

Minutes MCCPTA Board Directors
Carver Educational Service Center
February 5, 2009

Officers - Kay Romero, President, Liz Wheeler, VP Administration, Karen Smith, VP Programs, Rebecca Smondrowski, VP Legislation, Dale Ryan, Treasurer, Patti Twigg, Recording Secretary, Delegates Assembly, Andrea Q. Bernardo, Recording Secretary, BOD.

AVPs, Cluster Coordinators and Committee Chairs - Sharon St. Pierre, Joe Stewart, Sally Taber, Jeanne Taylor, Susan J. Thomas, Linda B. White, Laurie Halverson, Beth Kennington, De Bora King, Priscilla Peterson, Theresa Salus, Jack Hayes, Craig Brown, Jennifer Cope, Ricky Ford, Jennifer Chambers, Mary Abe, Sonya Leaman, Donna Pfeiffer, Ted Willard, Kristen Tribble, Martha Crews, Laurie Halverson, Janette Gilman, Laura Siegel, Richard Edelman, Roy Broussard, Lee Ann Doerflinger, Jim Keenan, Paul Morrison, Kevin David, Brenda Martin, Jamie Jacobson.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

During the first 15 minutes of the meeting, BOD members filled out a survey conducted by MCPS regarding the MCPS Wellness Policy JPG.

In concert with this, Kay Romero announced that Jim Taylor, MD PTA VP for Councils would be unable to attend due to his son being injured. He will be in attendance at the March meeting instead. Karen Smith made an announcement about the Champions for Children Award, reminding everyone to please distribute it to their clusters. A copy of the reminder will be sent electronically to the BOD listserv.

At 7:50 pm, the business meeting began with introductions. A quorum was present.

The Agenda was approved.

The January Minutes were amended to say "January 8, 2009" and were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report. Dale Ryan presented the Budget vs. Actuals, Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet Statements. Replacing the aging copier in the MCCPTA office was discussed.

Joe Stewart moved that we authorize the Finance and Office Committees to move forward with the best deal they can find. It was seconded.

The motion passed on voice vote.

Officer Reports

Kay Romero reported on upcoming meetings: February 23, BOE Boundaries Alternative Worksession, March 4, BOE Facilities and Boundaries Hearing, March 10, BOE Facility Decisions, BOE has rescheduled their Feb. 10 regular board meeting to Feb. 9. She has attended numerous meetings. She also attended: Feb. 5 - BOE Communications and Public Engagement Committee, Feb. 3 - BOE Policy Committee, Jan. 21- BOE Special Populations Committee, Jan. 9- BOE Joint Meeting of the Fiscal Management and Policy Committees and gave updates about each. Feb. 23 - Proposed work plans for the BOE Committees will be voted on by the BOE. The Draft Disproportionality Report (involves addressing the overidentification of African American

students in special education) was sent to us for input. The report will be released soon. The report on the Learning centers will be coming out in February or March.

Liz Wheeler, VP for Administration, had the Blue Books for any BOD members that had not yet received theirs. She thanked everyone for their testimony on the Operating Budget, and stated how much she enjoyed listening to everyone speak. She then expressed her frustration about the upcoming County Council testimony. She had been in frequent contact with them, and was told that since it was an off year, we would be giving testimony only once, in April, for both the CIP and Operating budgets. Then, the morning of our meeting, she received a call telling her that we could sign up for CIP testimony on Feb. 10, which is 5 days away! She collected names and clusters for people that wanted to testify, and urged those that could not testify to submit written testimony.

Ted Willard moved that the MCCPTA BOD direct Kay to write to the County Council expressing our frustration over testimony scheduling this year.

It was seconded and approved on a voice vote.

Rebecca Smondrowski, VP for Legislation, has been working on arranging dates for clusters to visit Annapolis. She gave the dates for each group, which she amended from her committee report – the dates are: Feb. 18, Mar. 4, Mar. 18, and Mar. 25. Ideally, she is trying to get 2-3 people from each cluster to attend. The sessions at the State House start at 10 am, and they will announce our presence. We will also have an opportunity to sit down with our legislators.

Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee – Joe Stewart - He and his committee have come up with recommended changes to the bylaws in a document presented at the meeting. Bold face type means an addition or change. He is requesting that the BOD look over the suggested changes, and we discuss and vote at our March meeting on what to take to the Delegates. We will discuss these proposals on the BOD listserv to facilitate the vote in March.

Nominating Committee – Carol Salsbury - She reminded everyone that the call for nominees has gone out, is posted on the website and requests that the information be passed on to locals.

Grading and Reporting Committee – Beth Kennington - She noted the following items of interest: Standards based report cards for elementary school – her committee is conducting a survey of the 24 pilot elementary schools, and her goal is to get at least 20 responses per school, which is ambitious. She read a list of pilot schools that have not yet submitted any responses on the survey, and asked cluster coordinators to please contact them and ask they respond. The survey is short, and anonymous. GRIT – they are collecting comments on policy IKA and input on special populations. They are also looking at the three-week rule for posting grades. There are some issues, and they are looking at changing the length of time. Grades entered by 4 pm will be available the next day, but if entered after that, there is the delay of an additional day. Elementary Online and Achievement Reporting System – OARS – currently piloting in 24 schools, and MCPS is looking to roll it forward to grades 4 and 5 in those pilot schools. The Forced grade calculation method will be discussed. Student Grades and Graduation Credit Report (SGGCR) (high school students, grades 10-12 only) should have gone home. If parents have not received them, they could get them from their child's guidance counselor. They are distributed at the end of 9th grade and forward, and come out twice a year.

Principals and Presidents Dinner – Sharon St. Pierre - It will be held May 27. Sharon urged people to nominate people and groups for the awards given that night – info was sent out in the Presidents newsletter and is on our website. So far, \$12,000 has been raised in sponsorships; Lockheed-Martin is printing the programs for us this year.

Rigor Through Relevancy Conference – MCCPTA is a co-sponsor of this one-day event, and it is a wonderful resource for parents and educators. It will be held at Northwest HS on June 23, and the information for it has also gone out and is available on our website.

Safety Committee – Laurie Halverson - Laurie, Kay Romero and Rebecca Smondrowski met with James Song and Joe Lavorgna about portables. There has been an issue of the wrong size filters being delivered to the schools, but it has been corrected with a new vendor. Some of the portables are in fair condition, and MCPS is focusing efforts there. HVAC systems at some schools have fiberglass that can collect mold. There is concern about the loss of positions among the maintenance staff and the impact that will have on operations. Some portables have carpets, and they can collect dust mites and mold. All new portables do not have carpets. Seventy-five units will be moved over the summer; there are 437 currently in use. Twenty to thirty go back to the vendor each year. Rebecca Smondrowski is working to relay our suggestions to the Air Quality Bill currently in the State House. Older portables are supposedly of better quality, being built from more sturdy materials. New portables are leased, not purchased. It is too expensive to buy green or energy efficient portables now with the resources available – being forced to do so could result in higher class sizes. There will be a meeting in the fall with MCPS for parents regarding portables – our goal is transparency.

Curriculum Committee – please encourage attendance at their meetings of all interested parents.

Membership Committee – Kay has provided us with the latest MD PTA membership report, please check your clusters for schools that are behind in their dues.

Technology committee – Linda White - Linda and her committee met with MCPS regarding the status of the integration of new technology standards. It is supposed to happen over two years, and some parents are realizing that because of that their kids are missing out due to the timing.

Principals and Presidents Dinner – the info on the website is great, be sure to look there for more on the event. Invitations will go out after Spring Break. Feb. 15 is the deadline for the National PTA CEO to get back to us about whether or not he will be able to be our keynote speaker.

Gifted Child Committee – Susan Thomas - The committee's proposed resolution will be brought forward at the next DA and voted on at the one after that. The committee also got a huge response to their questions about math, and her committee will be rescheduling the meeting that was canceled due to snow/ice. They will be sharing their work on that with the Curriculum Committee. They are also hoping to schedule a meeting regarding the global screening in second grade. She does not have dates for these meetings at this time.

New Business

Laura Siegel raised the concern that at the second night of the Operating Budget testimony, the unions stated that MCCPTA was present at the budget meetings, but there was no clarification that our participation was limited. She questioned whether or not we needed to clarify that point publicly. Paul Morrison pointed out that we had decided as a body that our participation at those meetings was valuable. Kay stated that we were between a rock and a hard place, in that we learn

about the budget and the budget process, but once the budget leaves the table, Dr. Weast and the MCPS staff change it before we see it again. Ted Willard suggested that perhaps we should put in writing exactly what our role is, and specifically that it is different than the role of the unions, in that they are bound to support the budget once it comes out, and we have no such agreement or restriction. Perhaps we need to put that on our website? Kay pointed out that she has said that very point to the press on more than one occasion, as well as explained that to our Delegates. Ricky Ford added that our mere presence there changes the conversation and we should be at the table when we are invited to come to the table. Kay reminded everyone that the MCCPTA members there (she and Merry Eisner) go on record and advocate using our organization's budget priorities and resolution. We do not advocate for cuts. The meetings are very lengthy and are a large time commitment. This is Kay's second year in attending these budget meetings. Ricky Ford thanked Kay for her hard work and the time she put in on these meetings.

Beth Kennington asked if there was any way to know what would happen when the fee structure changes this fall – is there any way to know what will be lost? She said that teachers are concerned about consumables. Laura Siegel made a motion for MCCPTA to state that we as parents are very concerned that any policy that the BOE makes regarding fees does not impact the quality of education. It was seconded.

A vote was taken in favor of letting Laura bring the verbiage to the DA as a motion for the Delegates to discuss and decide what to do. It passed on a voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Patti Twigg, Recording Secretary, DA