

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, October 5, 2006 at the Carver Educational Services Center

ATTENDANCE:

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

Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators: Jim Keenan, Ted Willard, Steve Crowley, Elizabeth Enders, Kate Savage, Paul Morrison, Karen Smith, Andrea Bernardo, JoAnne Vanderhorst, Jaimie Jacobson, Deborah DeMille-Wagman, Deborah Stevens Panzer, Pam Moomau, Liz Brennan, Ellen Paul, Harlivleen Gill, Susan Stavenhagen

Committee Chairs: Patti Twigg, Neal Meyerson, Marney Jacobs, Jennifer Zaranis, Diane Dickson, Gloria Salos-Kos

OPENING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Agenda: The agenda was accepted as written.

Minutes/Secretary's Report: The September 7, 2006 Board of Directors meeting minutes were distributed.

Deborah DeMille-Wagman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Budget

The Treasurer stated that he is changing the accounting system. There were no changes to his report as he presented it at the Delegate Assembly on September 26, 2006.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Vice Presidents:

Vice President for Programs – Candidate's Forum:

The President announced for this Vice President that the candidates' forum will be held at the October 24 Delegate Assembly. Note the time change from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm. and emphasize it in your own areas. Questions were collected from members present tonight to be given to the Vice President. Questions can be emailed to April Keyes by October 20. Questions will be summarized and categorized. Jinhee Wilde will be the moderator. All candidates except one have responded that they will attend the forum.

Vice President for Legislation – Board of Directors (BOD) with Board of Education (BOE) on October 25:

MCCPTA's BOD are scheduled to have a reception in the Carver cafeteria with the BOE on October 25, 2006. Recently the BOE's Staff Director proposed to the VP that only the executive officers and Area Vice Presidents (AVP) be invited to meet with the BOE.

Also, he suggested format changes that would include opening remarks by Dr. Haughey and Dr. DeWinter, and discussion limited to pre-determined topics. In the past MCCPTA had invited the entire BOD and had no formal structure. Discussion of the acceptability of the proposed changes for the October 25 meeting included: our goal of informal, unscripted discussion open to all BOD; the value of meeting with the BOE before the election; the structure of the September 21 meeting on the Strategic Plan; changing to a date after the election; present BOE voting on the CIP; MCPS discussing visions and goals for upcoming year and organizational issues between MCCPTA and BOE; and allowing the executive committee to negotiate changes to the structure of the meeting.

Victor Salazar made a motion that he will tell the BOE Staff Director that the BOD has agreed that we would like to maintain an open invitation to all BOD, for a meeting with little scripting, so it's an informal event that is our meeting, and, if these terms weren't met that we would not meet with the BOE on October 25. The motion was seconded.

Discussion of this motion included: agreeing to meet now meaning meeting later (after elections) would not occur; and language in the conversation with Staff Director to include possibility of meeting again.

Ted Willard made an amendment to the motion's last section that the executive committee be given the authority to negotiate a compromise with the Staff Director for establishing conditions for a meeting. It was seconded. It passed unanimously by a voice vote.

The original motion as amended passed by a unanimous voice vote.

President's Report:

Secondary School Conference - The president noted this item on the agenda. The June 20, 2006 meeting was very successful. MCPS asked MCCPTA to participate in secondary school meetings to be held in October, November, February and April. The first meeting is October 17. All meetings are from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm at Carver Educational Services Center. MCCPTA is looking for one or two representatives. The goal is to more effectively promote the conference to PTA leadership in order to help with School Improvement Plans (SIP). If interested please see the specific dates for the four meetings in the correspondence file being circulated tonight.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast – MCCPTA will pay for one table and included with the table cost is a one page ad in the program. There is no current work plan for the Outreach Committee. We can wait until November for this approval.

Montgomery County Community Television Board– A copy of email from Ginny Hillhouse concerning the loss of the MCCPTA representative position on the Montgomery County Community Television Board was distributed. Ginny had been serving as our representative, but she is now losing her seat because of a rotation off the board in accordance with the television board's bylaws. Discussion of this issue reached the consensus for MCCPTA to announce that we've lost our seat on this board; how people can become eligible to vote (i.e. to request a program guide); and encouraging people to vote.

Letter to Dr. Haughey Re: Predetermined Testimony Times:

MCCPTA retained predetermined testimony time slots last year because of a one year extension being granted. As it stands now each cluster must phone in to request a time slot, thereby resulting in a mixed grouping of testimonies for the operating budget. A highly encouraged suggestion was that an effective method for preparing testimony is to schedule an area meeting with your Community Superintendent and Marshall Spatz before you finalize your testimony. The MCCPTA President's draft letter to the Board of Education regarding the BOE resolution for their Policy Committee to develop a new policy or procedure to define the expectations, rules, responsibilities of public hearings was distributed. Some on the BOE think that testimony is repetitive. The President asked if it's still the will of MCCPTA to have predetermined testimony. The consensus of those present affirmed that it is better to group testimony times. The President will send the letter with this intent to the BOE.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Approval of Cluster Coordinators:

The Vice President for Administration announced nominations for Cluster Coordinators: Blair – Susan Fleck; Kennedy - Karen Sullivan and Dan Gasgill; Walter Johnson – JoAnne Vanderhorst; and Rockville – Amy Hartley.

Juan Johnson made a motion to vote for all the nominated Cluster Coordinators as a block vote. The motion was seconded. It was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

All of the above nominees were elected by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Committee Work Plans: Parent Leadership, Student Service Learning (SSL), Gifted Child, Technology, Listserv, ESOL, Cultural Arts

Each work plan was reviewed and questions were asked. The work plans were voted on in a block vote.

Cultural Arts - The work plan had an incorrect date (October 5) for showcases, so that date was deleted. The Recording Secretary for BOD noted that the Cultural Arts Chair is responsible year 'round for moderating the PTArts listserv.

ESOL – The ESOL Committee chair asked for suggestions. Awards for identifying best practices and encouraging PTAs to bring in parents and children to improve English as a second language are goals of this committee. The suggestion was made to add special education to the second statement of goals, so that it reads, “Develop awareness about current MCPS initiatives, such as high School Assessments, grading and Reporting, and Student Service Learning, Dual Language Programs and Special Education”.

Gifted Child – It was noted that BOE Policy IOA is not yet out for public comment. The Gifted Child Committee chair discussed gifted and talented identification and opening up services to more students. The state still mandates global screening in the second grade. Offering accelerated classes and honors classes to more students is one goal. Committee members from the Northwest/Poolesville/ Quince Orchard/Seneca Valley quad cluster area haven't been formally added to the committee, yet, but they have been contacted. The goal is to have one per area. The first paragraph of the work plan clarifies what is meant by gifted and talented. The vision and goal statements were reviewed. Speaker fees could be taken from the MCCPTA committee funds line item on a first come first serve basis according to the treasurer. Funds are allocated on a normal and customary basis. The speaker fee may be needed for travel costs for a planned public forum on William and Mary language arts in the spring. It was decided to leave requested \$600 in place. The PADI program, needs of the ESOL students, global screening and gifted and talented learning disabled students were mentioned.

Listserv – This work plan was done, but not reviewed at last month's meeting.

Parent Involvement – This committee had its first meeting tonight, so the chair wasn't present to discuss her work plan, so the Vice President for Educational Programs commented on the work plan. It was noted that MCPS has recently hired a new head for Family and Community Partnerships. Anticipated expenses of \$200 would cover the cost of transportation and parent resource conference fees, so that the chair could attend and then share information with the committee.

SSL – This committee was created at the end of the last school year.

Technology – It was suggested that in the fourth bulleted point for advocacy that the word “ensure” be changed to “encourage”, so that the statement reads, “To encourage school websites...”

A motion was made to adopt all of the work plans as amended. It was seconded. All work plans were approved as amended by a unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Safety:

The Safety Committee Chair announced a Safety Committee meeting will be held Thursday, October 12. Recent school shootings have generated more interest in energetic advocacy for MCPS to control access to schools. This committee may be bringing a resolution related to this issue. General information on current policies will be posted to the bulletin. Related discussion of school security included: budget decisions, locked doors, cameras, intercoms, school front office location, visibility, buzzers, portables (and bathroom access), key card entry, playgrounds/recess, students with disabilities, and educational facility officers (EFO). The message sent to the community by security actions was discussed, too. The chair noted that there was no unanimity of opinion based upon tonight's discussion. There will be a meeting in Germantown Monday to discuss juvenile sex offenders in schools. Information will be brought back to the delegates after this meeting.

CIP: The CIP forum will be held on November 1. Bruce Crispell and Roy Higgins (from MCPS maintenance division) will have presentations.

Special Education: The kick off meeting for this committee is October 11 with Dr. Wright.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE):

A letter from Jane Kubasik, Executive Director of MCBRE, in response to our request for the MCCPTA President to attend MCBRE meetings was distributed. Discussion of the negative response included our participation in Champions for Children (registration and centerpieces) and donations to the presidents and principals dinner. There was no complete consensus to reduce our participation in registration for the Champions for Children dinner. MCBRE offered to make a donation to help with costs for our presidents and principals dinner.

Survey of Teacher Absences:

A Staff Attendance Survey for MCCPTA Board of Directors was distributed to those in attendance. The survey is a result of discussions with Bonnie Cullison re: data for teacher absences being based on a full day's absence, and MCPS teacher absences being within the norm. Completed survey forms should be returned to the MCCPTA office at Gaither Road November 15. Surveys can be brought to the next Board meeting, too. BOD members should use one sheet per student. Secondary students should specify periods of the day.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presidents and Principals Dinner:

Two locations for the May presidents and principals dinner have been researched by the Vice President for Programs and the Treasurer – Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center and Gaithersburg Marriott on Washingtonian Boulevard (Rio). The Bethesda location is the larger of the two and has an opening for the date for our dinner, May 23. The Gaithersburg location has openings on Monday, May 21, Tuesday, May 22, and Friday, May 25. Both locations were priced for a plated dinner, which is \$15 cheaper than a buffet. The facility is free, but there are charges for the audio visual equipment. Cost for Bethesda is \$75 per person and cost for Gaithersburg is \$94.28 per person. At the Rio the reception would have to be outside. The treasurer added that our charges at

Indian Spring Country Club spoiled us. The choice of venue is obvious. Seeking sponsorships, and if so, what to offer in return for it was discussed. Consensus was to proceed with seeking sponsors. Ads in the program book (congratulations or support, not direct advertising) could be sold for \$1,000 for a full page. It was suggested that two other events, Reflections and the Special Education Ceremony, could also sell ads in their program booklets. Corporate neighbors were suggested, too, as potential sponsors. Lowering the price for local PTAs is the goal. If we raise \$10,000 we can lower the ticket cost to \$50. Please contact Jane de Winter and April Keyes if you have corporate connection information.

Approval of MCCPTA Nominating Committee Nominees:

Magruder/Damascus/Gaithersburg/Watkins Mill – Steve Augustino

Northwest/Poolesville/Quince Orchard/SenecaValley – Paul Morrison

Churchill/Richard Montgomery/Rockville/ Wootton – Livleen Gill

Blair/Einstein/Kennedy/Northwood – Mark Rother

B-CC/Walter Johnson/Walt Whitman/Wheaton – Karen Smith

At Large – Tom Kenton

(It was noted that the Clarksburg cluster was not included in the list with the first cluster grouping. Therefore, Steve Augustino is representing that area, too.)

According to our bylaws the slate of nominees must be presented to and approved by the BOD and then it's sent to the Delegate Assembly at the end of October. Other nominees can be taken from the floor at the Delegate Assembly. The Delegates then vote on the slate.

Andrea Bernardo made a motion to approve the slate of nominees. It was seconded. It was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

This list must be sent out to delegates and presidents by Oct. 9. It will be voted on October 24. The Vice President for Administration convenes the first nominating committee meeting by November 7 at which time they choose a chair. The slate of nominees for 2007 will go to the delegates by March 24 and be voted on April 24 at the annual meeting.

Testimony at 10/12 Strategic Planning Forum:

MCCPTA's President will be testifying on October 12 before the Board of Education at their second stage of the Strategic Planning Forum. Testimony will be based on the MCCPTA letter outlining our advocacy priorities. It was suggested to add safety to the testimony.

Marney Jacobs made a motion noting that this testimony is not in replacement of testimony on the Operating Budget. It was seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 PM.