

# MCCPTA

## February 2012, Committee Reports

### E-List Committee

E-List Moderator: Jodi Bierlair [j.bierlair@gmail.com](mailto:j.bierlair@gmail.com)

As of January 30, 2012, membership on the various lists is as follows:

| Listserv                     | # subscribed | Net increase/decrease from last report |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| MCCPTA_Board                 | 96           | +4                                     |
| MCCPTA_Bulletin              | 748          | +/- 0                                  |
| MCCPTA_Delegates             | 603          | +20                                    |
| MCCPTA_HS_Presidents         | 33           | +/- 0                                  |
| MCCPTA_Presidents            | 298          | +44                                    |
| MCCPTA_Presidents_Discussion | 94           | +1                                     |
| MCCPTA_Treasurers            | 162          | +19                                    |
| 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](mailto:hercarant@gmail.com)

Meetings with key people have been performed to help in shaping the best path forward to better support ESOL parents. The ultimate goal is to involve/engage more Latino parents into the scholar activities and local PTA and/or PTSA. Guidance and information is a priority for this purpose.

In order to increase the sensitivity and awareness of MCPS leaders regarding ESOL and international community in Montgomery County, several activities and meetings have been held recently.

On January 18, 2012, the Chair of the ESOL Subcommittee provided a Budget Testimony on behalf of the multilingual and international community in MCPS, as a member of the MCPS ESOL/Bilingual Advisory Committee (EBAC) (see

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/esol/parents/committee.shtm>). The testimony asked that the Board of Education honor the Superintendent's proposed budget for fiscal year 13 and not to make any additional cuts. Also, the EBAC reiterates its appreciation for the ongoing support and for continuing to build one of the finest ESOL programs in the nation. Next meeting of MCPS EBAC is scheduled on March 7, 2012 since the February meeting was canceled because attendance to the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs in Annapolis on February 1, 2012.

A group of multicultural parents have met since last year to discuss shared educational issues. This group met with Dr. Starr in December 2011 to share some concerns which are negatively impacting the engagement of parents in scholar activities. At some point, the group called itself "Multicultural Parent Leadership Group" comprised by representatives from several ethnic groups identified during a multicultural Study Circle sponsored by the MCPS Department of Family & Community Partnerships (DFCP) last year. The total number of member of this group is about 20 individuals. However, the core group is comprised of 5 members: Byron (NAACP), Kristin (MCCPTA), Bowen (Asian-American coordinator), John Landesman (MCPS DFCEP) and Antonio (Latino representative). The group is looking for a scheme to allow them to positively impact the engagement of multicultural parents in scholar activities. There are several proposals in analysis at this time. The group will continue meeting in a regular basis. Next meeting is February 27, 2012.

In mid-December, 2011, I met with the Concilmember Nancy Navarro (D-4) during the 2011 Annual Legislative Breakfast. She personally invited me to participate in the creation of a Latino Civic Group. Her purpose is the integration of an umbrella organization for Latinos with several committees (Education, Health, Jobs, Transportation, Immigration, etc.). I was invited to be part of the core group (5 members) in order to define the objective and discuss the best structure for better supporting Latinos in the County. Of course, I would be devoted to Education. Several meetings have been taken place and one big meeting with high level representatives was performed on January 28, 2012. More than 60 attendees signed a pledged to found and grow the civic organization (see <http://www.gazette.net/article/20120127/NEWS/701279495&template=gazette> for more information). The ultimate goal is to address issues within the growing minority. The core group will work on the best mechanism thru periodic meetings. Next meeting is February 7, 2012.

On January 31, I met with Jennifer Nguherimo, MSEA/MCEA UniServ Director. The teachers of the county are aware about the huge need to support Latino parents and students. They are interested in the activities going on in order to help from their side. Jen was informed of several activities in progress. The Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA) comprises several committees with different assignments (budget, union, legislative, retirement, disability, etc.) and now they are thinking of a new committee devoted to support minorities. I recommend her to define the scope in terms of involvement of parents in schools. Teachers are able to identify parent leaders and then ask them if they are willing to participate in activities for their community. She was excited about the idea and will go back to the main group to propose those general ideas. There are teachers born out of the US and able to speak several languages. Therefore, they can be excellent liaisons with potential leader parents. We will meet in early-March, 2012.

Translation into Spanish of documents from local PTAs have been made in a regular basis. The most relevant request was received from the MD PTA bylaws. The document is almost ready and will be sent shortly.

## **Gifted and Talented Committee**

Michelle Gluck: [gluck.michelle@yahoo.com](mailto:gluck.michelle@yahoo.com)

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

The GCC 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 in the

Carver auditorium. Over 150 parents (and a few local school staff) attended, along with 10 MCPS central staff. The presentation outlined the rationale for the end of accelerated math pathways and the extensions for accelerated differentiated instruction in the C2.0 mathematics curriculum. As is always the case, there were many more questions at the end than the presenters could answer, and Michelle transcribed and presented the questions to Marty at a later meeting, but it is still unclear when MCPS will post answers and in what form. We are hoping to organize a second session that will focus on the rest of the curriculum.

Thanks to Ted Willard for his support and his help in running the Q&A session.

Michelle continues to receive a lot of parent feedback that indicates that the acceleration extensions are being inconsistently implemented, and continues to talk to MCPS staff about this problem. She is also implementing a C2.0 sublist for parents particularly focused on the issues raised by C2.0 rollout. Anyone who wishes to be added to this list can contact Michelle to be included.

The AEI Advisory Committee held its second meeting of the 2011-2012 school year on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and Michelle represented MCCPTA. The focus of the meeting was on AEI's work on mindset in GT education. While the underpinnings of this work are similar to the use of Carol Dweck's work throughout MCPS, we were also shown some supplemental data about the application and acceptance rates into MCPS magnet programs. The next meeting will be held on April 25th.

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

## **Health/ Safety Committee**

Donna Pfeiffer: [DonnaPfeiffer@gmail.com](mailto:DonnaPfeiffer@gmail.com)

Susan Burkinshaw: [susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net](mailto:susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net)

We are planning a meeting/presentation re: teen alcohol health risks and prevention (we are targeting a March date—exact date and final speaker panel TBD). We continue our ongoing School Resource Officer advocacy. We are meeting with Dr. Starr next week to discuss and advocate for the School Resource Officer program.

The following is a written statement from Captain Didone from the Montgomery County Police Department regarding the "Holiday Task Force":

*"The Department does not have an automated means of tracking the underage drinking citations Department-wide so I can only speak to the enforcement by the taskforce.*

*From November 16, 2011 to January 7<sup>th</sup> the law enforcement agencies in Montgomery County worked collectively to combat drunk driving and underage drinking by forming a Multi-jurisdictional taskforce. The taskforce consisted of 15 officers from Montgomery County PD, Gaithersburg City PD, Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning PD and Maryland State Police – with the support of the Department of Liquor Control.*

*During the taskforce these 15 officers arrested 317 Drunk Driver and equally important arrested 6 underage drivers who were in violation of the alcohol restriction.*

*Officers also closed 23 underage drinking parties and issued 239 alcohol citations to youth found to be in possession or furnishing alcohol while underage.*

*Because I do not have the statistics available I cannot comment specifically about Bethesda; however, I can say that it is our perception that the number of underage drinking parties appears to be on the rise County-wide and that officers are finding parents hosting underage drinking parties at an alarming rate.*

*Underage drinking is Illegal, Unhealthy and Unacceptable and underage drinking parties are not safe environments for youth. Studies have shown when parents host or enable drinking parties that youth tend to drink more and feel empowered to drink at other times. Drugs, violence, alcohol poisoning, and sex assaults are frequent occurrence at underage drinking parties, as well as, vomit, destruction and an abundance of alcohol as you can see from the enclosed photo.*

*In a final thought... I would like to personally applaud Principal Alan Goodwin of Walt Whitman HS for his leadership and carrying enough about the students' future to enforce the school policy and punish the students. It takes a village to raise a child and everyone has a role (parents, principals, police and others in the community) if we want to keep our kids safe. The sanctions that are imposed by the school have raised the awareness of both parents and students and are far more effective than the consequence's associated with an alcohol citation. For many years, the officers in the Alcohol Initiatives Section and Drug Free Schools program have recommended that MCPS to have a uniform policy on drug and alcohol violations throughout the entire school system and I personally believe that the Walt Whitman policy should be the model. Hopefully now, under the leadership of Mr. Star, this can be given reconsideration."*

## **High School Committee**

Dave Lechner: [dave@lechneronline.com](mailto:dave@lechneronline.com)

1. We may (or may not) be doing the Prom Safety Video contest - waiting to hear if last-year's sponsor will do it again this year.
2. Updated the Traffic Safety Report - but want to do 1 more school traffic study before finalizing it -
3. We set up and sent out flyers for the Shakespeare Video contest - 1 school asked questions - no other entries so far.  
Planning to do a press release and an Email on the DA E-list to help increase publicity.
4. I started writing a report on long-term Strategic options for special High School programs (e.g. IB, Cambridge, etc) in MCPS.
5. **Performing Arts Festivals:** We spoke to the head of the MCPS Performing Arts team as well as the managers of Silver Spring Civic Center and Rockville Town Center and the Black Rock Center for Performing Arts about hosting or partnering to run a Jazz Band/Choir festival or a Folk Dance Festival for MCPS HS Students...  
Meeting with the Silver Spring group on Friday (Feb 3) to discuss it in detail - and the Rockville team is discussing it on Monday at their staff meeting. We may not be able to do either, but we may be able to do one or both also - the groups that run these places are VERY excited that we are proposing to help do this -  
We need an MCCPTA Board discussion of this on Thursday - We do not think that the events will cost much, if anything at all, and we may be able to get some business sponsorship - but if the venue managers are favorable we will need to go to the MCPS Music directors with invitations in FEBRUARY for events in May or early June.  
Likely plan is some sort of Folk Dance event in Rockville Town Center (all ages, K-12) and a Jazz Festival in the plaza at Silver Spring (HS bands and jazz choirs for now, 2012).  
Hosting an event this year will allow MCCPTA to get in front of the community in a more positive and public way, promote the performing arts, and gain event experience so that next August we can put in for a request for an MC Arts & Humanities Council grant application for continuing the events in the spring of 2013.

**REQUESTING** up to \$400 of additional funds be allocated to the HS Committee to run up to 2 events this spring, as long as the venue teams are picking up the cost of hosting the events, including security,

liability insurance, and trash pickup. The additional costs will cover advertising materials (banners), water bottles and ice, and snacks for performers.

If additional revenue is obtained, it will reduce the cost of the events. (Q: Does MCCPTA have any large banners with out name and logo on them? They cost \$50 for a 4'x10' color vinyl banner, & we will buy 2).

6. E-Book support for literary magazines - We will be sending an email to the HS English Department heads soon -

7. The HS Committee is helping to coordinate the MCCPTA Resolution on how MCPS manages choice in the consortium schools.

This will be discussed by the local PTSAs this month, and voted on at the next Delegates Assembly.

8. Started looking into a remodeling of the HS Committee web page on the MCCPTA site. Of particular interest is the ability to set up some sort of internship matching site for high school students. This was identified as a potential committee project last fall.

## Membership Committee

Janette Gilman: [janettegilman@verizon.net](mailto:janettegilman@verizon.net)

All: If you've been to the Delegates Assemblies, you've heard Jaimie Jacobson, MCCPTA's treasurer, say just about every month that we are ahead of last year's year-on-year membership numbers. And that's great and all, but we're still not at 50,000 and it's almost February.

So, here's my challenge to every PTA and PTSA out there. Let's get to 50K together. Let's do it by setting up a membership table at upcoming school events (check with your principal or administrators) like registration meetings, band concerts, basketball games. Whatever. If parents attend, make sure they are members. Does your PTA have an upcoming event? Have a membership table and put your most outgoing parents in front of it! Have many language spoken at your school? Make sure those parents speak those languages! Just ask them....I bet you'll find willing volunteers!

But how to get members in February if you didn't get them in the Fall? Let your parents know what you have done this year, AND everything your PTA/PTSA will do before the year ends. OK, maybe not everything, but let them know the things you are most proud of. Do you host an After-Prom? Do you run the science fair? Have you been providing classroom funds? WHATEVER YOU DO, now is the time to give your parents an update. Put it on a flyer. Send it out in an email blast. Get your principal to acknowledge it when he/she next speaks before a group of parents. Then, be ready with a membership form!

And if the challenge of growing your PTA for the heck of it isn't enough, don't forget that MCCPTA membership awards will be featured at the Presidents & Principals Dinner in May. Awards will be given to PTAs for growth, for absolute size, and for their members to students ratio. The membership figures we use are as of March 31; if you send in a check on April 1st...too late. And as of today, MANY PTA/PTSAs are neck-and-neck for TOP HONORS. Wouldn't you love to stand in front of Board of Education and County Council members and let them know that YOU represent a big group of voters, erh, parents!

Trust me, you would! Plus, those members mean funds and potential volunteers for your school and students. PTA membership is a win-win situation. Don't be shy. Just ask.

So grow your locals. Keep asking. I just picked up a PTA membership at my school last week--it made my day. And why? Because I ran into a friend and frequent PTA volunteer at Giant who I knew had not joined yet this year. So, I asked. A week later, I had another two PTA members. It is all about asking.

Thanks for all you do for your kids and your school communities. Together, we'll be 50,000 members strong and can take THAT to Annapolis. I'm guessing the Governor might care about 50,000 votes.

## Operating Budget Committee

Jean Schlesinger: [jeanschlesinger@verizon.net](mailto:jeanschlesinger@verizon.net)

Since the January report, the Operating Budget Committee: 1) with the help of others, put on the Maintenance of Effort Forum; 2) held a workshop on giving Operating Budget Testimony, and provided summary and handouts on list serves for those who were unable to attend; 3) answered and interfaced with MCPS to answer members questions about the operating budget in anticipation of testimony; 4) wrote MCCPTA Operating Budget testimony; 5) followed operating budget developments at the local and state level (including January numbers, Governor's proposal and Superintendent's recommended amendment); 6) updated membership on budget developments on list serve and at Delegates meeting; 7) continued to participate in Budget Work Group and to advocate with MCCPTA leadership for MCCPTA budget priorities; 8) prepared talking points for County Executive Operating Budget Forum. and 9) continued coordination for Annual MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum.

Please plan to attend to the Operating Budget Forum on Wednesday, February 15th, at Richard Montgomery High School Auditorium at 7:30pm. Let's be sure to get the word out to our local schools! Together, let's continue to advocate for MCCPTA priorities, and the funding needed to make those priorities a reality. If you have not already done so, please consider reaching out to your County Councilmember to ask for his/her support for the Maintenance of Effort funding necessary to fund the proposed MCPS Operating Budget. The Board of Education will vote on the budget on February 14th.

## Presidents and Principals Dinner

Dale Ryan: [dalejryan@yahoo.com](mailto:dalejryan@yahoo.com)

Date: May 17, 2012 Place: Bethesda Marriott Convention Center

Time: 6PM – social hour, 7PM dinner Cost: \$50.00

- 1) Sponsorship forms were finalized. There will only be 4 levels for sponsors- a) \$3000, b)\$1000, c) \$500 and d) \$250.
- 2) Pam Loebach– will send sponsorship info. this week
- 3) Leon Harris – WJLA – ABC News Anchor confirmed for MC
- 4) Discussion item – should non-PTA members be charged a higher ticket price
- 5) Work on invitation design - (need to wait on sponsorship reponses .... Targeting Mid March to send out to PTA individuals in the Blue book, as well as officials.)
- 6) Work on program layout
  - a. Question – Guest Speaker or not?
  - b. Entertainment - Before dinner, during dinner, other time, and what type
  - c. Check with awards committee on plan - MDPTA lifetime, National Lifetime, County awards

- d. Induction - National PTA president
- 7) Students to help with registration
- 8) Nametags – distribution
- 9) Seating - assigned vs. not assigned seats

Meeting date : on-line

## Special Education Committee

Jeanne Taylor: [frtjmt@aol.com](mailto:frtjmt@aol.com)

**Next Meeting** - Monday, February 13, 2012, 7:30 p.m., in the Carver Educational Services Center auditorium. 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.

### Activities:

Working on annual recognition ceremony. The Rockville HS auditorium has been reserved for the evening of Monday, May 14, 2012. Entertainment has been arranged and the MCCPTA website has been updated with specific details. A request for nominations has been sent out on MCCPTA Bulletin and other lists. Requests for inclusion on the MCPS website and in the MCPS Staff Bulletin were sent out.

Continuing to work with Julie Reiley, SPED Chair for Westbrook ES, on proposed resolution re burden of proof in special education cases. Julie is also helping craft legislation and working with our elected officials to get a bill enacted.

The autism report from the County Council OLO (Office of Legislative Oversight) committee has been released. Here is the link to the PDF file.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/olo/reports/pdf//2012-3.pdf> The MCCPTA

The Special Education Sub-committee is seeking nominations for outstanding educators, programs, parents and students who contribute to the acceptance and success of special needs students who attend Montgomery County Public Schools.

Winners will be honored at the 24th Annual Recognition Awards ceremony which will be held on Monday, May 14, 2012 @ 6:30 PM at Rockville HS.

For additional information, go to

[http://www.mccpta.com/specneeds\\_dir/2011-2012/2011-2012infoform.pdf](http://www.mccpta.com/specneeds_dir/2011-2012/2011-2012infoform.pdf)

or visit our web site at

<http://www.mccpta.com/specneeds.html> and click on the

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

## Student Learning Services (SSL) Committee

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