

**Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly (as Amended)
February 27, 2007
Walter Johnson High School**

Program: High School Assessments 7:03 PM-8:15 PM

Business Meeting

Call to Order: Jane de Winter, MCCPTA President called the meeting to order at 8:17 PM

Mission of the PTA: April Keyes, MCCPTA Vice President for Programs

Approval of Minutes: On motion made and seconded, the draft minutes of the January 23, 2007 Delegates Assembly was approved as written by voice vote.

Treasurer report: Juan Johnson, MCCPTA Treasurer presented Balance Sheet as of February 27, 2007, Budget vs. Actuals for the period of July 2006-February 2007 and Profit and Loss for period January 24-February 27, 2007. PTAs were reminded to make sure that unused PTA membership cards are returned to Maryland PTA by March 15 along with any final reports. PTAs were reminded to reconcile accounts with Maryland PTA and in addition with MCCPTA as well. PTAs will be charged for cards not returned to Maryland PTA.

Resolution: Course in Personal Finance Management- Curriculum Committee

Sharon Schulman Co-chair Curriculum Committee gives background explaining the need for the course to help students with their personal finance management offered as a one semester course available to all. Want this to be a uniform course offered at all schools as an elective. This resolution was previously offered as proposed at January's Delegates Assembly.

No second is needed since brought by committee.

Questions/concerns raised by Delegates: What is time frame? Why not leave up to MCPS if required or just make it available? What about staffing allocation and money as related to budget?

Delegate from Rosa Parks, MS offers a motion for an amendment: to last Resolve, ***“by the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.”***

RESOLVED that Montgomery County schools should develop a one semester course in personal finance that should cover these and related subjects and that this course should be made available at every county high school *by the beginning of 2008-2009 school year.*

Motion for amendment was seconded

Motion passed by voice vote.

Cluster Coordinator from Clarksburg offers a motion for second amendment to last Resolve, ***“personal finance available for both honors and regular credit.”***

RESOLVED that Montgomery County schools should develop a one semester course in *personal finance available for both honors and regular credit* that should cover these and related subjects and that this course should be made available at every county high school by the beginning of 2008-2009 school year.

Motion for second amendment was seconded

Question from Delegate from Piney Branch on the criteria for honors and regular and does MCPS have a course similar to adopt for both.

Motion passed by show of hands.

Continued discussion about main motion on resolution raises issues about developing one semester course and is that prudent to do and it was clarified that more research on this revealed similar courses. Discussion continued on whether this could be a tech credit and if this could even be a senior year credit. It was noted that we like the idea of the course and it is up to MCPS, etc. to design the course for county-wide program.

Motion for Resolution on Course in Personal Finance Management passes by voice vote as amended.

RESOLUTION ON COURSE IN PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
(Presented by the MCCPTA Curriculum Committee and MCCPTA BODs)

WHEREAS, one of the most critical skills needed by adults in our society is personal financial management; including but not limited to knowledge of: how to manage bank accounts and credit/debit cards and understand the interest on them, how to create and follow a budget, how to understand a contract and its legal ramifications, how to calculate the aggregate costs of a loan, how to understand the nature of stocks and bonds, how to understand the charges on a bill, how to determine the true value of discounts, why gambling is not recommended as a career choice, and how to guard against identity theft and scams; and

WHEREAS, intelligent, educated people regularly and increasingly are taken in by scams, outspend their incomes, declare bankruptcy, wind up in court, or simply waste their money because they lack these skills; and

WHEREAS, credit cards are now routinely available to teenagers and college students who can legally sign contracts when they are 18 years old, but who have no experience or instruction in money management; and

WHEREAS, personal financial competence is as critical to success and happiness as physical health or a successful career, but the needed skills cannot be picked up from the media or social activities and a large proportion of parents either do not or cannot teach these skills to their children; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Council on Economic Education, as stated in its mission statement, recommends that children leave high school equipped with the economic knowledge and decision-making skills they need to make informed, rational decisions as consumers, workers, citizens, savers, investors and participants in the global economy. An understanding of basic economic principles and our free enterprise system is vital to an individual's ability to be a responsible consumer, a productive worker, a prudent saver, an investor, and an informed voter, and

WHEREAS, a one semester course in Health is required by the State of Maryland for high school graduation on the assumption that this is critical knowledge, even though it does not fit into the course progression for other academic disciplines; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Montgomery County schools should develop a one semester course in personal finance available for both honors and regular credit that should cover these and related subjects and that this course should be made available at every county high school by the beginning of 2008-2009 school year.

Reports

Ted Willard, Co Chair Curriculum Committee gives report of what other items the committee has been working on this year. Handout included updates on Mathematics, English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Social Studies, Language Arts, Science, Health, Music and Foreign Language from MCCPTA representatives on MCPS Curriculum Advisory Committee. Past resolutions from MCCPTA Curriculum Committee were also noted. These are posted on MCCPTA website. Curriculum Committee is seeking additional members for committee and subject groups.

State standards are in place for all major subject areas. Reading, Language Arts and Mathematics have testing requirements under NCLB. Science testing requirements under NCLB will be coming soon.

On March 19th there will be a MCCPTA Curriculum Committee meeting over at Carver auditorium with Linda Ferrell about middle school curriculum. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Some questions will be submitted ahead of time. If anyone has questions please email Ted. Committee chairs emails are on website.

Concerns about Foreign Language with French being eliminated and classes for Gifted and Talented, etc. were raised. Not sure if immersion programs have been looked at in limited meeting times.

Ted reminded all that MCPS is required to review K-12 curriculum every 5 years. Math will be up for review in next 18-24 months. Review of curriculum documents or how curriculum is implemented is a clarification we need about these reviews as problems are in both.

Information about Curriculum Assembly (addition to Curriculum Advisory Committee) that meets 4 times a year came from Sharon Schulman, Curriculum Committee, Co-Chair. Last subject topics were Kindergarten curriculum and other part on how writing is taught. Grammar was discussed as well.

Victor Salazar, MCCPTA VP for Legislation brought a motion forward for a resolution on HB 160 for MCCPTA to write a letter in support. This resolution deals with qualifications for State Board of Education. Maryland PTA has asked MCCPTA for a letter of support.

Discussion includes how many parents are on there now (1) and we need parents of students in public schools and at least 2 for 4 year term. Terms are staggered. Governor appoints these members. This bill went before House before and failed so keeping the number to 2 in request may help bill move forward.

Motion for this resolution was seconded.

Delegate from Rosa Parks offers an amendment to motion to increase number of parent on State Board to six. *That motion to HB 160 be changed to require that at least 6 out of the 12 member body on State Board of Education be parents of students presently enrolled in the public school system.*

Motion to amend was seconded.

Discussion by Delegates: Have to be careful in making numbers high so as to seem unreasonable and hurt bill passage. Legislators want to see things like MCPPTA supports. If we are saying a higher number than two points out that we are not supporting legislation and that could be problematic for this bill.

Motion to amend fails by voice vote.

Vote on main motion for resolution as originally proposed for HB 160 passes by voice vote. It should be noted it was unanimous. A letter will accompany this from MCCPTA in support of HB160.

MCCPTA Resolution for HB 160 Education - State Board of Education Members - Qualifications

That MCCPTA Believes:

One guiding principle that has been expressed by members of MCCPTA through letters, written testimony and public testimony, before school staff, the board of education, county council and county executive is the importance of the parent perspective and the need for parents to be at the table during the conceptualization, planning, implementation, and follow up of education initiatives.

HB 160 recognizes and acknowledges this guiding principle and proposes to require a certain number of members of the State Board of Education to be parents of students enrolled in public schools.

That MCCPTA Resolves:

MCCPTA believes that in making appointments to the State Board of Education, the Governor shall appoint at least two members who at the time of their appointment are parents of students enrolled in public schools in the State effective October 1, 2007.

Safety Committee- Pam Moomau, Chair gives update since safety resolution about security was passed last month. Item under discussion was the reply letter from Dr. Weast and that was given to Delegates. Pam asks that we approve another letter from MCCPTA be done to respond to this letter to request MCPS to address other items MCCPTA raised. Additional items (concerning protocols, etc..) from Pam will be posted to MCCPTA website and posted to listerv. Safety committee would like to follow-up to have MCCPTA concerns addressed.

President and Principal Dinner- April Keyes, MCCPTA VP for Education gives update and expresses the need for MCCPTA to raise money by donations and selling ads for program to keep costs down. April presents copies of brochure related to this and explains it more detail. Delegates should reach out for contacts to make donations. MCBRE has made a donation already. Board members and others have been approached. This is a celebration of a whole year's work. Different tiers of donations are explained. Seats can be purchased and donated for PTAs. Contact April for brochure.

Nominating Committee, Mark Rother, Chair gives update on what nominating committee has been working on and reminds all that nominations are due in by March 15. These will be presented at general meeting in March. Nominations can come from floor in general meeting for election in April. Nomination forms are located on MCCPTA website.

MCCPTA Bylaws- Jane de Winter gives an update about letter from Maryland PTA that came mid January concerning quorum. We had verbal approval before letter was received recently. Board of Directors majority is now requested. Delegates approved quorum of 15 even though item was pounded and wanted approval for the 15 number. Majority for Board of Directors is 45 versus 35 for Delegates Assembly. MCCPTA Board of Directors will not conduct business unless we have quorum. We have asked Maryland PTA to change template. We may be bringing some bylaw amendments in near future to Delegates.

Reminder is given about Maryland State PTA meeting in November. It will be held in Towson.

New Business

Proposed Resolution: Draft Resolution on Site Coordinators is presented by Liz Wheeler, Co-Cluster Coordinator, Richard Montgomery HS Cluster. Majority of schools in cluster passed this resolution. This resolution was presented at last Board of Directors Meeting. The Board of Directors asked that language specific to Richard Montgomery should be removed. That was done. This resolution will be offered for vote at March Delegates Assembly.

A site coordinator is not a project manager. Richard Montgomery's coordinator is now being funded through ½ furniture budget and MCPS Division of Construction.

Delegates questions: Why not for elementary schools? Is this a person from school? How many other schools have them? What about when kids on site? What is the experience of site coordinator and their job description as well as qualifications? Do principals choose site coordinators? In construction management oversight what does MCPS provide? Are we asking for full time or part time? More information will be posted on listserv by Liz as related to this proposed resolution for more background.

**Draft Resolution on Site Coordinators
(Submitted by the Richard
Montgomery Cluster Coordinators), February 27, 2007**

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) currently only funds

site coordinators for secondary schools under the construction budget;

WHEREAS, a current Site Coordinator has alerted a school to issues arising with the replacement school construction, thereby resulting in savings for the school, MCPS and county citizens;

WHEREAS, the funding for the salary of this Site Coordinator is shared between the MCPS Division of Construction and the school's budget for furniture;

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) knows the benefits of a Site Coordinator and urges its extension to other MCPS schools scheduled for renovation;

AND WHEREAS, MCPS currently does not offer Site Coordinators to elementary schools;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCCPTA endorses and will advocate for Site Coordinators to be assigned to any MCPS school under construction or modernization;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCPS should revise the funding source for salaries for Site Coordinators such that implementation of the objectives of this resolution will not negatively affect the school's budget for construction or modernization.

May Delegates Assembly: Jane de Winter asks Delegates if they want one? Do we want to leave pending? Last year was first year we had one. This meeting would fall on night right before Presidents and Principals dinner. Delegates need to think about what they want to do. Delegate asked if we did any business at last May Delegate's Assembly? This will be left on calendar pending action by Delegates to change.

Delegate from Hoover MS, Brenda Willett brings forward a proposed motion for a resolution on gum games that as used as part of sex education classes in MCPS as taught by an outside source. This was recently in the news on television as well as articles in Washington Post. Parents have expressed concerns about the health related risks of this activity.

Delegate's concerns/questions: Was this run by Health Committee or Safety Committee? Concerns are raised about limitations as contained in this proposed resolution. What about Career Day and speakers? Proposed resolution needs refinement. Costs associated with this along with staffing are what? Could this have a significant budget impact to implement? Need more information as to scope of this as proposed and impact.

Motion was made and seconded to refer this back to MCCPTA Executive Committee for their review and possibly to be referred to appropriate committees for review/recommendations or other action.

Motion passed by show of hands.

**Proposed Resolution Regarding the Monitoring of Outside Speakers in MCPS Schools
Presented by Brenda Willett, Delegate from Hoover MS**

WHEREAS recent incidents involving religious groups masquerading as health care professionals and being hired by MCPS as outside speakers; and

WHEREAS the hiring/retention of outside speakers is left to individual school principals and is not centralized by MCPS; and

WHEREAS all students and all parents of students in MCPS should be assured that they or their children will never be subjected to another gum game or other high risk behavior in a classroom;

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that Montgomery County Public Schools conduct a survey of all outside speakers regardless of their subject matter and compile a comprehensive list to be accessed on the MCPS website;

RESOLVED that MCPS centralize the administration of all outside speakers which includes approval, hiring, retention, and review of speakers' program content; and

RESOLVED that MCPS review and update the outside speaker list annually.

Executive Committee will come back with recommendations once more information is gathered concerning Delegate's questions and concerns.

Wootton Cluster Co-Coordinator, Andrea Bernardo brings forward a motion concerning Delegates Listserv.

Motion was seconded.

A request was made for a vote tonight. Vote was taken to vote tonight by show of hands.

Discussion and concerns by Delegates: Delegate notes that since this involves this body a vote can be taken tonight. Delegates Listserv is being used by those who are not necessarily members of this body. Emails can be excessive. Delegates Listserv should be used by Delegates. If you are not able to post one can bring items up through Delegates.

Delegates from Winston Churchill HS offers a motion for an amendment: *"All elected PTSA Officers be allowed to post comments to the Delegates Listserv."*

Motion was seconded.

Discussion: Read only allowed. Those allowed to post would be involved. Clarification is for those who are voting members. They will be allowed to post. Point of listserv is for discussion among members of this body. Listserv should be for those actively involved.

Motion to amend fails by voice vote.

Original motion on Delegates Listserv passes by voice vote.

**Delegates Listserv Motion
Presented by Andrea Bernardo, Wootton Cluster Co-Coordinator**

Whereas, The MCCPTA Delegates Listserv was created for the benefit of Delegates, MCCPTA Officers, members of the MCCPTA BOD and administered by a moderator

Whereas, email traffic is excessive

Whereas, the MCCPTA Delegates may choose to reduce the excessive email traffic

Now be it Resolved, that only sitting Delegates (including PTA Presidents), MCCPTA Officers, members of the MCCPTA BOD and the listserv moderator shall be permitted to post on the listserv. The moderator shall immediately effectuate this resolution.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 PM.