



January 19, 2007

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Greetings,

January has been an extremely busy month for MCCPTA. I would like to thank our cluster coordinators for their testimonies at last week's public hearings on the FY 2008 operating budget as well as the many PTAs and individuals who offered testimony and came to support the speakers. This was a particularly tough year for budget clarity what with distribution problems with the budget books, the shrinkage of the citizen's budget, and the delayed release of the middle school spending plan which never specified where the realigned dollars would come from. We are still working on getting answers to these questions. We will also post the staff responses to Board members questions from the hearings as soon as we receive them.

On January 9th, the BOE tentatively adopted Policy IEB: Middle School Education. Final adoption will take place on February 13th. The delay is to allow the newest Board member time to assimilate the material. We were pleased to see that many, but not all, of our comments did lead to some changes in the policy. Our Middle School Committee is reviewing the reform report and the tentatively adopted policy to determine if there are further changes we might recommend. If so, we will bring these to the Delegates at the January 23rd meeting.

Also on the agenda for the 23rd is the vote on the Safety Committee's resolution. The curriculum committee will be introducing a resolution asking for the development of a new one semester high school elective course on financial literacy. We will discuss state funding and the Governor's back tracking on funding the geographic cost of education index (GCEI) which would provide additional funding to Montgomery, Prince George's, and Baltimore City. There will be a program

on Middle School Reform from 7-8pm that evening and the DA will begin at 8pm.

I was invited to a meeting of the County Executives Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee this week to discuss ways PTAs can be involved in this issue. The next walk to school event is scheduled for October 3, 2007, and MCCPTA will help disseminate material regarding this event. I learned that one goal of these walk to school days is for PTAs and school communities to develop a list of pedestrian hazards in their own communities and pass them on to school and county officials. Delegate Bill Bronrott is very involved in this committee and may speak at one of our DA's this spring.

Reports from the BOE's policy committee meeting on January 10th, suggest that the Board may not take action to change Policy FFA: Naming of Schools. BOE members are continuing to examine the proposal to close secondary learning centers. They have been visiting some of the learning centers and gathering information on student performance. At this point I don't know what the BOE will decide but am continuing to raise concerns about training for co-teachers, access for students with physical disabilities, and MCPS's ability to provide a continuum of services if students are returned to their home schools.

MCCPTA received a draft of a new local bylaws template from MD PTA; the final draft should be available soon. When the new template is finalized, MCCPTA intends to get it translated into Spanish and up on our web site.

I had some preliminary conversations with the Director of the NAACP Parents Council about our training sessions. There were many sessions at our fall training that

would appeal to Parent Council Reps. Expect a date for the spring training soon.

We are now accepting nominations for the Champions for Children Award. This award celebrates an outstanding local secondary school PTA program that promotes parent involvement. See attached for more detail.

Most local PTAs are required to elect a nominating committee at their February or March meeting; the month will be specified in your bylaws. When your nominating committee represents the diversity of your parent community, you are more likely to have successful outreach throughout your community.

The MCCPTA nominating committee members will be convening area meetings by February 1st, to select the nominees for MCCPTA area vice presidents. Each cluster should hold a meeting to select nominees for cluster coordinators by March 15th. The nominating committee is currently accepting nominations for MCCPTA officer positions (form attached).

Jane

(Please note: November Minutes can be found on the MCCPTA website)

PTA NIGHT IN ANNAPOLIS

Monday, February 12, 2007

Legislative Services Building – Joint Hearing Room

Annapolis 6:00 to 8:00pm

Meet with the Legislators and be the voice of the PTA!

Please call your legislators and let them know you will be in attendance.

Remind them that education is the #1 priority of Maryland PTA.

More information on PTA Night in Annapolis will be forthcoming from MCCPTA but you may also visit the MD PTA website at www.mdpta.org

Do You Know What's in Your Child's Lunch?

School Lunch Forum to Take Place on February 7 – Parents are urged to attend

Are you concerned about childhood obesity and nutrition? Would you like to see healthier lunch menu offerings or are you satisfied with what's available now? Rosemary Hills PTA and North Chevy Chase PTA will be hosting a discussion about school lunches on Wednesday, February 7 at 7:30 at North Chevy Chase Elementary School. All MCPS parents are encouraged to attend – no RSVP necessary. MCPS food and nutrition field supervisor, Marla Caplon, R.D., will be joining us, along with other state and local leaders. In an effort to prepare yourself for the meeting we recommend that you talk to your child about the lunches they eat in the cafeteria and maybe even join your child for lunch at school. Ask which lunches are especially tasty, which ones are not, was there fresh fruit that you liked? Did you need more to eat or did you have too much? MCPS menus are on line at:

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/foodserv/menus/cafemenus.shtm>

North Chevy Chase ES web site (for directions) is: <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/nchevychasees/>

Thank you in advance and we look forward to your participation.

Want additional information?

Contact Carrie Witkop at carriewitkop@juno.com or Aviva Goldfarb at aviva@thescramble.com.

MCCPTA to Host Interactive HS Forum for PTSA Leaders

Save the Date! MCCPTA will be hosting an interactive forum for high school PTSA leaders on **March 3rd from 10 AM to 1 PM at Albert Einstein High School**. Lunch will be provided. This forum is for current PTA presidents and other leaders to discuss prevailing issues in our high schools. We encourage all PTSA presidents to attend and to bring a guest from your school - a future PTSA president; chair member or interested parent who wishes to be more involved. More information will follow in next month's newsletter and posted on the MCCPTA listserv.

MCCPTA Nominations Announcement: January, 2007

The MCCPTA Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a slate of nominees for officers, area vice presidents, and cluster coordinators for election at the Annual Meeting, the April delegate assembly. We are looking for those who will be the leaders of the organization for the 2007-2008 school year. These people will represent the diversity and strength of our membership, demonstrate leadership qualities, continue to provide support for the local PTAs in the coming year, and be committed to the vision of this countywide organization. Our goal is to present a slate of strong and skillful leaders who are committed to serving together to assure that MCCPTA remains the foremost child advocacy organization in Montgomery County.

Please look around you and think about how you can participate as a leader of MCCPTA. If you are interested in one of these leadership positions, or would like to nominate another qualified candidate, please fill out the attached form and return it to the MCCPTA office by February 9, 2007. (Attention: MCCPTA--Nominating Committee, 20906 Gaither Road, Suite 204, Rockville, MD, 20850 or you can send it by email to mdrother@comcast.net).

Please don't overlook the positions of Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators. An Area Vice President represents specific groups of clusters as designated by the Executive Board and approved by MCCPTA. They help extend PTA work in all local PTA/PTSAs in the specific clusters which they represent; assist in the training of PTA/PTSAs in their clusters; assist in the organization of new PTA/PTSAs in their clusters; coordinate the work of cluster coordinators; and perform such other duties as he/she may be assigned by the Executive Board. Clusters consists of a high school plus its feeder schools, and has up to three cluster coordinators who serve for a term of one (1) year, and not more than four (4) consecutive terms, until the election of their successors. Cluster coordinators conduct meetings of the cluster; serve as a link between the area vice presidents and local units; represent the cluster at meetings of the Board of Directors, at meetings with the area vice president responsible for the cluster, and at other meetings; coordinate the testimony of the cluster before the Board of Education and the County Council; assist the area vice presidents in the administration of PTA business, and perform such other duties as may be required.

The nominating Committee member from your area will hold a meeting to solicit and nominate an area vice president before February 1st. These nominations will be submitted to the full nominating committee by March 15th. Please refer to MCCPTA Bylaws, Article X, section 4 for the specific nominating/election process for the AVPs and Cluster Coordinators.

The MCCPTA Bylaws require the nominating committee to mail the nominations to the MCCPTA membership at least two weeks before the March delegate assembly, March 27th. Nominations for all positions may also be made from the floor at the MCCPTA Delegates meeting on April 24, 2006.

The members of the Nominating Committee are **Mark Rother**, Chair, *Blair, Einstein, Kennedy and, Northwood*; **Karen Smith**, *Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Wheaton, and Whitman*, **Steve Augustino**, *Clarksburg, Damascus, Magruder, Gaithersburg, and Watkins Mill*; **Paul Morrison**, *Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, and Seneca Valley*; **Deborah Stevens-Panzer**, *Blake, Paint Branch, Sherwood and Springbrook*; **Livleen Gill**, *Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Churchill, and Wooten*; **Tom Kenton**, *Member-at-Large*.

MCCPTA NOMINATION FORM for 2007/2008
Please return completed form on or before **February 9, 2007**

Submitted by: Name: _____

Address: _____

Email _____ Preferred Contact time: AM _____ PM _____

Phone: Day (____) _____ Evening (____) _____ Cell:(____) _____

**I wish to be considered or propose for nomination _____
_____ (name and contact information) for the following position(s):**

- _____ President
- _____ Vice President for Educational Issues
- _____ Vice President for Administration
- _____ Vice President for Programs
- _____ Recording Secretary, Board of Directors
- _____ Recording Secretary , Delegate Assembly
- _____ Treasurer

Please list your or the nominee's previous experiences/positions and any relevant professional experience. If you or the nominee is currently serving in one of the positions up for nomination, please include your specific contributions and/or significant accomplishments while serving in the position. We encourage you to attach a separate sheet for this.

Describe for us how your or the nominee's skills and your or the nominee's previous experience will enable you or the nominee to serve effectively in the position you are seeking. See MCCPTA Bylaws, Articles IX and XII for descriptions of the duties of the positions. We encourage you attach a separate sheet for this.

You may return the completed form to MCCPTA--Nominating Committee, 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204, Rockville, MD 20850, or email it to mdrother@comcast.net. You may also contact Mark Rother, the Chair of this committee at 301-933-9111. Only the committee will use your information.

MCCPTA Committee Updates – January 2007

(Please note: Additional Committee updates are shared electronically on the MCCPTA Bulletin)

Cultural Arts Committee:

Joan Wolf Chiaverini, Chair, joanwolfjoanwolf@aol.com

ALL Cultural Arts chairs should contact Joan Wolf at the above email address to be included in the PTArts listserv-----we do not have 100% participation!

Capital Improvement Program Committee:

Marney Jacobs (Co-Chair): mjdti@bellatlantic.net

Jim Keenan (Co-Chair): jim.keenan@fmcsa.dot.gov

Jim Keenan, Jane de Winter and Marney Jacobs met with Michael Knapp to discuss the upcoming capital budget process. Mike was previously on the Education Committee, and now is the chair. He was enthusiastic about more open communication with the school system on both budgets and optimistic about the capital budget going through. This meeting was prior to the County Executive taking office so it was premature to state full support or not. He did not think we would need to lobby extensively for the current capital budget to be approved by the Council; however, we agreed that cluster coordinators should take any opportunity to get to know new Council members and apprise them of your capital needs.

We also met with Jennifer Hughes, now Special Counsel to County Executive, Isaiah Leggett. She too is familiar with our needs and concerns but we felt that a meeting in her new role was important. That day Mr. Leggett was meeting with Governor-Elect Martin O'Malley to discuss Montgomery County needs- and education was a high priority. They are asking for the maximum state funding of \$400 million per year for school construction. Again, she could not say for sure how the budget would look but emphasized the high priority Mr. Leggett puts on education.

We will continue to speak with new Board and Council members on the capital budget. We suggest you make sure all of your elected representatives know about your schools successes and needs.

*FY08 state Capital Improvements Program request for MCPS is \$135.5 million. \$3.9 million is for a project that has already received state planning approval and partial state funding in a prior year. \$3.6 million is for roof and HVAC projects. The rest of the projects will need state approval but have already been approved by County Council. We'll need to continue to lobby state legislators for level of \$400 million per year of state aid for school construction.

Jim and Marney are on the High School Educational Specifications Work Group which is studying the current ed specs (formulas to determine room size, number of rooms, and kinds of spaces in schools). It is a diverse group made up of a high school students, staff, principals, facilities planning staff, curriculum specialists, an outside architect, someone from the business community us as the parent representatives. We've had experts and school staff present on various school program models, such as, the ninth grade academy, looked at the facility in relation to program, and discussed future needs, for example, rooms for lectures or job-skill training. This group will meet for a year (started last spring) and a report will be made at the end. I think we will continue to see changes in the way we look at buildings and that there is not a one-size fits all attitude to high school facilities.

Grading and Reporting Committee:
Sharon St.Pierre, Chair, stpierre619@comcast.net

The Grading and Reporting Committee met on December 11th to determine three substantial issues in which the committee plans on pursuing further:

1. Format of third-grade report card and grading and reporting procedures in elementary schools.
2. Grading of summer homework packets.
3. Implementation of OARS in secondary schools

Health Committee: Tracy Fox, Chair, tracyfox@comcast.net

Update on Sex Ed Curriculum for 8th and 10th grades:

Submitted by Tracy Fox, MPH, RD, MCCPTA Rep to the Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development (CAC for short)

On Tuesday, January 9th, the Montgomery County Board of Education unanimously approved a revised sex education curriculum, including a 7 minute video on condom use (for 10th graders) and 8th and 10th grade lessons on sexual orientation. The curriculum will be piloted this spring in three middle and high schools (school selection has not occurred yet).

For the last year, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development (CAC) has spent many hours over the course of a dozen meetings analyzing and commenting on the proposed lessons as presented by MCPS staff. This time consuming but necessary process included serious consideration of hundreds of recommended changes and amendments.

MCPS accepted 69 of 83 CAC recommendations in presenting the revised curricula to the BOE.

The revised materials have been met with both compliments and criticism. While the majority of CAC members view the changes as appropriate and scientifically based, with important discussions on tolerance and empathy, stereotyping and generalizations, how to report harassment, and above all the importance of abstinence as the only sure way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, a number of members and others feel that the video and curricula do not go far enough in discussing the specific risks of anal sex as well as discussing ex-gays.

At the Jan. 9th BOE meeting, an important addition to the 8th grade curriculum was made to make it consistent with the 10th grade curriculum. The addition instructs teachers to tell students that “sexual orientation is innate and a complex part of one’s personality.” This statement was in the 10th grade curriculum but was overlooked and now will be added to the 8th grade materials. Most of the CAC members felt strongly that this fact should be explicitly included in the course materials. While the statement regarding the “innate and complex” nature of sexual orientation is an important addition, most members would have liked to have seen more context for that statement to show that it reflects the positions of mainstream medical and mental health organizations like the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Next Steps:

Pilot testing will provide MCPS and others with important information to gauge student learning and capture questions that are raised. MCCPTA will be following the pilot testing closely and updating members on the status of the issue.

Background on Sexual Orientation and Condom Video lessons and the “Opt-In” requirement:

The portion of the health education curriculum that was revised and voted on by BOE is a small – but vital – segment of the total health education curriculum for 8th and 10th graders. For example, the 8th grade health ed curriculum is 9 weeks

long; the sexual orientation segment is comprised of TWO 45 minute lessons, or less than 5% of the overall health education curriculum for 8th graders.

The 10th grade health ed curriculum is 18 weeks long; the sexual orientation segment is comprised of TWO 45 minute lessons, and the condom use segment and video are covered in ONE 45 minute lesson; these three lessons comprise about 3% of the overall health education curriculum for 10th grade.

Unlike most courses offered throughout MCPS, there are components within the health education curriculum - specifically the Family Life and Human Development lessons and the Disease Prevention lessons, in which parents – and students – must affirmatively elect to participate. So, parents who disagree with the curriculum, who would rather provide important information about human sexuality and disease prevention to their son or daughter in another way, or simply not provide it at all, may choose not to participate. In fact, a written statement from parents must be on file indicating that they are aware of the areas that will be covered and must indicate whether their son or daughter will or will not participate.

Web Link for Curricula:

The Board agenda has a link to the lessons: <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/boe/meetings/agenda/2006-07/2007-0109/BoardHealthEdPaper1-9-07.pdf>

Reflections Committee: Neal Myerson, Chair, nealmbshs70@yahoo.com

This year we have set all time Reflections participation records. We received entries from 37 PTAs, 18 elementary schools, 13 middle schools, and 7 high schools. The previous high was 28 last year. These 37 PTAs had a total of 1,752 local entries, demolishing last year's high of 734. One middle school, A. Mario Loiederman MS, had 826 entries! Finally, these 37 PTAs submitted 390 entries to MCCTA for county judging, surpassing last year's previous record of 264. County judging is now in progress, and the top 4 in each age group and art category will be submitted to Maryland PTA by February 2.

Congratulations to all the students that participated, and the local Reflections chairs for each PTA that did the hard work of running the Reflections program at each school.

Safety Committee: Pam Mommau, Chair, Pammomau@comcast.net

The Safety Committee introduced a resolution calling for MCPS to conduct security assessments of all schools, and to develop better security policies with respect to portables. We will be submitting this for a vote at the January 23 Delegates' Assembly. Resolution can be found attached or by visiting the MCCPTA website, click on "Resolutions," and scroll down to "pending resolutions" to see the text of these resolutions.

Please join us Thursday, January 18, 2007 in Room 114 Carver Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville at 7:00 p.m. for the next Safety Committee meeting. MCPS Acting Director of Safety and Security Bob Hellmuth will be there until 7:45 to help answer questions, and we will then continue the meeting until 9 pm to determine how we can best help our MCPS families. Safety in and around our schools is important to each of us. Our advocacy agenda includes facility safety and security; prevention of bullying and other student violence; transportation-related concerns including buses, pedestrians and safe access; and emergency procedures and communications, We work with individual concerns, PTAs and County-wide to assist students and parents in achieving a continuously safe environment in all school related activities. We need your help, we need your input, and we need your suggestions.

We hope each local PTA will act on our suggestion to establish an active Safety Committee.

All interested PTA members are invited and encouraged to attend our meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2007 in Room 114 Carver Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville at 7:00 p.m.

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Special Education Committee:

Diane Dickson rvdianedickson@yahoo.com (Co-Chair);

Jennifer Zaranis jfr4806@juno.com (Co-Chair)

This month, committee members have been very busy responding to the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget for FY '08, specifically the realignments which call for the phasing out of Secondary Learning Centers, the closing of two GT/LD programs and a reduction in Special Education Summer Learning Programs from 5 days per week to 4 days per week. Special Education advocates have been involved in meetings, letter writing, and giving testimony on the proposed budget. Questions compiled from special education list serves were forwarded to the Director of Special Education and we are told that responses to these questions will be available on the MCPS website soon.

Also this month, nomination packets for the annual Special Education Recognition Awards were sent to each school. The packet will also be made available on the MCCPTA website.

This month's program will be held on **January 31, 2007** from 7:00-9:00 PM (Snow Date February 21, 2007) All you need to know about Transitioning from a parent, student, transitioning young adult prospective. Members from the MCTrans Group, some young adults will speak about Transitioning. Contact Reda Sheinberg rjsheinberg@yahoo.com at 301-385-5889 to register or for more information. Please Note New Location: 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 Carver Education Service Center Cafeteria

Technology Committee: Linda White, Chair, lindabwhite1@aol.com

The Technology Committee did not meet in December due to the Holidays.

I did meet one-on-one with Chris Noonan Sturm, Director of MCPS Web Services, in December and we discussed how best to approach the committees request that we find a way to improve and garner support for all MCPS schools to improve the content and structure of their web sites so throughout the county we have a more unified approach.

We've decided to put together a task force which will include some teachers, principals and staff along with our committee to facilitate the mapping out of a plan to be submitted to the board around individual school web site improvement.

Chris will be sending me a proposed agenda and people to include in our next meeting. We've decided as a subcommittee (web site services) to meet and work the web site improvement plan every other month.

The teams other objective, which is to improve the integration of technology will be discussed at this months meeting Monday January 22, 2007 7-9pm at Carver Auditorium. We are trying to get Shelly Johnson to attend to give us an overview of the middle school reform project and future plans for improvement.

The team is meeting once a month.

Start of the New Year with a Spring in your Step!

Article submitted by Susan Hippchen, RD, MCPS Food and Nutrition Services
(Susan_Hippchen@mcpsmd.org) and Tracy Fox, MPH, RD, Health Committee Chair, MCCPTA
(tracyfox@comcast.net)

Start of 2007 with a family goal for physical activity. Develop a physical activity plan and reduce sedentary activities to promote health, physiological wellbeing, and a healthy body weight. Make sure to include aerobic exercise into your physical activity plan. This form of exercise conditions the heart and lungs by increasing the oxygen available to the body and by allowing the heart to use oxygen more efficiently. Aerobic exercise also tones muscle, eliminates body fat, relieves stress, improves stamina and overall energy, aids in establishing regular sleep patterns, and lowers LDL (“bad”) cholesterol while increasing HDL (“good”) cholesterol. To get the most health benefits from aerobic exercise, leading health organizations recommend 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity for adults and 60 minutes for children and adolescences most days of the week, preferably daily.

As a parent, you have a very important role in shaping your children’s physical activity behaviors and attitudes. Here are a few tips to help you encourage your children to become more physically active.

- Be a role model and lead an active lifestyle yourself, and make physical activity a part of your family’s daily routine. For example, designate time for family walks or playing active games together.
- Encourage your children to express interest in new activities and offer positive reinforcement for participation.
- Make physical activity fun! The activities can be structured or non-structured. They may range from organized team sports, individual sports to recreational activities such as walking, skating, running, skiing, bicycling, dancing, swimming, playground activity and free play time.
- Safety is a priority so make sure protective equipment such as helmets, knee pads, and wrist pads, etc. are used.
- Limit the time you and your children engage in sedentary activities such as watching TV, talking on the phone, using the computer, and playing video games. Instead, find fun activities to do as a family that involve more activity.
- For older kids, invite them to the gym – look at membership options for teens.
- Encourage teens to get together with friends for flag football, soccer, or other impromptu activities.
- Find out what your kids are doing in physical education class.

Interested in learning more about how you can take action to promote Physical Education in schools? Check out the Maryland Healthy Schools Coalition web site at: <http://www.mdhealthyschools.org/>

Interested in helping organize a “Girls on the Run” (GOTR) after school running program for girls? Check out the web site: www.girlsontherun.com and contact MCPS parent Eve Mills, Executive Director of GOTR – Montgomery County, at (301) 229-2514 or southboundmills@comcast.net.

May the year be a happy, healthy and physically active one for you and your family!

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 that should cover these and related subjects and that this course should be made available at every county high school.

**Proposed Resolution Regarding Improving Security Conditions at
Local Schools
(Proposed by the MCCPTA Safety Committee)**

WHEREAS recent incidents involving violence and threats of violence from intruders in schools both nationally and in Montgomery County have revealed the vulnerability of many Montgomery County school buildings to potential intruders; and

WHEREAS the potential for threats from intruders varies from school to school depending on the configuration of each school, its site, and its location; and,

WHEREAS all students and staff in Montgomery County Public Schools should be assured that everything that is reasonably possible is being done to enhance school security; and

WHEREAS portable classrooms pose the following security hazards relating to

- * Movement of students and staff between portables and the main building,
- * Isolation of students and staff , often without visual contact between the portable doorway and the main school building; and
- * Lack of access to building facilities such as bathrooms and water in the event of lockdown situations;

now therefore be it

RESOLVED that Montgomery County Public Schools conduct a security inventory of their school facilities, including soliciting input from staff and parents associated with each facility;

RESOLVED that MCPS provide resources as may be required to ensure that access to the school is adequately limited during the school day;

RESOLVED that MCPS amend the portable siting specifications to include consideration of security-related criteria; and

RESOLVED that MCPS investigate ways to improve access to bathroom facilities for students in portables, particularly during lockdown situations.

Calling All Champions For Children!

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) is looking to recognize and celebrate an outstanding local secondary school PTA program that promotes parent involvement.

Every local PTA strives to reach out to parents. Share your most successful effort with MCCPTA. Please nominate a local secondary PTA program that meets either or both of the following criteria; (1) engages more parents in the educational mission of the school or (2) supports student learning through increased parent participation.

To nominate your secondary PTA program, complete the attached form. You will need to submit a brief description of the program. Please include any materials that have been distributed to the local community relating to the program including flyers or announcements through the PTA. You should also provide a contact person at your local PTA who can answer any questions about this program.

The Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE) will award \$1000 to the winning parent involvement program selected by MCCPTA. Funds will go to the local PTA. In addition, the volunteer program will be honored at the annual MCBRE Champion for Children's gala in April.

All nominations should be submitted to MCCPTA by February 21, 2007. *By mail to 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204, Rockville, MD 20850, or by Fax (301)208-2003.*

For answers to questions, and for more information contact Paula Robinson at phrmom@aol.com.

Calling All Champions For Children!

Nomination Form

School _____

PTA Program _____

Contact Person _____

Phone Number _____

Please write a brief description of your proudest PTA program that focuses on parent involvement. Be sure to include how the program (1) engages more parents in the educational mission of the school or (2) supports student learning. Please include an explanation about how you would use the award money to enhance your program.

There are materials accompanying this nomination.

_____ yes

_____ no

Send the completed form to MCCPTA by February 21, 2007. *By mail to 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204, Rockville, MD 20850, or by Fax (301)208-2003.*

For answers to questions, and for more information contact Paula Robinson at phrmom@aol.com.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
MCCPTA
2096 Gaither Road
Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850

Pony Mailing

JANUARY 2007

MCCPTA Calendar 2006-2007

**Unless otherwise specified all meetings take place at the
 Carver Educational Services Center (850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850).**

January	23	7:30	Delegate Assembly
	25	7:30	Gifted Child Committee Meeting (Wood MS Cafeteria)
	31	7:30	Special Ed Committee Meeting
February	1	7:30	BOD's Meeting (Richard Montgomery HS)
	7	7:30	School Lunch Forum (North Chevy Chase ES)
	12		PTA Night in Annapolis
	27	7:30	Delegate Assembly (Location: WALTER JOHNSON HS)
March	1	7:30	BOD's Meeting
	3	10am – 1pm	Interactive Forum for HS PTSA Leaders (Albert Einstein HS)
	27		Delegates Assembly