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January/February Newsletter from the MCCPTA President - Kay Romero

The "New YearNew Opportunities"

PTA is an organization that speaks for children, The message for all PTAs is *everychild. onevoice.*

PTAs are in the middle of budget funding advocacy for both the operating budget and the capital improvement program. MCCPTA and local PTA communities are working on multiple levels to advocate for school funding needs. PTA advocates, along with other school communities representatives, attended the January 4, MCCPTA Budget Forum and heard from Board of Education members, County Council members and the County Executive's office as they answered related questions about school funding needs.

There is still much to do as we advocate not only on local and county levels, but at the state level for school funding. We will be coordinating trips to Annapolis similar to what we did last year. We will need PTA advocates to participate in advocating for funding dollars to meet our children's educational needs for both the capital and operating budgets.

Capital Improvements Program Budget (CIP)-Timeline)

January 15, 2010* - County executive recommendations for the FY 2011–2016 CIP
January 27, 2010* - Board of Public Works hearing on the FY 2011 State CIP
February 9, 10, 11 - Testimony related to the CIP before County Council
February–May 2010 - County Council reviews requested FY 2011–2016 CIP
Mid-February 2010 - Superintendent releases recommendations on winter boundary studies and CIP recommendations for deferred items (if any)
February 22, 2010- Board of Education facilities work session for winter boundary studies and deferred items (if any)
March 3, 2010 - Public hearing on superintendent's recommendations for winter boundary studies and deferred items (if any)
March 22, 2010 -Board of Education action on winter boundary studies and deferred items (if any) for the FY 2011–2016 CIP
Early-May 2010* - Board of Public Works decisions on FY 2011 State CIP
May 31, 2010* -County Council approves the FY 2011–2016 CIP and the FY 2011 Capital Budget

*Estimated date

Operating Budget Timeline for Fiscal Year 2011

BOE Operating Budget Hearings January 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. January 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

BOE Operating Budget Work sessions January 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. January 28, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
BOE Operating Budget Action/Adoption February 9, 2010
BOE FY 2010 Operating Budget Request presented to County Executive and County Council March 1, 2010
County Executive issues Operating Budget March 15, 2010
County Council holds Operating Budget Hearings April 2010
Council approves Operating Budget May 20, 2010
Final Board of Education Action to approve FY 2011 Operating Budget June 8, 2010

MCCPTA Contacts for any questions you may have:

MCCPTA Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget Chair is Steve Augustino- sauggiedog@comcast.net
CIP Committee Webpage: <http://www.mccpta.com/cip.html>

MCCPTA Operating Budget Chair is Pam Moomau- Pammoomau@gmail.com
Operating Budget Webpage: <http://www.mccpta.com/opbudg.html>

Membership

Local Leadership Resources: January Membership Campaign

The “New YearNew Opportunities”
<http://www.pta.org/1453.htm>

Many PTAs run only one membership campaign a year in the fall. But those units that run more than one campaign a year have, on average, **20 percent more members**. That’s because potential members have more opportunities to say “**yes**” to becoming a member.

Some facts:

- 1) Nationwide, approximately 18 percent of PTA members join in January and February.
- 2) Running membership campaigns more frequently reminds your members that membership is everyone’s business, especially if you weave membership into programs, activities, and general PTA work, too.
- 3) January is not too late for parents to make a real impact in the current school year. Plus, people who join PTA in January will be ready to renew their membership the following school year.

The “New Year ... New Opportunities”

The PTA January Membership Campaign theme, “New Year”New Opportunities,” plays on people’s optimism that the new year brings new opportunities to improve ourselves, our lives, and the world around us. For parents, the world in which they want to make a difference is largely defined by children and schools. Encourage parents to make it their number one resolution to be more involved in their children’s education. It’s a resolution they’ll want to keep. And PTA makes it easy. As you recruit new members, make sure you involve current members, who will likely feel a renewed commitment to the decision they made at the start of the school year. Tell members their important role in the campaign: Each member should resolve to invite at least one new person to join PTA.

To access: Marketing Templates Instructions for an overview of how to use the resources

Please note: Most of the documents are provided in portable document format (PDF).

<http://www.pta.org/1503.htm>

DUES:

From MDPTA: All local units are required to submit to Maryland PTA dues of \$3.25 for each member that joins their PTAs. Remember, membership is year long. All membership dues payments for the 2009-2010 year will be

due by March 31 to be eligible for consideration of a membership award and it is one of the requirements to be a unit in good standing. Be sure to post flyers, notices on website and newsletters with all the great activities and programs that the PTA supports in your school. Please review your membership book (or look on line www.mdpta.org) for more information about the Membership Awards. Maryland PTA will be combining membership recognition with the Reflections program to be held in May.

It is important that local PTAs pay their MCCPTA dues too. Your dues are MCCPTA's operating money to keep our office up and running in support of local PTA needs, as well as going toward the cost of printing the Blue Books, as just one example. Your MCCPTA dues, (\$1.00 per member) all go directly back into MCCPTA to help continue committee work, office/phone support, copying and more importantly to support our local PTAs. MCCPTA does not make a profit off its members. In order to participate as voting members at our Delegates Assemblies for 2009-10, each school should have by now paid at least a first installment of MCCPTA dues - \$1.00 per member. Once your first payment is received by MCCPTA, your school will receive 3 blue Delegate voting cards. These voting cards are promptly mailed back to each PTA when they send their first dues payment to the MCCPTA Office. Every voting Delegate should bring their voting card to meetings they attend in order to participate in discussions and vote on any organizational positions that MCCPTA takes for future advocacy. Delegates are reminded that when your school PTA votes to take a position on a particular issue, you have an obligation to bring that position forward.

Two things to note:

1. Delegates are chosen to represent the views of the local PTA.
2. Delegates represent the position of the local PTA membership at Delegate Assemblies.

The Delegates Guidebook is available on the MCCPTA website: <http://www.mccpta.com/DelegatesHandbook.pdf>.

A MCCPTA dues voucher is now being pony mailed to your PTAs each month so you can pay regularly for additional members that join after your PTA's initial payment to MCCPTA. This coincides with any monthly payments your PTAs make to MDPTA and will make it easier for your PTA treasurer to keep track of dues payments. If your PTA has not paid any dues to MCCPTA, your PTA will not be able to participate in MCCPTA business meetings as voting members with voting cards or receive Blue Books.

It is Awards Time!

Champions for Children Award - This award from MCBRE goes to an outstanding PTA program that promotes parent involvement. The 8th annual Champions for Children Awards Celebration will be held on Wednesday, April 28th, 2010 at MedImmune (One MedImmune Way, Gaithersburg, MD 20878) from 4:30-7:00pm. Please contact Carol Salisbury, MCCPTA VP Programs if you have any questions: vpprograms@mccpta.com.

How you can honor your outstanding PTA volunteers and leaders? Local PTAs can give Maryland and National Life Membership Awards. Nomination materials are available at www.mdpta.org and www.pta.org. These awards will be given at the MCCPTA Presidents and Principals Dinner on May 19, 2010. The MCCPTA Presidents and Principals Dinner will be held at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. Please be on the look out for your PTA's invitation to attend this celebration for the volunteer work of all PTAs. More information will be located on the MCCPTA website: <http://www.mccpta.com/>

From 2009 about the MCCPTA Presidents and Principals Dinner:

- [MCCPTA Press Release](#) on Presidents and Principals Dinner, May 31, 2009
http://www.mccpta.com/testimonies_dir/MCCPTA_President_and_Principals_Dinner_2009.pdf
- [MCCPTA Press Release](#) on Dignitaries attending the Presidents and Principals Dinner, May 31, 2009
http://www.mccpta.com/testimonies_dir/MCCPTA_P&P_Dinner_Dignitary_List.pdf

MCCPTA -2009-2010 Special Education Sub-Committee is looking for nominations of outstanding contributions to the success of students with special needs by Educators, Programs, Parents, and Students. The electronic submission form for our annual recognition ceremony has been updated. We will put out a call for nominations beginning in January and will accept them through February 2010. The recognition ceremony is scheduled for the evening of Monday, May 10, 2010 in the Rockville High School auditorium. Please contact Jeanne Taylor:

frtjmt@aol.com

The MCCPTA Special Education Sub-Committee Page: <http://www.mccpta.com/specneeds.html>

Let's Share The Good Things about PTAs and Your School Communities!!!!

Put a Spotlight on your School's PTA - Please share the successes of your PTA. We are looking for stories that highlight the good things happening in PTAs and PTSAs all around the county. If your local has found a new way to reach out to newcomers, increase membership, etc., let us know. Items will be featured on the MCCPTA website. Information is needed from elementary, middle, and high schools. Please include the name of your school/PTA and your school cluster with a brief synopsis of your successful event or program. Please write in general terms to protect individual privacy. Feel free to send info throughout the school year. Selected items will appear on the MCCPTA website. We also encourage you to send photos if you have them. Please send your PTA highlights to MCCPTA (via email to office@mccpta.com and/or webmaster@mccpta.com and reference "PTA Spotlight" in the subject.

Delegates Assembly

The next Delegates Assembly is on January 26, 2010. There will be a program presented about "Men in PTA" from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Carver auditorium. For more information please contact the MCCPTA Treasurer, Jaimie Jacobson at: treasurer@mccpta.com. The business meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM.

The following resolution will be offered at the January 26 Delegates Assembly for a vote:

"The schools of the Sherwood Cluster request the elimination of the *Sherwood Area Vice President* position and their administrative consolidation into a unified four cluster Area with the Blake, Paint Branch and Springbrook Clusters. This change includes the position currently named *Northeast Consortium Area Vice President* to be renamed **Northeast Consortium (Blake/Paint Branch/Springbrook) and Sherwood Clusters Area Vice President.**"

The February Delegates Assembly is on February 23, 2010. More information will be forthcoming regarding the program that will be held prior to the business meeting.

MCCPTA Nominating Committee News

MCCPTA will also be looking for officers for the upcoming year. 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 held at the April Delegates Assembly, April 27, 2010. The nomination form is located on the MCCPTA Nominating Committee webpage: <http://www.mccpta.com/nomComm.html>
Contact Janette Gilman, MCCPTA Nominating Committee Chair for any questions at: janettegilman@comcast.net

It's Nominating Time- Local PTAs should be setting up Nominating Committees

Your PTAs should be forming nominating committees to seek officers for the upcoming year. Be sure to check your PTA's bylaws to see what your timeline is, and the required number and composition of your nominating committees. Please refer to ARTICLE VI Officers and Their Election- Section 3 in your local PTA bylaws for

information regarding your nominating committee. In order for PTAs to grow their own membership, they must be actively involved in looking for leadership in your school communities. Sometimes, all it takes is asking another if they would like to consider a leadership role in your PTA. PTAs work very hard in their school communities advocating on behalf of children and are a great support for their schools. Be inviting!

Quick Tips about PTA Nominating Committees from Maryland PTA

Nominating Committee-The nominating committee is one of the most important committees in your PTA unit. It is essential that the members of the nominating committee include experienced ongoing leadership as well as newer members. The unit bylaws should outline how the nominating committee members are elected and how many members should be on the nominating committee (Article VI, section 3). The nominating committee members have the responsibility of bringing forward the name of the most eligible person for each elected position. In considering which PTA members are the best qualified to serve in the officer positions, the criteria listed below should be considered and evaluated.

Each nominee:

- Must be a PTA member.
- Must be enthusiastic and supportive of PTA.
- Must believe in the basic policies and purposes of the PTA.
- Must be fair and objective and concerned for the best interests of PTA.
- Should be willing to attend training.
- Should have some knowledge of the organization and its role in the school and in the community.
- Should be willing to give PTA a satisfactory level of priority and commitment, including attendance at meetings.
- Should be able to work well with people.

Who is eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee?

Any member who has paid current membership dues in the local unit is eligible to serve on the nominating committee. The principal may serve on the Nominating Committee if elected as any other member. *The current PTA President may not serve on the Nominating Committee.* All members should have an opportunity to nominate or be nominated for the committee.

What skills should Nominating Committee members possess?

- Fair, ethical and impartial judgment when evaluating people or situations
- Ability to listen and ask penetrating questions
- Ability to keep confidential information
- Understanding of PTA Mission, Purposes, and plans
- Understanding of how to build skill sets by position

Election of Nominating Committee:

- The Nominating Committee is elected, as described in Article VI Section 3 of your bylaws. The bylaws state the number of people to be elected to the Nominating Committee. It is always an uneven number.
- Elect the Nominating Committee at least two months prior to the election meeting according to the manner described in your unit's bylaws (general membership or board of directors).
- After the committee is elected, the committee will elect their chair.
- When selecting a chair, consider their demonstration of:
 1. Ability to facilitate and resolve difficult discussions
 2. Fairness and objectivity through role modeling
 3. Ability to hold information in confidence
 4. Non bias behavior within their role at the PTA
 5. Integrity and ethical behavior

- The chair, with input from other committee members, sets the first meeting date, time, and place. Hold the first meeting early enough to allow for a second and third meeting, if necessary.

Conducting Nominating Committee meetings:

- Conduct the meeting only if a majority of the committee is present. All committee members should be present at the meeting, if possible.
- Allow sufficient time to interview, study and discuss candidates.
- Matters discussed by the Nominating Committee are strictly confidential. No names should be revealed until they are released according to established procedures.
- Committee members themselves may be nominated for office. They should be excused from the room while their nomination is being considered and may return to vote.
- Committee meetings are open only to committee members. Discussions must be open and honest, and above all, confidential. Should confidentiality be breached, it is the chair's responsibility to counsel the member. If the chair breaches confidentiality, it is each member's responsibility to bring it to the attention of the President.
- In contacting potential nominees, the nominating committee chairman (or other designated committee member) should:
 - Give a clear indication of the responsibilities of the office and how much time may be involved.
 - Include any expectation of officer representation at leadership training workshops, council/state PTA meetings and/or the annual convention.
 - Never try to talk a reluctant individual into accepting a nomination.
 - Never try to 'fill the board' just to have names in place. A vacancy at the time of the election may be filled by a nomination from the floor or later by the newly elected executive board.

First meeting:

- Determine a target date for completion. (Consider upcoming communications, e.g. newsletter, meetings, programs, etc.)
- Develop a "candidate search list" and determine how contacts will be made. Potential nominees should include PTA members who represent the social and ethnic makeup of the school and parent community. (After the election, it is helpful to pass on a list of those individuals who are interested in a committee to the incoming president.)
- Refer to the unit's bylaws for copies of the job duties for each elected position.
- Set the next meeting date before adjourning.

Second meeting:

- If needed, conduct interviews. Ask the same questions of all candidates per position. For example, ask all treasurer candidates the same questions. These questions can be different or the same as the questions you ask of the secretary candidates but ask all secretary candidates the same questions.
- If a complete slate of officers has been selected, complete a Nominating Committee Report, listing all nominees and positions. Date sign and present one copy to the PTA Board as soon as possible. Retain the another copy to read at the election meeting.
- If the slate is not complete, give a Status Report ONLY to the Board, and continue the process until the slate is complete. When the slate is complete:
 - The Nominating Committee prepares and presents a report for the PTA board meeting and the general meeting, listing nominees for each office.
- When all nominees are selected and notification is given to the Board, post one copy of the Nominating Committee Report in the school office, or another visible location, at least 10 days prior to the election meeting or according to bylaws.

Dissolution of Nominating Committee:-A Nominating Committee, unlike other special committees that are automatically discharged when their report is made, has not completed its work until balloting for nominees has begun. If a nominee withdraws before the balloting begins, the Nominating Committee shall present another nominee.

Common Nominating Committee Mistakes:

- Forgetting to elect the Nominating Committee at least two months before the election month.
- Failing to provide advance notification to the general membership about when the Nominating Committee will be elected.
- Failing to apprise all members of their eligibility to potentially serve as an officer or on the Nominating Committee.
- Selecting members for officers without first determining what skills and qualifications they have for the position.
- Not actively recruiting new members for leadership positions.
- Assuming that only members who have children in the public school are the best candidates for leadership roles.

Maryland PTA Election tip sheet

- 1) Review your local unit's bylaws to determine the date for the election of officers.
- 2) Send out a notice to the membership with the slate of candidates at least 10 days prior to the general membership meeting that the elections will occur. (See Article VI: Officers and their elections section 3 c.)
- 3) Only those individuals who are current members of the PTA may be considered for election for a position on the PTA (Article VI section 3 d.)
- 4) Individuals may join the PTA on the date of the election prior to the start of the election portion of the meeting.
- 5) Remember that our bylaws # Article IV: Relationship with National PTA and Maryland PTA section 8: *The bylaws of this local PTA/PTSA shall prohibit voting by proxy, mail (including electronic communications), or absentee.*
- 6) Choose the members who will act as the Tellers for the elections. There should be at least 3 Tellers who will count the ballots, if they are necessary, prior to the elections.
- 7) Must have flip chart/chalk board available to list all candidates. Procedure for presenting slate of candidates and nominations from the floor.

Report of the nominating committee

- 1) The chair of the committee is called upon by the president to present the slate of candidates to the membership. Once this is done, the work of this committee is complete.
- 2) The president (or chair of the meeting) rereads the slate of candidates and opens the floor for nominations for each office.
- 3) There are two ways to call for nominations:
 - a. Nominations from the floor are completed and nominations are closed for each office before voting for any office.
 - b. Nominations for one office are completed and votes are cast for that office and the result is announced before the chair calls for nominations for the next office.
- 4) The decision on how to do the nominations and proceed with the voting is up to the unit but should be decided on prior to the meeting.
- 5) The wording for opening nominations for either choice is:
 - a. "For the office of President, Mr. A, is nominated by the nominating committee. Are there any further nominations for the office of President (if there is a person nominated from the floor, the chair repeats the name of the nominee) Mr. N is nominated. Are there any further nominations?"
- 6) When it appears that no one else wishes to make a nomination, the chair should ask if there are any further nominations, and if there is no response, the chair would then declare the nomination (for the office) are closed and the wording would be:
 - a. "Are there any further nominations for President (pause) If not (pause) nominations are closed (Or, Without objections, nominations are closed)"
 - b. If you choose to hold elections after each office, you would move to the vote for president at this time. If your unit decides to complete all nominations, you would move to the next office of Vice President. The wording remains the same inserting the office that is being open for nominations.
- 7) A member does not need to be present to be nominated from the floor. They must however, have given in writing their consent to run for the office they are nominated for.

- 8) A member may be nominated for more than one position, however if they receive the majority vote for both positions, they must resign from one position.
- 9) A member may nominate themselves for a position.

Voting and Counting Procedures

- 1) Upon completion of the nominations, you will proceed to the voting.
- 2) Prior to the elections, the candidates should be given the opportunity to address the members. They are given a predetermined amount of time that should be decided on prior to the meeting by the Board of Directors (usually no more than 5 minutes).
- 3) If only one person is nominated for a position, a voice vote is all that is required.
- 4) If more than one person is nominated for a position, a ballot vote is used. Below are some different ways that this can be conducted:
 - a. If no member is running for more than one position, one ballot can be used for all positions.
 - b. All names are placed on the ballot and the member is instructed to circle (or mark) the candidate they are voting for.
 - c. If a person is running for more than one position, you should use separate ballots for each position.¹⁶
 - d. In the event that a member is running for more than one position and they receive the majority vote in at least 2 of the positions, the person will have to determine which office they will accept.
 - i. For example: Mr. A and Mr. B are running for president and Mr. B is also on the ballot for Vice President with Mr. C.
 - ii. If Mr. B receives the majority of votes cast for both positions, he will have to determine which position he will accept. If he accepts the office of President and if no one else is on the ballot for Vice President, then Mr. C would be elected to the office of Vice President. However, if there is another person on the ballot for Vice President, the elections would have to be done again with the two remaining names. (in order to receive a majority vote).
- 5) The ballots are collected by the Tellers. The tellers will move to a separate area in the meeting room or another room to count the votes. The tellers will decide who will be the chair and give the report to the chair of the meeting once the votes are counted.
- 6) The Tellers report is as follow:
 - a. Number of votes cast _____
 - b. Necessary for election _____ (This must be a majority of the votes cast)
 - c. Mr. A received _____
 - d. Mr. B received _____
 - e. Illegal votes _____ (These are ballots that do not have anyone marked, more than one candidate marked, name written in that was not nominated from the floor) The illegal votes count towards the number of votes cast.
 - f. The number of votes cast may not match the number of members present as some may decide not to vote.
- 7) If no candidate receives a majority vote, the elections are held again until one candidate receives a majority vote. If there are more than two people on the ballot, the candidate with the lowest amount of votes is not removed from the ballot. They may withdraw, but they are not dropped from the voting.
- 8) Majority is 1/2 plus 1.
- 9) The head teller presents the report to the president. The president declares the winner of the elections.
- 10) The Tellers report is entered in full in the minutes, becoming a part of the official records of the organization.
- 11) Upon completion of an election, if there is no possibility that the assembly may order a recount (which requires a majority vote), the ballots can be ordered to be destroyed or to be filed for a certain length of time with the secretary (such as a month) before being destroyed.

After Elections

- 1) The chair would invite all the newly elected officers to the front to be sworn into office. The choice of the induction is left up to each unit.
- 2) The newly elected officers should meet briefly with the current officers to set up a transition meeting which should occur prior to the start of their term as determined by your bylaws.

- 3) At the transitional meeting, all material must be handed over to the new officers, except for the banking records and statements. It is the responsibility of the outgoing board to arrange for an audit to be done of the books prior to the start date of the new board.
- 4) The new officers who will have check signing authority will need to make a date to go to the bank and change the signatures on the bank cards with the previous signers.

National PTA Legislative Conference

On March 9-11, 2010, PTA will hold its annual National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. This three-day conference will inspire and provide in-depth analysis on PTA's latest federal public policy priorities affecting families, schools and communities through skill building trainings, workshops, panel discussions, guest speakers, and Capitol Hill visits with congressional leaders. Join us and the many PTA child advocates making their voice heard on Capitol Hill.

To register: http://www.pta.org/national_legislative_conference.asp

Save the Date!! National PTA Convention | June 9-15 | Memphis, Tennessee

<http://www.pta.org/2042.asp>

Updates from the November Maryland PTA State Convention

MD PTA State Convention held November 14-15, 2009 in Frederick, MD. Montgomery County now has three officers on the Maryland PTA Board.

Maryland PTA: http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_contact.php

Kay Romero was elected President Elect.

Liz Wheeler was elected VP for Leadership Development.

Merry Eisner was elected VP for Legislation

Council Award for MCCPTA

Our Council received a COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD at the Maryland PTA State Convention Awards Dinner on Friday, November 13, 2009. Maryland PTA offered congratulations to the Montgomery County Council of PTAs for a job well done in supporting local PTAs in our county.

Local PTA Winners-Parent/Family Involvement Awards- Grants from Maryland PTA.

In addition, four of our local PTAs received Parent/Family Involvement Awards -Grants at the Maryland PTA State Convention Awards Dinner on Friday, November 13, 2009.

About the Maryland PTA Parent/Family Involvement Grant

Maryland PTA supports the research that indicates, children succeed when families, schools and communities work together. Maryland PTA encourages the development and implementation of family-school parent engagement programs that link to student learning and success. Each year Parent/Family Involvement Grants are awarded to some of the many deserving local PTAs that promote and encourage parent, family, caregiver and community engagement. Maryland PTA invites all PTAs to apply for the Grant that supports your PTA's effort to collaborate with students, parents, families, caregivers, teacher, the community and your school staff. The maximum amount of the grant is 500.00. All winners were recognized at the State Convention.

Our local PTA award winners were added to the Maryland PTA website:

http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_parentinvolvement.html

DuFief Elementary PTA, Montgomery County Council:

Project Name: DuFief Reading Dragon Mural

Description: To involve our Learning Center families in a project that will increase their sense of inclusiveness with the DuFief Elementary School PTA. The PTA received a grant last year from Lowe's School Tool Box to create an Outdoor Learning Center Garden in front of their school. The entire school participated in planting and laying the pavers for a walkway. The garden is almost finished and has many educational aspects to it. One last major component to this garden is a Mural on the large expanse of white wall behind the garden. In an attempt to nurture the parent involvement that began with the garden, a professional muralist will complete the main component of the mural and then the art teacher will work with the children to add flowers to the mural. When completed they will hold the official unveiling with an Ice Cream Social for all families in the school.

Brown Station Elementary PTA, Montgomery County Council:

Project Name: Mornings in School

Description: The program is designed to bring parent volunteers into the classroom during school hours on a regular monthly basis. The program will run once a month for five consecutive months. The PTA surveyed their parents and determined that one of the main reasons that parents are unable to volunteer in the classroom is because they care for at least one younger child at home. The purpose of this program is to provide structured volunteer opportunities for the parents of young children during school hours with onsite babysitting by experienced childcare professionals.

Fields Road Elementary PTA, Montgomery County Council:

Project Name: Adults Are Students Too. English Conversation & Learning: How to become involved in your child's education.

Description: The program is designed to involve parents and guardians where English is a second language into the school and into their children's school life. Help them feel welcome and confident enough to assist their children with homework. More than 17% of the student body is enrolled in ESOL. This grant will begin an 8-week workshop for parents and guardians who don't currently speak English and therefore are not able to understand the flyers and announcements that come home from school, nor can they help their students with homework. Professionals will teach parents how to help their children be successful in school along with 8 one-hour language sessions.

Georgian Forest Elementary PTA, Montgomery County Council:

Project Name: Conversational English Courses for Parents

Description: The PTA will provide free conversational English classes to non-English speaking parents to help them better understand English so they can become more engaged in their children's education and help them succeed. 27% of the student population is enrolled in the ESOL program. Volunteer instructors will lead weekly English language conversion courses designed to strengthen participants' vocabulary and grasp of the language. In addition to these sessions, the PTA will provide participants with textbooks and information on self-study options such as tutoring programs, drop-in centers, and ESOL classes available in the county.

Maryland PTA Bylaws were amended at the convention in November 2008

(Located on Maryland PTA website under the members only section -To access use the ID and Password on the back of your PTA membership card)

<http://www.mdpta.org/members/documents/BylawsasamendedNov2008finaldoc.pdf>

National PTA Spreads Holiday Cheer, Announces Award Winners

National PTA® proudly awards \$1,897 to 32 U.S. schools to help promote parent involvement and support student achievement through PTA Take Your Family to School Week, February 7–13, 2010.

Montgomery County Winner-Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary School PTA; Rockville, MD

To learn more:

<http://www.pta.org/3755.htm>

More National PTA Award News

National PTA Awards Arts Enhancement Grants -Eleven recipients across the country share honors

<http://www.pta.org/3532.htm>

Silver Spring International Middle School PTSA in Silver Spring, Maryland, will supplement a theater workshop with the Shakespeare Theater Co. in the spring of 2010. The workshops will reinforce the importance of theater.

MCCPTA Committee Reports

Cultural Arts Committee Report – January 2010

Chair: Priscilla Peterson

At the annual Cultural Arts Showcases held this fall, and also on the PTArts listserv, I requested information from the cultural arts reps at the county schools to put together a new Cultural Arts Budget Survey. It is my hope that having this information will enable PTA's to see how much money is being allotted toward cultural arts expenses at other schools around the county, and perhaps make it easier for cultural arts chairpersons to request more money if they feel it is needed. I first put out the results of the survey on 11/29/09 and promptly received several more updates. Now I have updated it (1/3/09) and put the survey out on both the PTArts listserv and on the MCCPTA website.

A total of 49 schools have provided current information for 2009-10 about their cultural arts budgets. Of those 49, there were 14 schools whose budgets increased, 17 whose budgets went down, and 14 that remained the same as for 2008-09. There were also four schools that gave information for the first time. The budget survey includes information from numerous other schools that have provided numbers in the past but those are the last figures that we have from them. When known, I have included the year that the information was received.

Curriculum/Education Committee Report – January 2010

Chairs: Rebecca Smondrowski and Ted Willard

Important Information for Parents of 5th, 6th, and 7th graders

Changes to Admissions Requirements to Maryland Colleges that you need to know before signing your kids up for Math classes next year.

The University of Maryland System is now requiring that starting with students who enter ninth grade in 2011, applicants will be required to take an advanced mathematics course in their senior year, even if they have completed very advanced mathematics courses in earlier years. Thus, a student who took Calculus as a junior would still need to take another math class in his or her senior year.

Given the progression of mathematics classes in MCPS, the MCCPTA Curriculum Committee is recommending that parents consider carefully when their children take Algebra 1. If a student were to take Algebra 1 in 6th grade, they would be on a pathway that would require them to take very advanced mathematics courses as a junior and as a senior. While such a pathway may be very appropriate for some students, other families may prefer waiting until later to take Algebra so that the mathematics classes they would take as juniors and seniors are more appropriate for their mathematical abilities and/or interests. The chart below is not comprehensive but provides a basic description of the pathways in mathematics.

6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
			Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus
		Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus
	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus	Multivariable Calculus or Statistics
Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus	Multivariable Calculus or Statistics	Statistics or Multivariable Calculus

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Curriculum Committee Co-chairs, Ted Willard and Rebecca Smondrowski

Down County Consortium Sub-Committee Report – January 2010

Chair: Mary Abe, abe_mary@yahoo.com

The DCC sub-Committee met on December 14, 2009 at Strathmore Elementary School to discuss the proposed FY 2011 Operating Budget. In attendance were Mary Abe, Chair; Sally Taber, Area VP; Kelly Giblin, Einstein Cluster Coordinator; Frances Frost, Kennedy Cluster Coordinator; Jennifer Chambers, Northwood Cluster; Bronda Mills, Community Superintendent; Sean Bulson, Community Superintendent; Jeannie Franklin, Director of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services; Marty Creel, Department of Enriched and Innovative Programs.

The Committee reviewed the Summary of Potential Budget Reductions proposed by the superintendent. There was great concern that many of these potential reductions strongly impact the academic progress which has been made in Down County schools through the implementation of the choice process and signature programs in our secondary schools. The proposals also heavily effect academic intervention, program specialist, reading specialist and staff development positions which have proved to be essential to the increases in performance that have been made in Down County schools. The proposal to eliminate transportation for high school choice programs and application programs at all levels was viewed as a serious challenge to the progress that has been made in making school choice available to families at all economic levels.

Marty Creel and Jeannie Franklin will provide data on the effect of both the high school choice process and the middle school magnet consortium on student achievement. Cluster coordinators will review the proposed reductions with their clusters as they work to prepare operating budget testimony.

Health and Safety Committee Report – January 2010

Chair: Laurie Halverson

Reorganization of MCCPTA Committees

To help MCCPTA meet quorums at their board meetings, changes were made to consolidate committees so now the Health Committee has merged with the Safety Committee and Laurie Halverson is chair of the Health/ Safety Committee. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Laurie at LSH2727@verizon.net.

Anti Bullying Policy

Individuals who wish to provide comments to Policy JHF, Bullying, Harrassment, or Intimidation should respond in writing **by January 18, 2010**. All responses should be sent to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850 or emailed to the Board of Education at boe@mcpsmd.org. All responses will be shared with the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdfcomment/JHFcomment.pdf>

Educational Facility Officers

At our December 7 Safety Committee meeting, EFO Russell Larson and Sgt. Kent Smith joined us and spoke about their role in our schools. Both came in full uniform, including tasers and guns.

The Montgomery County term for a police officer who works in the schools is “Educational Facility Officer (EFOs.)” In other parts of the state and country, the term used is usually “School Resource Officer (SRO.) EFOs began as an outreach program in our county in 2003, spurred as one method of enhancing safety in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and to align with the rest of the state and country. The 1999 Columbine incident created awareness for the need for police officers in our schools. EFOs apply for the job and are selected and are highly motivated which has increased the reputation of the program.

EFOs come from the perspective of being “here to help.” EFOs enforce laws and help to keep children safe while at school. They serve high schools during most of their time but also serve middle schools and they visit elementary schools occasionally to talk to elementary school kids. The initiative in the county began in 2003 with 12 EFOs and has now grown to 26. There are three middle schools that have EFOs-Martin Luther King, Neelsville and Argyle. There is one EFO assigned per each high school and they work Monday through Fridays serving 8 hour days, or they may work a 4 day, 10 hour week. It is possible that a high school may not have coverage for a full day given that some EFOs work the 4 day schedule.

EFOs are employed by the Montgomery County Police Department. They get full police training, plus extra training which helps them know how to deal with youth issues.

EFOs maintain an office at the high school for needed paperwork. (They often share space with the security officers.)

Each middle school and high school also has a security team, but security personnel report to administrators of the school and they are **not** employed by the police department and do not undergo police training. High schools have 5 to 6 security officers and middle schools have 1 or 2. Security officers must pass along relevant information to EFOs to help EFOs to enforce the law.

EFOs work mostly on a reactive basis but because of the relationships they develop with students, they can often prevent an incident from occurring. EFOs serve as mentors, counselors, law enforcement officers and teachers.

The EFO budget is not part of the MCPS budget. It is funded by the Montgomery County Police Department. The budget is very lean right now. EFOs are not allowed to take overtime and it is difficult to find any areas to cut. EFOs work with MCPS and the police department and the new visitor management system has been helpful in identifying crimes, however the EFOs do not monitor the cameras. Administrators are responsible for using the cameras to assist the EFOs. EFOs also help with emergency preparedness and gang deterrence. It helps for EFOs to be inside the schools so they can hear what is going on-this can help them identify crimes within or outside the school. EFOs have assisted with cybercrimes as well.

EFOs attend cluster meetings with administrators on emergency preparedness and they conduct code red and blue drills. EFOs also attend many other meetings on gang training, guest presentations, cybersafety training, Outdoor Education Training, and drug and alcohol meetings.

EFOs see a need for more EFOs in middle schools.

There currently is nothing in place to notify EFOs if a juvenile previously convicted enters the school system.

The DARE program used to be very effective but was cut previously which is a concern.

Advice from EFOs-TALK TO YOUR KIDS. Have conversations about difficult subjects on drugs and alcohol often. Know what your kids are doing. Learn about cybersafety measures. EFOs have seen cases where inappropriate pictures were emailed and students were arrested-so it is important to keep up with what your child is doing on his/her IPOD/Computer/phone, etc.

H1N1

Montgomery County government has a website to keep everyone updated on H1N1 which includes dates and locations of vaccination distribution areas. Cases have slowed down recently, but will likely accelerate in January/February so vaccination is still recommended. We still have not seen seasonal flu yet. H1N1 has been found to go deep into the lungs in young children for unknown reasons. There have been 10 reports of Guillain-Barre syndrome. Most deaths in Maryland have occurred in Baltimore city. When you take your children into the doctor, it is important to write down the dates of vaccination. If your child received a live virus vaccine, they cannot receive a live H1N1 nasal mist for one month. It is ok though for a child to receive a shot though (not a live virus.)

There is concern that children in schools are not getting time to wash their hands before lunch. The Health and Wellness policy says that students should wash hands before eating.

Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizers should be funded by MCPS. School administrators have the ability to order hand sanitizer. Some PTAs have been asked to fund hand sanitizers-use your discretion, but be aware that schools can order it using their school budgets.

Next Meeting Date

Because of a conflict with a newly scheduled County Council testimony date, **our meeting on Wednesday, February 10 will be rescheduled.** Please watch MCCPTA announcements on the Bulletin Listserve for the new date.

Listsers/Spotlight Committee Report – January 2010

Chair: Patti Twigg, listservsmod@mccpta.com

1) Listsers:

Listsers Moderator: Patti Twigg listservsmod@mccpta.com

As of January 3, 2010, membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listsers	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA_Board	78	+0
MCCPTA_Bulletin	642	-2
MCCPTA_Delegates	500	-2
MCCPTA_Presidents	255	+0
MCCPTA_Presidents_Discussion	43	+0
MCCPTA_Treasurers	211	+0

The auto-reminder calendars for the Bulletin and BOD listsers has been updated as meetings and events are scheduled or changed. Subscription and moderation issues for the various listsers have been addressed. Assistance has been given to MCCPTA committee and locals listsers moderators as requested.

2) Spotlight:

The MCCPTA website has a corner just for your school or PTA and its accomplishments! “Spotlight” is the place for your school or PTA to shine – for the whole county to see! Don't be shy - you know how great you are, here's your chance to let everyone else know it too! If you have news and/or achievements from your school or PTA,

please notify MCCPTA (via email to office@mccpta.com and/or webmaster@mccpta.com). Spotlight appears on our homepage, and is changed as new items come in. Be sure to check back to see what is happening!

Operating Budget Committee Report – January 2010

Chair: Pam Moomau

Upcoming Dates

January 9, 2010	MCCPTA Operating Budget Workshop, KPES 9:00-noon
January 13 & 20, 2010	BOE Operating Budget Hearings, Carver Auditorium
January 27&28, 2010	BOE Operating Budget Worksessions
February 9, 2010	BOE Operating Budget Adoption
March 1, 2010	BOE Operating Budget request presented to County
March 15, 2010	County Executive issues Operating Budget
April TBD 2009	County Council Operating Budget Hearings
May 20, 2010	Council approves Operating Budget
June 8, 2010	BoE final action on Operating Budget

Community Outreach/Parent Involvement Sub-Committee Report – January 2010

Chair: Elisia George

The MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee met on December 9th 2009. At this meeting we discussed our plans to present a workshop in the Spring, The International Parent Leadership Program. As we reviewed the material to be presented versus the needs of the majority of the parents in our county, we decided that this particular program would not be beneficial at this time. After some brainstorming, we were able to come up with another plan that we are looking into. We cannot disclose any information on it as yet until we are certain that it is possible and affordable. We are working with The Division for Family and Community Partnerships on this project.

In the meantime we are working on obtaining best practices of various Parent Involvement Programs that have been successful to make available to other PTA/PTSA's in the County. These will be posted on the MCCPTA website to be easily accessible to all.

Nominating Committee Report – January 2010

Janette Gilman janettegilman@comcast.net

The following individuals, elected by the Delegates Assembly, are serving on the MCCPTA 2009-10 Nominating Committee:

Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, Watkins Mill

Sonya Leaman (sonya_leaman@hotmail.com) - Clarksburg Cluster Coordinator, Clarksburg Cluster

Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley

Paul Morrison (wallyboy53@comcast.net) - Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator, Quince Orchard Cluster

Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Wootton

Janette Gilman (janettegilman@comcast.net) - Churchill HS PTSA Delegate & Hoover MS PTA Vice President, Churchill Cluster

Northeast Consortium (Blake, Paint Branch, Springbrook) and Sherwood

DeBora King (dkndc@msn.com) – WT Page ES Northeast Consortium Rep & Briggs Chaney MS MCCPTA Delegate, Blake Cluster

Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley

Kevin David (hpdavid@speakeasy.org) - Seneca Valley Cluster Coordinator, Seneca Valley Cluster

B-CC, Walter Johnson, Wheaton, Whitman

Craig Brown (liv_and_pops@yahoo.com) – Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster Coordinator, BCC Cluster

At-Large

Susan Burkinshaw (susanburkinshaw@verizon.net) - Northwest Cluster Coordinator, Northwest Cluster

Members of the committee (Susan Burkinshaw, Janette Gilman, Kevin David, Paul Morrison, and Sonya Leaman) met on November 24, 2009 prior to the Delegates Assembly. The committee discussed plans for soliciting nominations. Each member responsible for an area was reminded that the initial meeting of area nominating committees must take place before February 1st. The committee also discussed the open MCCPTA VP-Administration slot.

The committee planned to conduct most of its discussions via email, and agreed to meet again as a body after nominations have been received.

Special Education Sub-Committee Report – January 2010

Chair: Jeanne Taylor

On Monday, December 7, 2009 Dr. Susan Hammond of Stixrud and Associates spoke at our second committee meeting. She provided an overview of learning disabilities and because the group was small, she was also able to answer specific questions and provide detailed information to the audience. The feedback from the participants was very positive.

The electronic submission form for our annual recognition ceremony has been updated. We will put out a call for nominations beginning in January and will accept them through February 2010.

The recognition ceremony is scheduled for the evening of Monday, May 10, 2010 in the Rockville High School auditorium.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2010 in the Carver Cafeteria. We will be showing "Ennis' Gift: A Film About Learning Differences."

Student Service Learning (SSL) Sub-Committee Report – January 2010

Chair: Debra Lang

The big news in SSL is the upcoming SSL Q&A on January 14th from 7-9 pm at the Carver auditorium. All parents/guardians are invited to learn more about the program, its requirements and opportunities. Pam Meador and I (mostly Pam!) will field questions - and we will have relevant handouts available. We are also hoping to have a representative from the Montgomery County Volunteer Office with us - to walk attendees through use of their wonderful website and to speak about volunteer opportunities. We have asked that either a Promethean Board, or a computer and projection screen be set-up for our use.

MCCPTA



MCCPTA DUES PAYMENT VOUCHER FOR 2009-10

Return bottom portion to the MCCPTA office at: MCCPTA, 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850. Keep the top portion for your records. Please note, PTA membership is open all
year and dues are to be paid monthly as new members come in.

*****KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS*****

MCCPTA Dues - Due Monthly

Name of PTA: _____

Number of Member: Adults _____ Students _____ Teachers _____ Total _____

Amount Remitted (\$1.00 per member): \$ _____ Check# _____

PTA Treasurer: _____ Phone Number _____

*****RETURN THIS PORTION TO MCCPTA*****

MCCPTA Dues - Due Monthly

Name of PTA: _____

Federal Tax ID Number: _____

Number of Member: Adults _____ Students _____ Teachers _____ Total _____

Amount Remitted (\$1.00 per member): \$ _____ Check# _____

PTA Treasurer: _____ Phone Number _____

For MCCPTA Office Use Only:

Delegate Card Numbers:

Date:

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**MCCPTA
2096 Gaither Road
Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850**

**PONY MAIL to PTA
Presidents to be shared
with School PTA Delegates
and PTA members**

January - February 2010

MCCPTA Calendar 2009-2010

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

Upcoming Calendar Items:

January

- 4 Reflections submissions due to MCCPTA Office**
- 4 MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum 7:30pm - 9:30pm**
- 7 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 9:30pm**
- 9 MCCPTA Operating Budget Testimony Workshop**
- 14 MCCPTA Student Service Learning Q&A 7:00pm-9:00pm**
- 26 MCCPTA Program "Men in PTA" 6:30pm - 7:30pm**
- 26 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm - 9:30pm**

February

- 1 MCCPTA Special Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm - 9:00pm**
- 4 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 9:30pm**
- 10 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm**
- 23 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm - 9:30pm**

March

- 4 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 9:30pm**
- 10 MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm**
- 22 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm**
- 23 MCCPTA Program "Special Education (Status on closing of Secondary Learning Centers and other program updates TBD) 6:30pm - 7:30pm**
- 23 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm - 9:30pm**

April

- 8 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 9:30pm**
- 27 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly - Annual Elections 7:30pm - 9:30pm (Registration begins at 6:30pm)**