

Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
March 24, 2009
Carver Educational Service Center

From 6:30-7:30, Terry Cepaitis, Director of Curriculum Development and Marty Creel, Director of Enriched & Innovative Programs presented a program on Curriculum in MCPS: Development History and Process.

The Business meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm. A quorum was present.

Kay Romero, MCCPTA President, introduced Vicki Rafel as the parliamentarian. Ms. Rafel reviewed parliamentary procedure for the delegates, giving a brief overview of procedure, goals, purpose, etc. She also explained the use of the Delegate voting cards, and the use of their bylaws to establish the selection of delegates and their alternates.

The Delegate from Richard Montgomery HS raised the question of the use of voting cards and requested that we suspend the use for one night. He did not have his voting card. A delegate made the following motion:

Move to suspend the rules to not have to have a card to vote tonight.

It was seconded. It failed on a counted vote of 43 against, 37 for.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to move Unfinished Business to after the treasurer report and all other reports to after the New Business. It was approved as amended.

Andrea Bernardo, MCCPTA Secretary for the BOD, read the Mission of the PTA.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the Feb. 24, 2009 Delegates Assembly were approved as presented.

Treasurer Report:

Dale Ryan, MCCPTA Treasurer, presented the budget and balance sheet. She reviewed income and expenses. The report will be filed as presented.

Unfinished Business:

Resolutions:

Susan Thomas, MCCPTA Gifted Child Chair, presented the Gifted Child Committee Proposed Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction:

Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction

Whereas:

MCPS Strategic Plan states that “A high-quality education is the fundamental right of every child.”

MCCPTA believes that, to ensure that right, every child should be appropriately challenged in accordance with his or her academic ability, motivation and interests.

MCCPTA passed a Resolution on Mathematics on April 24, 2001, a Resolution on Wider Use of the Methodologies Used in Magnet Programs on January 24, 2006, and a Resolution on Gifted and Talented Curriculum in Middle Schools on April 25, 2006.

The MCPS Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction is working on recommended changes to Policy IOA: Gifted and Talented Education for the MCPS Board of Education’s consideration in 2009.

Therefore be it Resolved:

MCPS must identify students who need additional academic challenge beyond that which is provided to similar aged peers.

MCPS must continue to provide global screening for all students in grade 2 to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must provide additional screenings throughout elementary school, middle school and high school to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must inform parents when their children need additional academic challenge and must inform parents how MCPS will ensure that those needs are met.

MCPS must provide students who need additional academic challenge with instruction that is accelerated and enriched.

MCPS must ensure that accelerated and enriched instruction is delivered consistently and with fidelity in every school across the county.

MCPS must ensure that students are given the opportunity to work in groups of students with similar academic abilities, motivation, and interests.

MCPS must provide curriculum resources and professional development to teachers and administrators to ensure that students are provided with accelerated and enriched instruction in accordance with research-based best practices.

MCPS must monitor the implementation and effectiveness of accelerated and enriched instruction by collecting, analyzing, monitoring and publishing key data measuring student participation and performance in grades K-12 in all core subject areas.

She provided background information, as well as information on what the BOE will be revising in the fall of 2009, Policy IOA and Regulation IOA-RA. She explained that the resolution is not a re-write of BOE policy, but a tool for MCCPTA to use when we advocate to MCPS and BOE. She also reminded the delegates that MCCPTA operated by precedence, which means we incorporate previous related resolutions by reference. Finally, she added that her committee feels that GT education has not been consistently implemented throughout the county. There are magnet programs, but students that remain in their neighborhood schools need access to an advanced curriculum.

Since the resolution was from committee, it did not need to be seconded. Before Debate began, Kay Romero reminded the Delegates about the motion approved by Delegates in November 2008 limiting debate on motions to 10 minutes which could be extended at the will of the body.

Carol Falk, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, presented a motion from Frost MS to strike the second resolved:

MCPS must continue to provide global screening for all students in grade 2 to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

Richard Edelman, Delegate from Frost MS, added a clarification.

The motion was seconded.

Susan Thomas, MCCPTA GCC Chair, spoke against the motion, and in favor of retaining global screening. Howard Yang, Frost MS Delegate, stated that Carol was incorrect in the resolved that Frost MS wanted deleted.

The question was called, and it failed on a standing vote.

Carol Falk, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, presented a motion from Frost MS to strike the third resolved:

MCPS must provide additional screenings throughout elementary school, middle school and high school to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

The reason for this motion was because Frost MS PTSA felt there was too much testing already. The motion was seconded.

Susan Thomas, MCCPTA GCC Chair spoke out against the motion, and clarified that this testing is not repeating entire batteries of tests, but rather used to identify children that

might have not been identified in second grade or moved to the County after second grade.

Aruntha Nathan, Bradley Hills ES Delegate, Robert Ostlund, Twinbrook ES Delegate and Paul Scott, Richard Montgomery HS Delegate all spoke against the motion.

The question was called, and the motion failed on a voice vote.

Rochelle Hodes, Frost MS and Fallsmead ES Delegate moved that the third resolved be amended by removing “elementary school” to read:

MCPS must provide additional screenings throughout middle school and high school to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

There was no second so the motion failed.

A motion was made to extend time by 10 minutes. It was seconded and passed with 51 for and 46 against.

Carol Falk, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, presented a motion from Frost MS to amend the 7th resolved to read:

MCPS must ensure that students are given the opportunity to work in groups of students with varied and similar academic abilities, motivation, and interests to achieve balance in their education.

It was seconded.

Carol Falk said they felt it would be better to eliminate too much homogeneity.

Trish Powell, Bells Mills ES Delegate spoke in favor of the amendment and Karen Smith, MCCPTA VP for Programs, spoke against the amendment.

Time was called and a motion was made to extend time for 10 minutes. The motion was seconded and the vote was 49 against and 37 for, so the motion failed.

At this point, a vote was called on the motion on the floor, and it failed on a counted vote.

Then the entire original, unamended resolution was voted upon, and it passed with a counted vote of 67 for and 21 against.

Laura Siegel, Churchill Cluster Coordinator brought forward the following motion:

MOTION REGARDING CURRICULAR FEES

Students are entitled to a free public education. As MCPS and the Board of Education review changes to the policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees, MCCPTA wants to ensure that these changes do not result in any reduction in the level of services as it relates to any of the following:

- 1- the quality of instruction,*
- 2- the quality of the curriculum,*
- 3- the assortment of course offerings,*
- 4- the level of student achievement.*

MCCPTA, parents and students should be notified of any proposed changes to policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees. These stakeholders should have an opportunity to provide public comment before any new procedures are put into place.

The motion was seconded and Laura spoke to her motion by explaining that she is concerned that lab classes have expensive equipment, and what about foreign language workbooks and even concerns about crayons and other disposable items.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Ted Willard, Magruder Co-Cluster Coordinator, brought forward a resolution from the Magruder HS PTSA:

Proposed Resolution on the Duties of MCCPTA Delegates

Whereas, when the MCCPTA Delegates are aware of the desired will of the PTA on a particular matter scheduled for consideration before the MCCPTA, the Delegates are required (by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition—Duties of Delegates, page 586) to represent the will of the PTA with their votes, even if it is different from their personal position on the matter.

Be it resolved, that in cases where the will of the PTA is not clear, or if revisions are proposed that alter the particular matter being considered, the Delegates are expected to use their best judgment to vote in a manner that is consistent with the will of the PTA as established at a PTA meeting.

The motion was seconded.

Joe Stewart, Magruder PTSA President, then spoke to the resolution. He clarified that this was not a change to Robert's Rules, but a reinforcement of what is stated there.

Rochelle Hodes, Wootton HS and Fallsmead ES Delegate, Betsy Dirk, Farquhar MS Delegate, Jim Roberts, Takoma Park MS Delegate and Carol Falk, Wootton Cluster Coordinator all spoke in opposition; the prevailing sentiment being that this was a local PTA matter and should not be addressed by a County-wide resolution.

The motion failed on a voice vote.

New Business:

Joe Stewart, MCCPTA Bylaws Chair, presented proposed revision to the MCCPTA Bylaws:

**(THE PROPOSED REVISIONS ARE UNDERLINED)*

***Proposed Revisions to the MCCPTA Bylaws
From the MCCPTA Bylaws Committee***

1. Temporary Appointments

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 6. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice-president for educational issues shall become acting president until a replacement has been elected at a Delegate Assembly. A vacancy in any office other than president may be filled by a temporary appointment made by the president and approved by the Board of Directors until such vacancy can be filled pursuant to the process set forth in this Article.

Section 7. The seated nominating committee will identify a nominee to fill a vacancy in any office within two (2) weeks of notification of said vacancy. Notification of the election to fill the vacancy will be made prior to the delegate assembly at which the election will occur.

*Section 6. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice-president for educational issues shall become acting president until a replacement has been elected at a Delegate Assembly. A vacancy in any office other than president may be filled by a temporary appointment made by the president **to take effect immediately and to be ratified by** the Board of Directors **at the next meeting. This appointment remains in effect** until such vacancy can be filled pursuant to the process set forth in this Article.*

*Section 7. The seated nominating committee will identify a nominee to fill a vacancy in any office within **four (4)** weeks of notification of said vacancy. Notification of the election to fill the vacancy will be made prior to the delegate assembly at which the election will occur.*

Rationale:

This change would add flexibility for the president to immediately fill a position so that important work of the council will not be interrupted by a vacancy in the executive committee. The Bylaws committee also believes that extending the time the nominating committee has to find a permanent replacement will allow for a more thorough process.

2. Recording Secretary for Board of Directors Meetings duties

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 3. Secretaries

b. The recording secretary for board of directors meetings shall record and maintain the minutes of all board of directors meetings, shall act as recording secretary for delegate assemblies in the absence of the recording secretary for delegate assemblies, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

*b. The recording secretary for board of directors meetings shall record and maintain the minutes of all board of directors meetings, **and** shall act as recording secretary for delegate assemblies in*

the absence of the recording secretary for delegate assemblies. The recording secretary for board of directors meetings shall also hold and preserve the essential documents of the association such as the Charter of MCCPTA, the Articles of Incorporation, Certification of Non-profit Status and current Bylaws and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Rationale:

The Bylaws committee believes that the bylaws need to clearly state what the essential documents of the council are and who is responsible for maintaining and retaining such documents.

3. Quorum

ARTICLE X: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 8. At all meetings of the board of directors, a majority of twenty-five (25) members of the board of directors, including a majority of the elected officers in the 25, shall constitute a quorum of business.

This amendment was passed by the MCCPTA Delegates on April 22, 2008.

#Section 8. At all meetings of the board of directors, a majority of the members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Rationale:

Pounded articles in the Bylaws template cannot be altered or amended in any way.

This is presented for introduction only, with no discussion, only clarifying questions. We will vote on this next month.

Laurie Halverson, MCCPTA Safety committee Chair brought forward a draft resolution from her committee on Indoor Air Quality:

WHEREAS *The National PTA has urged local units to work with school administrators and boards of education to ensure that school heating, ventilation, and air conditioning operation and maintenance plans comply with the highest current standards supplied by accepted experts.*

WHEREAS *Children may be especially susceptible to air pollution because the same concentration of pollutants will result in a higher body burden in children than adults because children breathe a greater volume of air relative to their body weight.*

WHEREAS *Portables are a particular concern because most are stand alone units that are subject to unique challenges. They are vulnerable to weather conditions, water infiltration, security issues, pest infestation, and building pressurization problems that compromise the safety and health of our children.*

WHEREAS *The poor quality of existing MCPS portables in combination with the limited staff resources at MCPS in completing proactive maintenance goals result in continuous*

problems with water infiltration, mold growth, pest infestation, and CO2 levels higher than the recommended level (1000 ppm.)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that MCCPTA requests the following actions be taken by MCPS to move forward in efforts toward providing a safe and healthy environment for our children, staff and administrators. These actions include but are not limited to:

- *A two-year carpet removal plan for portables beginning this summer, replacing with tile or other mold resistant material. (Carpets remaining are likely to be infested with mites and may contain mold.)*
- *For any portable HVACs with a history of being serviced for moisture issues, replacement of any fiberglass lining with Rubberflex or other insulation that can be cleaned. (Some portables include HVACs with fiberglass lining that cannot be cleaned properly when mold spores attach.)*
- *Annual “walk-through” inspections of all school buildings and portables, as recommended by EPAs “Tools for Schools Program.”*
- *HVAC staff and/or other staff to help Indoor Air Quality meet demands and increase the number of Building Maintenance Plans (BMPs).*
- *Disclosure to parents whenever there is an Indoor Air Quality Complaint at their school (in buildings or in portables.) MCPS and school communities need to collaborate and communicate with each other on air quality concerns.*
- *Maintenance logs must be easily accessible for all parents, staff and administrators.*

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Education create a policy on MCPS’ commitment to “air quality” in all classrooms with measurable performance objectives and recognize “air quality” as a health concern for all children.

She explained that portables have poor indoor air quality, HVAC problems, carpets with mold, etc. and her committee wants more transparency when portables are moved, and access to maintenance records. She said there is no current policy for IAQ. There is an office of IAQ, however, and there is a building maintenance program, but insufficient HVAC workers. The new portables coming this year are of better quality.

Delegates asked two questions: 1. When you say no IAQ policy, do you mean a BOE policy? 2. Does the Division of Construction go by guidelines and it is just for portables and do they adhere to national standards?

Yes, she was talking about there being no BOE policy, and yes, there are standards, and they adhere to them for buildings but there are no standards for portables.

Links to the two draft resolutions will be sent out on the Bulletin listserv.

Reports:

Liz Wheeler, VP for Administration, thanked the Nominating Committee for their hard work and reminded the Delegates to thank their local Nominating committees.

We will be presenting testimony on the Operating Budget before the County Council on April 15 and 16, in the 3rd floor conference room, beginning at 7 pm. She does not as yet have individual times for each cluster and will not until much closer to the dates. She will put out the time as soon as she has them. She read a list of the clusters testifying each night.

She reminded the Delegates that it is important to stay on top of the bylaws of local units so they do not get out of date. If they do, it can put the unit in the “not in good standing” category, and that would exclude them from participation on certain PTA events.

She also reminded incoming PTA officers to check their mailboxes at the school during the summer, as that is when some mailings from State and National are sent.

MCCPTA Annual Spring Training will be held on June 1, at 6:30 pm, at Blake HS. There will be more info put out soon. There will also be packet pickup of materials for all PTAs at the training.

Rebecca Smondrowski, VP for Legislation, reported on MCCPTA lobbying efforts – she had recently been to Capital Hill with MD PTA. She also has been meeting with State Legislators, and had organized trips to Annapolis, as well as lobbying jointly with teacher, staff and administrator unions. She will be putting out info on legislation for local PTAs to follow. Peter Franchot, Maryland Comptroller, will be visiting Gaithersburg HS on April 22. The County council, County Executive, BOE, etc. will be invited.

Karen Smith, VP for Programs, reported on the Champions for Children Award winner for this year – Arcola ES’s Bilingual Buddies program. They have doubled their membership in one year. Their PTA has won \$1000 from MCBRE. She also announced that there would be no program at the next DA due to the annual elections.

Kay Romero, President, reviewed the contents of the Delegates packets. She recently spent 3 days at the Maryland PTA winter boards. During that time they discussed things such as restructuring committees, attended training sessions, and council presidents had to give a presentation on what their council does (which was new this year).

Also in the packet was a list of calendar items and the flyer for the Presidents and Principals Dinner.

Jane DeWinter, Presidents and Principals dinner committee, reported that the invitations would go out after spring break. She reminded the Delegates that the Principals of each school are invited to and paid for by the local PTA. The invitations will also go up on the website. Leon Harris will be hosting and they are trying to get a National PTA representative to be the keynote speaker. The event is May 27, with a reception from 6-7 pm, and the dinner at 7 pm, at the Bethesda Marriott.

Carol Salisbury, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced and thanked her committee members for their work, as well as Liz Wheeler who helped them. She read the names of the nominees for officers for 2009-2010. The vote for new officers will take place at the April DA.

NOMINATIONS FOR MCCPTA OFFICERS 2009 - 2010	
President	Kay Romero
Vice President for Educational Issues	Kristin Tribble
Vice President for Administration	OPEN
Vice President for Programs	Carol Salisbury
Vice President for Legislation	Rebecca Smondrowski
Treasurer	Jaimie Jacobson
Recording Secretary, Board of Directors	DeBora King
Recording Secretary, Delegates Assembly	Patti Twigg

NOMINATIONS FOR AREA VICE PRESIDENTS & CLUSTER COORDINATORS 2009 - 2010
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**Bethesda-Chevy Chase/
Walter Johnson/
Wheaton/Whitman**

Area Vice President: Terri Salus

**Down County Consortium:
Blair/Einstein/
Kennedy/Northwood**

Area Vice President: Sally Taber

**Churchill/
Richard Montgomery/
Rockville/Wootton**

Area Vice President: Andrea Bernardo

**Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Cluster Coordinators:**
Craig Brown
Jack Hayes
Joy White

**Montgomery Blair
Cluster Coordinator:**
OPEN

Churchill Cluster Coordinators:
Janette Gilman
Laurie Halverson
Laura Siegel

**Walter Johnson
Cluster Coordinators:**
Jen Cope
Deedee Jacobsohn

Einstein Cluster Coordinator:
Kelly Giblin

**Richard Montgomery
Cluster Coordinator:**
OPEN

Wheaton Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Kennedy Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Rockville Cluster Coordinator:
Roy Broussard
Amy Hartley

Whitman Cluster Coordinators:
Deborah Goldman
Keith Parsky

**Northwood Cluster
Coordinator:**
Mary Abe
Jennifer Chambers,
Stephanie Helsing

Wootton Cluster Coordinators:
Rich Edelman
Carol Falk
Jen Pories

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

Area Vice President: Ted Willard

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

Area Vice President (NEC):
Patti Twigg
**Area Vice President
(Sherwood):** OPEN

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

Area Vice President: Juan Johnson

Clarksburg Cluster Coordinator:
Sonya Leaman

Blake Cluster Coordinator:
Leanne Doerflinger

Northwest Cluster Coordinators:
Susan Burkinshaw

Donna Pfeiffer

Bob Murphy

Damascus Cluster Coordinator:
Dawn Lee

**Paint Branch
Cluster Coordinator:**
Patti Twigg

Poolesville Cluster Coordinator:
Sarah Defnet

**Gaithersburg Cluster
Coordinators:**
Steve Augustino
Valerie Rivers

**Springbrook Cluster
Coordinator:**
Dawn Dolan

**Quince Orchard Cluster
Coordinators:**
Jim Keenan
Paul Morrison
Kevin Farragher

Magruder Cluster Coordinators:
Annie Ahmed

Sherwood Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

**Seneca Valley Cluster
Coordinator:**
Kevin David
Scott Bogren
Ed Vigezzi

Watkins Mill Cluster Coordinator:
Martha Crews
Susan Young

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Patti Twigg, MCCPTA Secretary for Delegates Assembly