

MCCPTA

December, 2011 Committee Reports

Cultural Arts Committee

Priscilla Peterson: PrisFP@verizon.net

At the time of the Cultural Arts Showcases held this fall, I asked those present to please update the annual budget survey I have been doing this for several years now. This has proven to be a valuable resource for Cultural Arts chairpersons to see how their school's budget compares to others in their vicinity and often has helped them to obtain an increase in their budget for cultural arts programming.

Since the Showcases ended in mid-October, I put out messages on the PTArts eList urging everyone who was not present to please send me their budget numbers by November 30th. For the first time, I also put out a request on the e-list for PTA Presidents eList and have been able to get a lot more information this way. As has often happened in the past however, some schools replied immediately, while some have not responded for several years and in some cases have never responded at all. I do not know whether they just do not have anyone at their school who is on the e-list for Cultural Arts reps and no one attending the Showcases, or whether they simply do not have any Cultural Arts programming at their schools. Needless to say, that is a great loss to the schools if that is the case. The budgets do vary widely and one school rep did reply that they had a budget of "zero" for Cultural Arts, but that she has been able to find the occasional free program for the school. There are some available and I do put that information out on the PTArts e-list each year.

As soon as I have finished compiling the budget numbers that are being sent to me, I hope to put the 2011-12 Cultural Arts Budget Survey online in early December. If anyone has a question or would like to add their school's Cultural Arts budget number to the survey, please contact Priscilla Peterson at: PrisFP@verizon.net.

EList Committee

Jodi Bielair: j.bielair@gmail.com

As of November 30, 2011, membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA_Board	92	+3
MCCPTA_Bulletin	748	+11
MCCPTA_Delegates	583	+7
MCCPTA_HS_Presidents	33	+/- 0
MCCPTA_Presidents	254	+28
MCCPTA_Presidents_Discussion	93	+8
MCCPTA_Treasurers	143	+21
MCCPTA_Health and Safety	125	+/- 0

There has been an ongoing “purge” of non-functioning email addresses, as well as recommendations for e-list membership based on position.

A spreadsheet has been created to allow for easier comparison of e-list memberships and has been maintained as members subscribe/unsubscribe. Within this spreadsheet is a list of ‘pending’ memberships that I am adding to the appropriate e-lists at a rate of 10/day.

All local PTA members have been added to the spreadsheet and instructional emails were sent out as to how to join the MCCPTA e-lists. All those who did not elect to join in that manner have been placed in a queue, to be added manually by myself (with a limit of 10 per day).

ESOL Subcommittee

Antonio Hernandez-Cardoso: hercarant@gmail.com

It is evident that the new majorities in Montgomery County are the minorities, as stated in several official data and media. The greatest proportion is the Latino/Hispanic population. However, historically the students of this ethnic group have huge issues (grades and graduation rate, desertion index, prevalence of pregnancy cases, number of referrals, etc.) with very well identified barriers (language, cultural, economic, legal, etc.). For those reasons, focus on this specific group seems to be urgent in order to provide support and guidance to Latino/Hispanic parents and local PTA and/or PTSA.

After meeting with staff of MCPS ESOL/Bilingual Advisory Committee, staff of MCPS Department of Family and Community Partnerships, members of the MCPS Leadership Group, individual groups of Latino/Hispanic Parents, a research of Latino/Hispanic supporting organizations and available resources for Latino/Hispanic families in Montgomery County, it seems that the best approach to have an organization comprised by Latino/Hispanic parents advocating for both Latino/Hispanic parents and students is either the creation or strengthening of a single Latino/Hispanic parent organization, with the support of the MCCPTA and related MCPS Departments.

There are several meetings scheduled to meet shortly with PALA (Latino Parents and Students in Action) active members and founder-members in order to decide the most approachable alternative. We will analyze the scope, objectives and structure of each existing Latino/Hispanic Parent organization. Then we will be able to make a decision whether we can work under a new organization or establishing a partnership. The ultimate objective is to have a solid Latino/Hispanic Parent organization to be able to speak to other parents with the same perspective and experiences.

One of the key elements of this proposal, aligned with the MCCPTA ESOL Workplan, is to perform Latino/Hispanic celebrations in as many schools as possible, in order to increase the parent involvement and their understanding of the relevance of their participation in the educational success of their children. We have already performed some "Latin American Night Celebrations" and have some others already scheduled (Newport Mill MS, Wheaton HS, Forest Oak MS) in schools with high Latino/Hispanic demographics, including some speeches from the Principal, local PTA leaders, local ESOL teachers/students, myself as MCCPTA representative and some cultural performances (dance, poetry, singing, etc.) by local parents/students or external, if appropriate. The side objectives are to spread “cells” or representatives of the Latino/Hispanic organization in each school by identifying leader parents and students and creating a networking organization able to represent the best interest of the Latino/Hispanic community with a single paternal voice. Some pictures were posted in our MCCPTA facebook page on November 18, 2011. Other clusters or schools interested in knowing more about this activity can contact me directly.

Translation of fixed MCCPTA website content is still in process. Some pilot tests are ongoing. This activity will enable Spanish-speaking parents to be aware about the activities, mission and scope of the MCCPTA.

Gifted and Talented Committee

Michelle Gluck: gluck.michelle@yahoo.com

Further developments on Curriculum 2.0 rollout: Curriculum 2.0 and the Advanced Level Learner

By the time this report is presented, but too late for press deadlines, the GCC will have hosted Marty Creel, Director of Enriched and Innovative Programming and other MCPS staff in a two-hour meeting focused on C2.0 with a particular focus on GT issues on **November 30, 2011 at 7 p.m.** in the Carver auditorium. Michelle will report on this meeting in next month's report.

Also, the Committee is still working on preparing a FAQ about C2.0 for the MCCPTA website and encourages questions from members and local schools. Several questions from the FAQ have been presented to Marty and will have been (we hope) addressed at the Nov. 30 meeting.

The AEI Advisory Committee held its first meeting of the 2011-2012 school year for on November 9th, and Michelle represented MCCPTA along with Ted Willard. The focus of the meeting was an update on AEI activity since the last meeting in June. We discussed AEI's "online university" training program for teachers (known as A.E.I.O.U.) We also received a walk-through of AEI's revamped website, and gave feedback. Finally, we were shown some data about the application and acceptance rates into MCPS magnet programs and discussed additional data it would be useful to have and how to get it. The next meeting will be held on January 25th.

Michelle continues to welcome new members to the Committee and its eLists, and encourages all local PTAs to appoint a GT Liaison.

High School Committee

Dave Lechner: dave@lechnersonline.com

1. HS Presidents E-list - no new actions -
2. Safe Prom Video contest - still waiting to hear from 2010/11 sponsor.
3. MCCPTA Model United Nations (MOCOMUN)- HELD Friday Nov 11, 3pm to 9pm.
5 schools, about 75 students participated.
VERY Successful event - only negative was that we went \$200 over the budget.
Only remaining HS Committee expense is the Shakespeare Video contest prizes (\$200)
and that event was already advertised.....
4. Shakespeare Video contest, sent out flyers via email. .Some responses from teachers -
5. MCCPTA Web Site - no new action -
6. Creative Writing E-Books - no new action -
7. Parking Lot study - no new action - need to finalize this ASAP.
STILL WAITING for feedback from the following schools: Kennedy, Northwood. Wheaton,
Montgomery Blair, Richard Montgomery, and Walter Johnson.
8. HS Jazz Festival and a Folk Festival, 2 different events, as approved by the MCCPTA BOD. Met with MCPS Fine Arts team - very positive discussions and good feedback. Met with director of Black Rock Perf. Arts Center - positive - but they are also planning their own Dance Festival for the spring and planned to invite MCPS groups to perform one of the days.....

Starting to discuss with Chamber of Commerce leadership.

Legislative Committee

Lynne Harris: lharris@jhsph.edu

Over the month of December the Legislative Committee will work on putting together a comprehensive package analyzing all facets of the proposed bus camera legislation. The report, and any proposed action, will be presented at the January 5 Board of Directors meeting.

The Committee is also in the beginning stages of planning Cluster visits to Annapolis, and also looking ahead to bringing back the MCCPTA/County Council dinner. Initial planning -is focused on choosing an effective date so that we can get invitations out early in hopes of optimizing participation by the Council.

Membership Committee

Janette Gilman: janettegilman@verizon.net

Over the past month, membership tips were provided on the Delegates eList, and those PTAs that had already surpassed their 2010-11 membership totals by the end of October (per Maryland PTA data) were acknowledged. While we are ahead of membership year-on-year, there are many locals who have not yet remitted dues. Cluster coordinators are asked to please contact local presidents and have them get dues in; this is a SoCA requirement (minimum 25 members) and crucial to their full participation in PTA programs.

Vis-à-vis Maryland PTA, we continue to work with the Maryland PTA Membership committee. A number of issues have been raised with Maryland PTA this past month. Maryland PTA's Board of Directors voted this month not to change the 10/11 membership number included on the SoCA. Note that the number includes 2010-11 dues remitted between July 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011 PLUS any late dues for 2009-10 sent between April 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010.

The other issue raised with Maryland PTA, and awaiting response from the Membership Committee and/or Executive Committee, is how Maryland PTA membership awards are calculated. Maryland PTA indicated that it will use the above 10/11 number as the base to calculate awards; however, PTAs were issued membership cards based on membership dues remitted July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, plus 10 cards. Consequently, a PTA could grow by 10 members if it sold all its cards—and believe it had earned an award—but not be rewarded if any late dues were remitted in 2009-10.

Operating Budget Committee

Jean Schlesinger: jeanschlesinger@verizon.net

During the past month, the Operating Budget Committee: 1) gathered and reviewed November revenue date, analysis of local expenditures from 07-12, and County fiscal plan; 2) updated Delegates on the revenue information and provided guidance on providing input for upcoming testimony; 3) met with MCCPTA Legislative Committee Chair, V.P. for Legislation and President to coordinate advocacy efforts, and drafted timeline of key dates and advocacy opportunities; 4) attended all November meetings of the MCPS Operating Budget Review Group; 5) held Committee meeting primarily focused on approach to updating members and advocacy at local level and 6) continued work on Funding for Our Schools Forum - MOE.

Key Operating Budget Dates are as follows:

Wed., Dec. 7, 7:30 pm - Presentation of Superintendent's Recommended Operating Budget (Richard Montgomery)

Wed., Jan. 4, 7:30 pm - Funding for Our Schools Forum - MOE (Carver)

Thurs., Jan. 5, 5:30-7:30pm, Workshop on Writing Operating Budget Testimony (Carver, Room 120)

Wed., Jan. 11 and 18, 7 pm – Board of Education Operating Budget Hearings (Carver)

January - Possible letter campaign to County Exec Office

January and February - Cluster Coordinators and others Meet with Council Member for their Districts, as well as At-Large Members

Feb. 2012 - Annapolis Trip (TBD)

Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30pm – MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum, with Board of Education and County Councilmembers (Richard Montgomery Auditorium)
Late March - April - County Council Operating Budget Hearings
Apr. 2012 County Council Operating Budget Hearings (TBD)

Parent Involvement Committee

Elisia George: ekjgsha@gmail.com

MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee in partnership with the MCPS Department of Family and Community Partnerships held the 2nd Rolling Out The Red Carpet for Multi Cultural Families on November 9th in the Carver Auditorium. Participants included a panel of principals and parents who treated those present, with a smorgasbord of best practices at the school, and PTA/PTSA level to welcome and involve parents in their community. We are so grateful to those who supported, and participated on making this event the success it was.

Reflections Committee

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Melissa McDonald: Melissa.lewis.mcdonald@gmail.com

The month of December brings us closer to the end of our program for the year at the local school level. Local PTAs are busy having their entries judged and getting them ready for County level judging. A reminder that all winning entries from local PTAs must be delivered to the MCCPTA office on either 12/14, 12/15, 12/16 or 12/19. No entries can be accepted after the 12/19 date.

We would like to remind all PTA Reflection Chairs and PTA Presidents to make sure that your PTA is in compliance with the Maryland PTA requirements. Reflection Chairs and/or PTA Presidents are encouraged to call the Maryland PTA office to ensure that the proper documentation has been received by the MDPTA office. If your PTA is not in compliance, your local winning entries will not be allowed to advance in the competition. Sadly, this was the situation for several PTAs last year. We encourage all chairs to bring hard copies of their compliance paperwork when dropping off your winning entries to the MCCPTA office, and we also encourage presidents and/or chairs retain electronic copies of as much of the compliance paperwork as possible to help facilitate the correction of any last minute discrepancies. All PTAs have the ability to check on their standing with the Maryland PTA by either calling the MDPTA office, or checking the Yahoo Group site, where they can view the most recently provided Standards of Continuing Affiliation list. Individual questions regarding Standards of Continuing Affiliation should be directed to the MDPTA office or the MCCPTA office (office@mccpta.com).

All PTA Reflections Chairs and Presidents should visit the yahoo site for announcements. The month of December is a busy one for the site, so please stay up to date. It is worth reminding all chairs to pay close attention to the new rules and regulations, which includes number of entries advancing to the county level, strict labeling and packaging guidelines, and inclusion of your PTA's excel sheet listing your school's winning entry information. A summary of the new rules and regulations have been posted on the Reflections Yahoo Group site, along with many links to necessary forms and guidelines. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ReflectionsMCCPTA/>.

Special Education Committee

Jeanne Taylor: frtjmt@aol.com

Committee meetings:

Social Event - folks who came to the last SPED Chair meeting expressed an interest in meeting more frequently for fellowship and support.

As a result, I am hosting a get-together at my home on Saturday, Dec 10, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Next Meeting - we will meet in the auditorium at the Carver Educational Services Center on December 12 at 7:30 p.m. JR Marghi, Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist, will discuss taking care of our needs as parents of special needs children.

JR has personal experience with special needs families and she is a wealth of information. She is also an extremely talented and insightful counselor.

Future Meeting - Monday, February 13, 2012, 7:30 p.m., Carver Cafeteria
Shirley Brandman invited to attend; Chair networking

Activities:

Working on securing a school sight for annual recognition ceremony. Having trouble getting in touch with the MC CUPF (Community Use of Public Facilities) contact.

Attended the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting with Dr. Starr as the guest speaker. There wasn't enough time to hear from all of the parents so I sent my questions/comments to Dr. Starr and Special Populations Board members about hours based staffing and "mandatory" teacher training. I have not had a response but plan on sending a follow up e-mail.

I am still waiting for the autism report from the County Council OLO (Office of Legislative Oversight) committee. I will follow up on this as well.

Julie Reiley, SPED Chair for Westbrook ES, is working on a resolution for the Delegates regarding burden of proof in special education cases. This is to level the playing field for families – to counter the Supreme Court case that former Superintendent Weast pursued.