

**Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)
Minutes of the Delegate Assembly on April 22, 2008
in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center**

Program

The program featured a panel discussion on Nutrition and Physical Activity

Business Meeting

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 8:10

Mission: Vice President for Programs April Keyes read the mission of the PTA.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed but no changes were made.

Minutes: The minutes from the March Delegates Assembly were distributed and reviewed. Two spelling errors were corrected. Kay Romero made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Treasure's Report: Dale Ryan reviewed the Treasurer's Report. We paid our taxes this month. There was a net minus because we haven't added many members at this time of the year. About 8 PTAs still owe insurance payments. We have about 5000 fewer members than we had hoped. Sponsors for Presidents and Principals dinner contributed about \$11,000 toward dinner. We are still expecting expenses from the Special Education Recognition Ceremony & Reflections Ceremonies. Others who need to turn in expenses should get them in soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elections

The Nominating Committee put forth the following list of nominees for officers:

- **President:** Kay Romero
- **Treasurer:** Dale Ryan
- **Recording Secretary for Delegate Assembly:** open
- **Recording Secretary for Board of Directors:** open
- **Vice President for Educational Issues:** Ted Willard
- **Vice President for Administration:** Liz Wheeler
- **Vice President for Programs:** Karen Smith
- **Vice President for Legislation:** Merry Eisner

A call was made for nominations from the floor for each of the positions. Sally Taber nominated Andrea Bernardo for Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors. Sally Taber nominated Patti Twigg for Recording Secretary for the Delegates Assembly. There were no other nominations from the floor. Since there were no contested elections, there was unanimous consent to vote in block. The block was elected by a show of hands.

The Nominating Committee put forth a following list of nominees for Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators. For each position, a call was made for nominations from the floor. In every case, there were no contested positions. A vote was then taken of the delegates eligible to vote for each position and the listed individuals were elected to their position by a voice vote. (Names on the following printed in *grey italic* were nominated from the floor. All others were brought forth by the nominating committee.)

<p>Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, & Watkins Mill Clusters Area VP: Allyson Morrison</p> <p><u>Clarksburg</u> Jaimie Jacobson Sonya Leaman Donna Pfeiffer</p> <p><u>Gaithersburg</u> Steve Augustino Valerie Rivers</p> <p><u>Magruder</u> Dawn Trahern Ted Willard Annie Ahmed</p> <p><u>Damascus</u> Leslie Cuneo Kristin Tribble</p>	<p>Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Wheaton, & Whitman Clusters Area VP: Terry Salus</p> <p><u>Bethesda-Chevy Chase</u> Jack Hayes Joy White Craig Brown</p> <p><u>Wheaton</u> <i>Grace Barnes</i> <i>Chris Zawlocki</i></p> <p><u>Whitman</u> Deborah Goldman Paula Robinson</p> <p><u>Walter Johnson</u></p>	<p>Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, and Wooton Clusters Area VP: Andrea Q. Bernardo</p> <p><u>Churchill</u> Laurie Halverson Janette Gilman Laura Siegel</p> <p><u>Rockville</u> <i>Amy Hartley</i></p> <p><u>Wootton</u> Carol Falk Jen Pories Richard Edelman</p> <p><u>Richard Montgomery</u> Lori Merrill Kate Savage</p>
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Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, & Northwood Clusters Area VP: Sally Taber		Blake, Paint Branch, Springbrook, & Clusters Area VP (NEC): Patti Twigg Area VP Sherwood Cluster:		Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, & Seneca Valley Clusters Area VP: Juan Johnson	
<u>Blair</u> <i>Pete Lafen</i> <i>Bladimir Duenas</i> <i>Susan Fleck</i>	<u>Kennedy</u> <i>Ricky Ford</i>	<u>Blake</u> <i>Lee Ann Doerflinger</i> <i>Dawn Dolan</i>	<u>Springbrook</u> <i>Naghma Husain</i> <i>Pamela Johnson</i>	<u>Quince Orchard</u> Paul Morrison Kevin Farragher Jim Keenan	<u>Poolesville</u> Open
<u>Einstein</u> Open	<u>Northwood</u> <i>Jennifer Chambers</i> <i>Mary Abe</i>	<u>Paint Branch</u> Patti Twigg	<u>Sherwood</u> Fran Simons	<u>Northwest</u> Susan Burkinshaw Bob Murphy	<u>Seneca Valley</u> <i>Brenda Martin</i> <i>Julie Lucas</i> <i>Kevin David</i>

Curriculum Committee

Ted Willard, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, presented a resolution

Whereas an examination of the MCPS language arts curriculum by the College Board has noted an inadequate emphasis on writing, and

Whereas many parents in the school system are concerned that students are not learning as much grammar as they should, and

Whereas Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is currently engaged in Middle School Reform, and

Whereas the state of Maryland has minimum expectations for how many books students in middle school should read each year and could in the same way set minimum expectations for the amount of writing that students in middle school should be expected to complete each year, therefore be it

Resolved that the MCPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction, in consultation with MCCPTA and other stakeholders, set a minimum number of substantive writing assignments, with the expectation of the use of proper grammar and organization, that students be expected to do each year, and be it

Resolved that these expectations may be met in classes such as Social Studies and Science in addition to Language Arts.

Since the motion has been brought forward by a committee, it did not require a second.

A motion was made to amend the resolution to say the second Whereas to say:

Whereas many parents in the school system are concerned that students are not learning as much grammar as they should and are insufficiently skilled in English composition, and

to delete the fourth Whereas, and modify the Resolved sections to say:

Resolved that the MCPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction, in consultation with MCCPTA and other stakeholders, should work immediately to provide a middle school language arts curriculum meeting the College Board expectations for writing

Resolved that this alignment should include more opportunities for substantive writing by students with the focus on the proper use of grammar and organization and that such opportunities should be available through other classes such as social studies and science in addition to language arts

Resolved that this alignment should include more in school support for writing and should be applied immediately across all MCPS middle schools, not just those selected for phases one and two of middle school reform.

The motion to amend was seconded.

David Lechner made a motion to consider each of the five proposed changes separately. The motion to sever them was seconded, but failed by a voice vote.

The motion to amend the motion then failed by a standing vote of 31 in favor and 32 opposed.

A motion was made to Call the Question and passed by a voice vote.

The Resolution failed by a voice vote.

Bylaws Committee

Linna Barnes, chair of the Bylaws Committee presented a proposed change to the bylaws. The proposed changes are as follows:

Article VIII, 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.

Since the recommendation comes from a committee, it does not need a second. Until recently, our Board of Directors had had a quorum of 15. During the most recent revision of the bylaws, Maryland PTA added the requirement that council bylaws require that the quorum for the Board of Directors be one half of the membership. Since there are over 80 people on the Board of Directors, it has been extremely difficult for us to have a quorum at our meetings. The proposal is to have the quorum be 25, rather than half of the total membership of the Board of the Directors. MCCPTA has sent the state PTA a recommendation to amend the Maryland State template for action at the fall convention.

The proposal passed by voice vote.

Presidents and Principals Dinner

April Keyes noted that invitations for the Dinner were sent on Monday. April will be out of town on business and so will not be able to attend. Sharon St. Pierre will take on coordinating the night of the event. A number has to be given to the Hotel very soon so everyone is asked to RSVP as soon as possible.

Operating Budget Committee

Pam Moomau noted that the County Executive's budget is 55 million less than the Board of Education requested. The County Council may pull back even farther than that. She recommended that local PTAs should try to meet with their County Council members or email them.

Capital Improvement Program

Steve Augustino noted that money is short and the county is still waiting for state funding. About \$40 million has been committed, but we are hoping for \$55 million. The County Council Education committee is proposing to delay High School modernizations. Other possible cuts could be elementary school gyms and PLAR. Cluster comments are due June 1st. The forms for cluster comments will be available on the MCCPTA Website on the CIP committee page.

Spring Training

Liz Wheeler noted that Spring PTA Training will be at Blake High School on Wednesday June 4. Registration will begin at 6:30 pm with the program starting at 7:00. There will be sessions for New Presidents, Returning Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Delegates, Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators, Reflections, Bylaws, FLES, and Hands-On Science. Please RSVP by May 30th if you are planning to come so we know how much food to get.

The Maryland PTA summer conference will be on Saturday, July 26th at Anne Arundel Community College.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Juan Johnson and Jane de Winter presented a Maryland PTA lifetime Membership award for April Keyes. This would have been presented at the Presidents and Principals dinner, but since April will not be present, we are giving it to her tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.