

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at Carver Education Services Center

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Jane de Winter, Liz Wheeler, Juan Johnson, Kay Romero, April Keyes, Sharon St.Pierre, Cassandra Abdelmeguid

Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators: Pam Moomau, Phil Kaufman, Linda Kuserk, Julie Lucas, Kate Savage, Andrea Bernardo, Steve Crowley, Ellen Paul, Sally Taber, Paul Morrison, Karen Smith, Ted Willard, Sonya Leaman, Steve Augustino, Kristin Tribble, Pam Megna, Dawn Trahern, Joanne Vanderhorst, Donna Pfeiffer, Liz Brennan, Harlivleen Gill, Ricky Ford, Jim Keenan, Carroll Lovelace

Committee Chairs: Sharon Schulman, Patti Twigg, Diane Dickson, Beth Kennington, Vicki Rafel, Neal Myerson

OPENING:

MCCPTA President Jane de Winter began by introducing our guest, MD PTA President Elect Debbie Ritchie. An informational meeting began at 7:40 PM. Because a quorum was not met, no official business was conducted.

AGENDA:

Minutes/Secretary's Report: Meeting minutes were not reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: No report was given.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The President distributed a list of her activities from March 4, 2007 to April 11, 2007.

Presidents/Principals Dinner – The Vice President for Programs reported that the dinner will be taped by ITV.

Training – The Vice President for Educational Issues gave a summary of MCCPTA Spring Training. It will be held at Rockville HS on May 30. Registration begins at 6:30 and the opening session is at 7:00 pm followed by position specific sessions for presidents (new and returning), treasurers, secretaries, members of board of directors (cluster coordinators and AVPs), delegates, Reflections, newsletter editors, bylaws, and a session by MCCPTA- EPI FLES. A session conducted in Spanish will cover officer responsibilities.

Reflections Ceremony – The Executive Committee authorized the Reflections chair to spend \$750 for the Reflections Award Ceremony on Wednesday, April 25 at Northwest HS in the cafeteria. The exhibit begins at 7:00 pm and the event starts at 7:30 pm

Champions for Children Gala – The Vice President for Programs reported that this event will be held on April 26 at the Bethesda North Marriott. MCCPTA will help with registration at 5:30 pm. Ashburton ES nominated one of the winners, Suburban Hospital.

Secondary School Summer Conference – This conference, titled “Rigor through Relevancy”, will be held on all day June 21 at Northwest HS. There is one complimentary ticket left.

MD PTA – The President gave an update on insurance. Insurance options will be voted on at the November MD PTA meeting.

MD PTA's state extension chairs will be contacting any new MCPS schools (e.g. “Arcola ES”) to help them set up a PTA. MCCPTA's President will prepare a letter to send to the new principal stating that upon request local units can ask for cluster coordinators and area vice presidents to be involved.

The President also reported on MCCPTA's requests to MD PTA for a written explanation regarding our bylaws and the charter revocation vote for Prince George's County.

Postings re: audit/ finances – The President cited recent list serv postings and Cashell's PTA treasurer incident to emphasize the need for reconciliation reports, two signatures on checks and oversight for PTA finances.

MCCPTA elections – The Vice President for Educational Issues outlined the election procedures that will be followed at the Delegate Assembly on April 24. You must bring your delegate card and PTA membership card to show at registration to get your voting card. Contact Cathy Lilja at the MCCPTA office (301-208-0111) if cards have been misplaced. PTAs must be in good standing for their delegates to vote. Currently there's still a vacancy for one secretary. Nominations will be taken from the floor.

AGENDA ITEMS:

CLUSTER REPORTS:

Rockville – Rockville HS is petitioning for a new bus route to encourage student attendance. Wood MS has been piloting MS reform. Rockville's cluster coordinator was singled out at last night's county council testimony because of "talking points" that several council members didn't like being used.

Richard Montgomery – Richard Montgomery recently participated in a quad cluster meeting. Construction at Richard Montgomery HS and College Gardens ES is underway and monitored. Julius West MS and Beall ES parents have received unsolicited phone calls and mailings from CRC re: the sex education curriculum raising directory use issues again.

Einstein – The cluster recently had its meeting with the board of Education.

Quince Orchard – The cluster is focusing on overcrowding and additions conducted. There will be a feasibility study. PTA presidents for cluster schools are a concern next year.

Gaithersburg – Construction and a transition plan for Gaithersburg HS is a concern because of the condition of the present building. The cluster is requesting an expansion of the Educational Facilities Officer (EFO) program.

Magruder – Principal interviews are a taking place. Redland MS has picked a contractor.

Wootton – Two new principals will be needed. Wootton HS is 20% overcrowded.

Wootton HS has a speed camera in front of the school.

Northeast Consortium (NEC) – The Paint Branch cluster had its meeting with the Board of Education (BOE). NEC reported that 95% of the students got their first choice of schools. The BOE voted to authorize a boundary study for Hampshire Greens.

Churchill – None of the cluster coordinators are coming back next year, so there are three new nominees. The cluster met with Roger Berliner. There will be a Boundary study involving Bells Mill ES, Potomac ES and Seven Locks ES.

Kennedy – Low levels of participation in local PTAs is a concern.

Down County Consortium (DCC) – A meeting re: academic ineligibility was held with the BOE. Northwood has a naming committee for the new "Arcola" elementary school. Phil Andrews is scheduled to tour Northwood HS and Silver Spring International MS.

Damascus – Damascus HS will hold graduation on its field. The Damascus cluster hosts the BOE on May 14. The quint cluster met with Mike Knapp.

Clarksburg – Little Bennett ES will be dedicated on May 12. One elementary school principal is retiring. Two portables were denied for Rocky Hill MS for next year.

Wheaton – A cluster meeting was held at the end of March. A cluster list serv is being used. Harmony Hills ES was reported to have 80% of its students speaking Spanish at home and another 10% speaking neither Spanish nor English at home.

Walter Johnson – Growth is a concern. Spreadsheets of developments have been created including the White Flint sector plan. Walter Johnson HS will have 45 portables on site next year.

Seneca Valley – The cluster met with Mike Knapp. All three cluster coordinators are returning. The cluster had a positive and well attended meeting with the BOE in February. Roberto Clemente MS has security concerns, and it would like to change its traffic flow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bylaws – Vicki Rafel, Bylaws Committee Chair, reviewed the memorandum re: the bylaws revision that was distributed tonight. The goal is to not be punitive, but reduce the number of positions on the BOD. Discussion included: one vote per cluster; missing specified number of meetings resulting in dismissal from the BOD; 69 total votes with 1 vote per cluster and committee; and rules and procedures. A straw vote showed no support for the first bullet on the memorandum requiring attendance at five meetings plus the delegate assemblies. A straw vote on the second bullet, each cluster and committee entitled to one vote, favored sending this on to the delegates. The third bullet regarding participation in BOD and delegate assemblies by cluster coordinators generated no discussion and will be sent forward to the delegates. The fourth bullet, to insert “attend delegate assemblies” will be sent to the delegates, but the fifth bullet, requiring cluster coordinators to have served as least one year on the board of a local PTA, will not.

NEW BUSINESS:

CRC misuse of directories – A spokeswoman for Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum (CRC) admitted to a reporter that there was “no other way” for them to reach parents other than using school directories. MCCPTA will write a letter again supporting the stance of our organization against misuse of school directories.

Translation of MCCPTA guidebooks into Spanish – Translating guidebooks into Spanish will cost between 13 to 20 cents per word. Guidebooks have approximately 2500 to 3500 words. A survey will be taken at the spring training re: translation.

Testimony to County Council – The CIP Committee Co-Chair reported that CIP testimony before the county council is May 1 and is limited to only those five clusters that are affected by amendments. Thirty slots are to be given out to individuals not clusters. Discussion concluded that MCCPTA will write a letter advocating for all clusters to have the opportunity to testify.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting finished at 10:00 PM.