had been discussed in the workgroup and was in the last of shared interests, but had not made it to the final document. Concern 10 relates to the fact that for some students, particularly immersion students, there are no classes available at a high enough level once they reach high school. Concern 11 strove to be more specific regarding elementary school introduction of languages.

Concerns 12, 13 and 14 referred to the first page of the MCPS document, where it asked for feedback. These three items provide that feedback. So far, the only Heritage program is Spanish for Spanish speakers.

Paul Scott, Richard Montgomery HS Delegate, thanked the workgroup for their comprehensive list of concerns.

Beth Kennington, Northwest Cluster Coordinator, also thanked them, and asked what the difference was between the two draft documents, from MCPS, dated February 2010 and October 2009? Is one the background, and the other recommendations? Kay replied yes, that the one dated October was something put together by MCPS and had not been

forwarded to our representatives. Beth added that she was bothered by the composition of the workgroup, feeling that not enough HS people were on it. She also asked how many meetings there were? Meetings were held in April, May, June, July and August and then September and two meetings in October were added.

Aissa Sires, Maryvale ES Delegate, and Yasmina Mudarres, Sligo Creek ES Delegate, brought forward a list of concerns from parents of students in immersion programs. Yasmina had previously posted these concerns on the MCCPTA_Delegates listserv. They both thanked MCCPTA for putting out the information about this workgroup and the findings. They were, however, disappointed that more groups were not represented in the discussion. Their main concerns were that terms used in the document from MCPS were not defined, making it more difficult to understand, how stakeholders were identified, data was needed on benchmarks, the effectiveness of the instruction needs to be taken into account, and they preferred the term foreign language students to foreign language learner (FLL).

Kay asked if they were making a motion. Their concerns centered on the MCPS document, and it was pointed out that we cannot add anything to that document, just to the list of concerns presented by the MCCPTA workgroup members.

Vivian Sretchen, Northwood ES Delegate, stated that students in immersion programs need to be tested in subjects other than the foreign language in the language they are immersed in. Jen Pories replied that the list of concerns they were presenting was meant to be a more general document.

Andrea Bernardo, AVP for Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, and Wootton clusters, stated that perhaps this issue is better brought to the curriculum committee for consultation.

Jen Pories stated that she would include concerns discussed tonight before finalizing the list to present to MCPS. Presenting the list of concerns to MCPS was approved by the Delegates with a voice vote.

**MCCPTA FOREIGN LANGUAGE WORKGROUP (FLW) MEMBERS
LIST OF CONCERNS WITH THE MCPS FLW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS
AS APPROVED BY THE MCCPTA DELEGATES
MARCH 23, 2010**

1. **Members of the FLW did not receive, review, or approve the final Draft Recommendations document before it went out to other groups for review, although our names were listed as preparers.**
2. **After all FLW meetings through October 1, 2009, MCPS workgroup staff provided workgroup members with a summary of the meeting and action steps to be taken. After the final meeting on October 29, 2009, there was no further communication with the workgroup. In January, upon our request for such information we were informed by MCPS staff that the Draft Recommendations were being presented to select groups chosen for feedback, most of whom were MCPS related committees. MCPS staff felt that these groups were representative of the population. Their plan was to summarize the feedback from these groups and present it to senior staff at MCPS for review without the FLW partaking in the process again. It was only upon the resolute letter sent by Kay Romero, President of the MCCPTA to MCPS staff insisting upon our receiving and having an opportunity to review the Draft Recommendations that we were given access to the document. In fact, it was only after that time that an e-mail similar to prior FLW meeting summaries was sent out to all workgroup members summarizing the meeting of October 29.**

3. We were told throughout the process that all stakeholders would have an opportunity to comment on our work product before it was completed similar to other MCPS workgroups like the Math Workgroup, not just a handful of MCPS selected groups. Many parents were disturbed that they were not given an opportunity to review and comment on the FLW Draft Recommendations.
4. Deliverables (including the “List of Shared Interests”, “Description of Desired State” and the “Gap Analysis”) containing important information reflecting the thought process of the FLW were excluded from the Draft Recommendations submitted for feedback.
5. The Draft Recommendations list by itself is too general and simple to be a meaningful document.
6. Reviewers of the Draft Recommendations were asked to select their top three choices. How can this be accomplished with such general statements and when so many of the recommendations are interdependent?
7. Overarching Draft Recommendation #1 should be amended to include #2-16 as follows:

“Develop a strategic plan for the foreign language program considering/including input and feedback from stakeholders now, a process for decision making that includes ongoing stakeholder feedback and input, the Draft Recommendations #3-16, research, benchmarking, review of system resources and systematic parent communications.”
8. Draft Recommendations should include a provision that the maximum number of languages offered by MCPS is determined based upon those that can be adequately supported.
9. Student proficiency in foreign language and cultural competence are not addressed in the Draft Recommendations. Sample language to add:

“Establish and develop a foreign language program that prepares students to be linguistically and culturally competent, and enables students to achieve a high level of proficiency.”
10. Amend Draft Recommendation #4 as follows to make it clear and unambiguous to stakeholders:

“Develop, implement, and monitor clearly described pathways of progress for all foreign language students from elementary through high school, such that once a student begins the study of a language they have access to (through scheduling and articulation to middle/high school) continuing the advancement of such studies.”
11. Expand Draft Recommendation #8 to state :

“Introduce foreign language programs in elementary schools county-wide as part of the regular curriculum to ensure access to and equity in early foreign language opportunities.”
12. Exposure to language was covered in revised Draft Recommendation # 8 above.
13. Scheduling is addressed in Draft Recommendation #16 and Amended Draft Recommendation #4 above.
14. With regard to Heritage Speakers add the following:

“Provide a unique program of study for those students who have developed a proficiency in a language (supported by MCPS including French, Chinese, and Spanish) because it is their first language, or it is spoken extensively in their home (“heritage speakers”). These programs should present students with equivalent learning opportunities in foreign language while their curricula may differ.”

New Business:

Proposed Resolution on Middle School Advanced Courses (Introduction Only)

The proposed resolution on Middle School Advanced Courses, from the Curriculum Committee, was presented to the Delegates. Because neither of the Co-Chairs were present, it was noted that any questions could be directed to them via email. Delegates were asked to take this proposed resolution to their local PTAs for discussion, and a vote would be taken at the April DA.

Nominating Committee – Slate for 2010-11

Juan Johnson, VP for Administration called Janette Gilman, Chair of the Nominating Committee forward to present the slate of candidates for offices for the 2010-2011 school year. Janette thanked Carol Salsbury, VP for Programs for her assistance, and the members of the Nominating Committee, for their work. She also thanked the local clusters who brought forward names for AVPs and Cluster Coordinators to the Nominating Committee. She reminded the Delegates that all positions, whether currently open or slated, can also accept nominations from the floor at the April DA. She also added thanks to the people that came forward to be nominated. She presented the slate to Juan, with one correction, Cheryl Moss Herman, listed as a Cluster Coordinator candidate from Richard Montgomery Cluster, had not yet been formally voted on by her cluster, so her name would be presented from the floor the night of the April DA. Janette then read the slate for officer positions, and asked each candidate to stand.

Juan Johnson then read the names of nominees for AVPs and Cluster Coordinators, and reminded everyone that anyone can run for any position from the floor at the April DA. Therese Salus, AVP for Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Wheaton and Whitman clusters, requested that her first name be listed as Therese on the nomination list. Juan explained the process for election to be used in April. He reminded the Delegates to be sure to bring their MCCPTA Delegates voting card as well as their PTA membership card. They must have both to vote. Check in will begin at 6:30 pm that evening. Delegates voting cards have been sent to all PTAs that have paid MCCPTA dues. If Delegates do not have the cards, they need to check with their PTA president, and if the President never got them, then they need to contact the MCCPTA office for replacement cards. Every Delegate votes for the officer positions, Delegates vote for AVPs for their quad or quint cluster area, and for Cluster Coordinators for their cluster.

Kay added that we had sent out via the listserv information on how PTAs conduct elections.

NOMINATIONS FOR MCCPTA OFFICERS 2010-2011

President	Kristin Tribble
Vice President for Educational Issues	Laurie Halverson
Vice President for Administration	Paul Morrison
Vice President for Programs	OPEN
Vice President for Legislation	Rebecca Smondrowski
Treasurer	Jaimie Jacobson
Recording Secretary, Board of Directors	Debra Lang
Recording Secretary, Delegates Assembly	Sonya Leaman

NOMINATIONS FOR AREA VICE PRESIDENTS & CLUSTER COORDINATORS 2010 - 2011

Bethesda-Chevy Chase/

Walter Johnson/

Wheaton/Whitman

Area Vice President: Therese Salus

Down County Consortium:

Blair/Einstein/

Kennedy/Northwood

Area Vice President: OPEN

Churchill/

Richard Montgomery/

Rockville/Wootton

Area Vice President: Andrea Q. Bernardo

**Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Cluster Coordinator:**

Craig Brown
Joy White
Mary Cobbett

**Walter Johnson
Cluster Coordinator:**

Jen Cope
Barbara Ferry

Wheaton Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Whitman Cluster Coordinators:

Deborah Goldman
Keith Parsky
Jean Schlesinger

**Clarksburg/Damascus/
Gaithersburg/Magruder/
Watkins Mill**

Area Vice President: Ted Willard

Clarksburg Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Damascus Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Gaithersburg Cluster Coordinators:

Laurie Augustino
Valerie Rivers

Magruder Cluster Coordinators:
OPEN

Watkins Mill Cluster Coordinator:
Martha Crews

**Montgomery Blair
Cluster Coordinator:**
OPEN

Einstein Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Kennedy Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Northwood Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

**Northeast Consortium:
Blake/Paint Branch/
Springbrook/Sherwood**

Area Vice President: Patti Twigg

Blake Cluster Coordinator:
Jonathan Arias
DeBora King

**Paint Branch
Cluster Coordinator:**
Patti Twigg

Springbrook Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Sherwood Cluster Coordinator:
Virginia Twombly

Churchill Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

**Richard Montgomery
Cluster Coordinator:**
OPEN

Rockville Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Wootton Cluster Coordinators:
Karen Collishaw
Rich Edelman
Jennifer Pories

**Northwest/Poolesville/
Quince Orchard/
Seneca Valley**

Area Vice President: Juan Johnson

Northwest Cluster Coordinator:
Susan Burkinshaw
Beth Kennington
Bob Murphy

Poolesville Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

**Quince Orchard Cluster
Coordinators:**

Kevin Farragher
Jim Keenan
Rebecca Smondrowski
**Seneca Valley Cluster
Coordinator:**
Scott Bogren
Kevin David
Ed Vigezzi

Kay noted that MCPS had just notified her that the Parent Satisfaction Survey for this school year will be available online from the end of March to May 15. It will be password protected, and they will select a random sample of parents to participate. Those parents will receive letters in the mail with instructions on how to fill it out.

Donna Pfeiffer, Clarksburg Cluster Coordinator, suggested that we needed to give parents a heads up about this via the listserv.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Patti Twigg, MCCPTA secretary for DA.