



March 20, 2007

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Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 23rd for the Presidents/Principals Dinner at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center by the White Flint metro. The reception begins at 6:00pm. This will be our first year at this location, previously the dinner was held at the Indian Springs Country Club. Invitations should go out around the end of March. We are still finalizing the price but be aware that it will be higher than in previous years due to the increased cost of the conference center. Principals are guests of their PTAs and generally presidents and delegates attend and usually president-elects too. Because we know the cost will be a hardship for some PTAs we will have a check-off on the invitation and ask individuals and PTAs who can afford it to make a donation to help subsidize the tickets for other PTAs. If your PTA has been struggling financially this year, please let us know when you receive the invitation so we can offer you complementary tickets.

Chip Franklin of WBAL radio will return to emcee the event. This evening is intended as a celebration of our organization and the hard work of all our members. New MCCPTA officers, area vice presidents, and cluster coordinators are installed and we present several awards. It is a great place to network with other PTA leaders, elected officials, and MCPS staff.

All secondary PTSA leaders should be receiving an invitation to the Third Annual Partners for Rigor through Relevancy Conference which will take place on June 21, 2007, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Northwest High School in Germantown, Maryland. Many middle and high schools will have teams of staff attending this conference. I attended this last year and thought it was excellent. I would encourage PTSA presidents and parents on

their schools leadership teams, SIP teams, and other interested members to attend.

There have been several postings on our list serve in response to the motion passed at the February DA to limit posting privileges on the Delegates list serve. I want to remind delegates that they can revisit this question anytime they like. Over the past ten months I have been asked numerous times whether the Board or the List Serv committee would do something to limit the number or content of posting to the delegates list or institute a code of conduct. My answer has consistently been that the neither the Board nor the List Serv Committee will take action unless directed to do so by the delegates and that the delegates are free to consider this question whenever they like. I will reiterate that we had a quorum at the DA, and that the delegates were asked if they wanted to take the question back to their locals and vote in March and they overwhelmingly voted that they wanted to act on the motion that evening. I will be more careful at future meetings to ask if there is new business at the beginning of the evening so that people have warning that items will be brought up at the end of the evening. Delegates should then be advised that if they want to raise a new issue, they need to mention it at the beginning of the evening when I ask if there are any items under new business. If you have an item and anticipate being late, ask someone ahead of time to add it to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

On Wednesday we received a letter from MD PTA that our bylaws have been approved as revised to change the Board of Directors quorum from 15 members (as our delegates approved in January, 2006) to a majority (as the bylaws template requires). Our Board of Directors currently has 90 members (officers, AVPS, committee chairs, cluster coordinators) which means our quorum is 46 members. We did not

have a quorum at our March BOD meeting so did not conduct official business. We had an informal discussion. Note that Robert's Rules empower the Executive Committee to act with the full power of the BOD in between meetings of the BOD. We are continuing to petition MD PTA to change the council bylaw template but in the meantime have concluded that we need to proceed to change our bylaws to reduce the size of our BOD. Since there are several sections of the bylaws which will be affected it is apparent that these changes will require more than just an amendment. Accordingly, at the March DA we will ask the delegates to vote in favor of a revision of our bylaws. This is required to begin the process of changing the size and makeup of our BOD.

A number of PTAs will be receiving letters from our office reminding them to pay their dues and/or insurance. MD PTA requires dues payments by March 31, 2007, in order to remain in good standing. Note that your local PTA must have paid its dues and insurance for its delegates to be able to vote at the MCCPTA election at the April DA. See more information on this elsewhere in the newsletter. BOD members must be a member of a PTA in good standing to be able to vote so please look through the list which was sent out via the BOD list serve to make sure you will be able to vote.

All local PTAs should have a nominating committee in place. Make sure you provide this committee with a copy of your bylaws so they can follow proper procedures and meet the proscribed deadlines.

Most of you are aware that the County Executive's budget recommendation for the school system falls short of the FY 2008 request by \$19.6million. Our clusters will be testifying on the operating budget at the County Council on April 9, 10, and 16. The County Council has informed us that individual PTAs can not phone in for their own testimony slot—they must submit input via the cluster testimony. Additionally, individuals and community groups will have to submit the topic of their testimony to be screened and will be notified later if they are to be given a testimony slot. Feel free to let the council know how you feel about this.

It is important to remember that this budget includes funding for many of our priorities such as hours based staffing, middle school initiatives, middle and high school counselors, assistant principals at elementary schools, and continued funding to support current class size. As I have begun making the rounds to advocate for our priorities it has become clear that many people in the community and in elected and advisory positions do not support the school system's budget request. I am also aware that many other government agencies blame the school system for their own unmet budget requests over

the past few years and will be only too happy to see the schools not get their entire budget request. I strongly suggest that we continue to make this about children and our priorities not about anything else. If you recall, most clusters testified to the BOE in January that there were still things they would like to see in this budget that hadn't been funded. Cutting \$20million does not get us closer to our goals and will be a major step backwards.

Mr. Leggett's people have been making the point that no agency received its full request. However, while he proposes a 6.9% increase for the county overall, he is proposing only a 6.3% increase for the school system. Last year the overall county budget increased significantly more than the MCPS budget did. The Executive's proposal also recommends returning approximately \$150 million in tax revenue to residents in the form of a property tax credit. It is important for local PTAs and their members to let the County Council and County Executive know that you support full funding for the FY 2008 MCPS budget request and that you do not want to see funding for schools cut. More information on the budget will be available via Bulletin and from your cluster coordinators.

I did have a conversation with Dr. Weast last week and brought up HS graduations and the many unanswered questions that parents have regarding the process for selecting venues. He indicated that if there is money in the budget for HS graduations (dependent on the budget passed by the County Council) we (MCCPTA and MCPS) can sit down and discuss the details so that school communities have complete information on the process for venue selection and fees. We also discussed the SIP process at local schools and agreed to further discussions on how parents can be more involved in this process at all schools.

Please also mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 30, 2007 for our spring training. We will have sessions for all PTA officer positions as well as training for delegates and a session in Spanish on being an officer. This will be held at Rockville HS and begins at 6:30pm with registration and refreshments.. MCCPTA distributes a packet of guidebooks for each PTA at this training. You will receive more information on this evening, but make sure that as your PTA assembles its new slate of officers and delegates they are all informed about this training and understand the importance of attending.

Jane

MCCPTA Committee Updates – March 2007

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

Cultural Arts Committee: Joan Wolf Chiaverini, Chair, joanwolfjoanwolf@aol.com

The *Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance* is offering workshops and presentations including Arts Integration, Action Research, Teaching Artists Working with Classroom Teachers and the Teaching Artist Institute (TAI), Arts and Technology, Hands-On Dance Integration, Middle Schools and the Arts, Portfolio Plus, Seeking Excellence in Arts Education and Arts Assessment, Arts Partnerships, on May 29 (8am to 3:50pm at Center for the Arts, Towson University). For further information, contact 410-783-2367, info@aems-edu.org or www.aems-edu.org.

If you are not already part of our Cultural Arts listservice, please email Joan Wolf-Chiaverini at JoanWolfJoanWolf@aol.com. Valuable information-sharing takes place!

Capital Improvement Program Committee:

Marney Jacobs : mjdti@bellatlantic.net ;Jim Keenan: jim.keenan@fmcsa.dot.gov (Co-Chairs)

The CIP committee is watching the budget proceedings in both the state and the local governments. Shortfalls and increased costs in both the operating and the capital budgets may affect even planned construction projects if there just isn't enough money. Continue to write/call/meet with state legislators and encourage them to support education by funding the school construction needs throughout the state and in Montgomery County AND fully funding our operating budget including Thornton money.

Locally, the County Executive's recommended budgets leave gaps on what the Superintendent and BOE have requested. The County Council must now reconcile the budgets and we need to make sure they see and hear parents on behalf of the school children of Montgomery County. They have agreed to separate operating and capital budget testimony (Operating testimony will be on April 9, 10, 11 and 16 and capital budget testimony in early May) but the four days of operating and timing will mean that an increased presence by parents is critical.

The common theme should be full funding for our children. More on capital budget testimony as we see the state situation and finalize a testimony date.

Additionally, we did a little research on the motion before the DA regarding site coordinators for school construction projects at the elementary level and while we support getting appropriate support for schools during their entire project process (from planning to final sign off on the construction) we have several concerns with adding a site coordinator as currently recommended:

- that funding for this position does not reduce the furniture budget or the scope of the project
- that there be criteria developed for the job description and hiring of the site coordinator to ensure designated accountability and appropriate expertise
- that there be criteria developed for when a site coordinator is needed (currently only at the secondary level for modernizations, the rest of the time the MCPS project manager works with the principal, school community and architects and contractors)

Grading and Reporting Committee:

Sharon St.Pierre, stpierre619@comcast.net; Beth Kennington, bkenn@starpower.net (Co-Chairs)

The Grading and Reporting Committee had a meeting Monday, March 19th. The meeting featured a guest presenter, Ann Bedford of MCPS, who shared a draft of the proposed Third Grade Report card to be piloted in 19 elementaries in '07-'08. The committee discussed GRIT meeting follow-up issues including: reteaching/assessing for grades 1 and 2; procedures for answering grading questions from parents; OARS update; grade 3 report card and other recurring and unanswered questions. We also gave an update on a finals meeting between MCCPTA and MCPS and presented a follow-up draft resolution on finals grade computation.

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

Sex Ed Curriculum Pilot Testing Underway:

The State Board of Education denied a request by several organizations to stop the pilot testing and the pilot testing is taking place in 3 middle schools and 3 high schools for the MCPS Health Education Curriculum components on Sexual Variation and condom use lessons and the condom use video. Pilot testing is an important part of the process and will help determine how to improve and enhance the curriculum. Results of the pilot testing will be presented to the board later in spring with refinements made over the summer.

I am particularly interested in talking to parents of children who have participated in the classroom discussions with the new information. Please feel free to contact me at tracyfox@comcast.net.

School Lunch Forum Draws Parents from Across the County

Parents Aviva Goldfarb and Carrie Witkoff (North Chevy Chase and Rosemary Hills Parents) organized a School Lunch Forum that was held at NCC on Thursday, March 15. Parents from across the county were invited to hear from MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition services as well as policy makers. Over 70 parents attended and after a presentation by MCPS staff on how the food service operation works, how menus are developed, and what changes are being made, parents – and a few students – asked questions and expressed concerns. Main concerns raised included the nutritional quality of lunch items, the lack of fresh fruit in an easy-to-eat form, and how menus were developed. MCPS staff responded and committed to looking into issues of concern. Other county officials including Shirley Brandman and Judy Docca (BOE members) as well as George Leventhal (County Councilman) and Jeff Waldstreicher (newly elected county delegate) provided remarks. A number of members of the press and photographers were there.

MCCPTA has gone on record urging MCPS to appoint parents, officially, to the menu committee and MCCPTA recently asked the BOE to re-establish the MCPS Wellness Policy Committee to address a number of nutrition and physical education issues. MCCPTA will continue to be active in promoting healthy school environments through good nutrition and greater opportunities for physical activity.

Parents interested in hosting their own School Lunch Forum are welcome to contact me for ideas on how best to do that (tracyfox@comcast.net).

High School Committee: Phil Kauffman, Chair, phkauff@aol.com

On March 3, the High School Committee sponsored an interactive forum for PTSA presidents and leaders of our high schools. About half the schools were represented. There was a well received presentation by Susan Marks, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, on the challenges of recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff. Participants also discussed various issues affecting their schools. It was decided that, in the future, there be at least two forums per year. Also, a new listserv was established to facilitate exchanges between high school PTSA presidents.

Listsers Committee: Patti Twigg, Chair, lptwigg@erols.com

1) As of March 16, 2007, membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listsers	# subscribed
MCCPTA Board	98
MCCPTA Bulletin	472
MCCPTA Delegates	397
MCCPTA Presidents	275

2) The change of status to read only required by the action taken at the February DA was carried out.

Operating Budget Committee: Steve Crowley, Chair, stevecrowley@att.net

County Council Operating Budget Testimony

Testimony before the County Council will take place over 4 nights in early April. The dates are Monday April 9 (last day of Spring Break), Tuesday 4/10 (date of many local PTA meetings), Wed 4/11 (date of MCCPTA BOD meeting) and Monday 4/16.

We are faced with several difficult choices this year in what message we want to emphasize. There has been a large uproar over the closing of the Learning Centers, the County Executive has proposed a \$20 million reduction in the Superintendent’s budget request, and we need to advocate for our own cluster schools. All in three minutes!

Written testimony may be longer than your oral testimony so prioritize what you want the County Council to HEAR from you. Some points to remember:

1. As a result of County Executive Isaiah Leggett’s budget recommendations issued on March 13, 2007, there is a \$20 million gap between the Board of Education’s FY 2008 Operating Budget Request and the county executive’s recommended budget.
2. If the operating budget is approved as recommended by the county executive, it would represent the third year in a row that the Montgomery County Public Schools’ (MCPS) share of the budget has dropped—from 48.7 percent three years ago to 47.5 percent in FY 2008— while the share for the rest of the county has increased by 1.2 percent. That decline in the MCPS share of the budget is equivalent to approximately \$44 million in FY 2008.
3. The county executive recommended a 6.3 percent increase for MCPS, compared with 6.9 percent for county government and 6.7 percent for the county budget as a whole. The difference between the MCPS and county government percentage is equivalent to \$11 million, more than half of the budget gap for MCPS.
4. The county’s contribution to the MCPS budget will only increase 4.3 percent under the county executive’s recommendation (\$59.7 million) compared to the 6.9 percent tax-supported increase for county government. State aid will increase by 16.3 percent (\$54.9 million) for MCPS because of Thornton funding.

5. Based on available fiscal data, Montgomery County should have sufficient resources in FY 2008 to approve requested agency operating budgets (including the MCPS budget), avoid raising taxes, reduce property tax rates to the charter limit, and maintain sufficient reserves.
6. Income tax revenues should provide ample resources to close the budget gap without the need to increase taxes. Income tax revenue increases of 9 percent (compared to 18 percent more this year) rather than the preliminary projection of 5.7 percent would yield an extra \$39 million, enough to close the budget gap completely while using credits for owner-occupied real property to limit property tax revenue to the charter limit.
7. Reductions of \$20 million will cause real pain and could wipe out the entire \$12.1 million in targeted initiatives that advance the initiatives in Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence. The initiatives for FY 2008 include middle school reform (\$2.5 million), special education hours-based staffing (\$1.8 million), 20.5 additional middle and high school counselors (\$1.6 million), 15 elementary school assistant principals (\$1.6 million), and additional translation services (\$66,000).
8. State law requires that the executive notify the Board of Education as to what specific categories he plans to cut to reach the \$20 million in reduction he is seeking. Savings from eliminating initiatives will not be sufficient to achieve the required amount, so it is incumbent upon the executive to indicate if he expects staff reductions to take place, salary increases to be reduced, class sizes increased, or special education services curtailed.
9. The Board of Education's FY 2008 Operating Budget Request for MCPS totals \$1,988,401,081, an increase of \$136,504,794 (7.4 percent). Not including \$16.1 million reserved to pay future retiree health benefits, the operating budget increase is only 6.5 percent.
10. The 7.4 percent requested increase is lower than last year's 8.0 percent increase and less than the 7.6 percent average of the last five years.
11. MCPS goes to great lengths to ensure that it spends its money wisely. Instructional costs make up 80 percent of the budget, one of the highest proportions in Maryland. Central administration costs just 2 percent, one of the lowest percentages in the state. Independent County Council audits of financial management, special education, staff development, and transportation all have concluded that MCPS uses its resources efficiently and invests significantly more per student in high poverty schools.

Parent Involvement Committee: Elisia George, Chair, dalisha3313@hotmail.com

The March 7th meeting was rescheduled to March 28th in CESC Room 127 at 7:30 PM with a presentation from Denise Stultz. Denise is from the Division for Family and Community Partnerships.

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

Plans are moving along for the MCCPTA Reflections Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 25 at Northwest High School.

Statewide Reflections judging have just been completed, and 33 Montgomery County students have won state awards, including seven who won first place awards. Their entries have been sent to National PTA for national judging.

Safety Committee: Pam Moomau, Chair, Pammoomau@comcast.net

Building Security

Dr. Weast sent a response to Jane de Winter's letter transmitting the MCCPTA resolution on building security. Pam Moomau reported on the response at the February Delegates' Assembly. See the MCCPTA website under Committees/Safety for a copy of the response and the Safety Committee report. While not fully responsive to the resolution, Dr. Weast's letter did indicate that there are security protocols in place that each school should be following. These protocols, as outlined in a memo from Larry Bowers to all principals, are also in the Safety Committee section of the MCCTPA website. Local PTA's can use this information to work with their principals on improving building security. The Safety Committee will be following-up on the other issues in the resolution.

Building Environmental Safety

Several members of the Safety Committee have been meeting with staff from the MCPS Division of Construction and the MCPS Environmental Safety staff to review the following issues:

1. Safe separation between construction spaces and student-occupied spaces in school buildings where construction is occurring with students on site. There was a focus on balancing indoor air quality and fire safety concerns.
2. Standards for portable installation to minimize the likelihood of leaks, other moisture exposure, and mold development. Two parent indoor air quality experts are reviewing these standards and will report back.
3. Progress on the ongoing lead remediation project. The remediation phase of the project is proceeding very slowly, apparently due to the combined problems of most of the work having to occur on nights, weekends, and breaks, reliance on plumbers from the Division of Maintenance willing to work these hours, and a dearth of contractors willing to bid on the project. We also discussed the post-remediation testing procedure at length. Even after a school has been fully remediated, the MCPS/Montgomery County Dept of Health protocol is that all fixtures be flushed each morning to minimize exposure to lead and other substances that can accumulate in fixtures overnight. We strongly encouraged MCPS to post to the web site a lead remediation update by school. They claim this will happen shortly. In the meantime, if you have questions about your school, you can call Lynne Zarate at 301-926-4378.

Local School Involvement Critical to Safety

The MCCPTA Safety Committee urges each local PT(S)A to form its own Safety Committee to monitor and advocate for safety within your own school.

Student Service Learning Hours Committee: Karen Judson, Chair, bszjudson@comcast.net

In those schools with designated PTSA SSL liaisons, the liaisons are continuing to work with their school based SSL coordinators on getting information on the SSL requirement out to students and parents utilizing PTSA communication tools. This is especially important with the recent increase in the number of required hours to graduate, mandated by MSDE and taking effect with the class of 2011. The liaisons also continue to share their ideas in regard to making information on SSL more accessible in general to both students and parents. A meeting of the

PTSA SSL liaisons will be scheduled in May so that the liaisons can provide feedback on their role this year and feedback will be requested from the school based SSL coordinators regarding the support the PTSA liaisons are providing. The feedback will be used to plan for next year.

Special Education Committee:

Diane Dickson rvdianedickson@yahoo.com; Jennifer Zaranis jfr4806@juno.com (Co-Chairs)

The Special Education Committee has had a very busy month. The deadline for nominations for the 2007 Special Education Recognition Awards Ceremony was March 9th. The committee is now in the process of reviewing the many wonderful nominations we have received to select our award recipients to be honored on May 7th. On March 15th, we hosted a special program conducted by Gwen Mason and Vickie Strange of the MCPS Department of Special Education Services for the purpose of bringing our Special Education Committee Chairpersons from the local schools up to speed on the implementation of the proposed special education realignments scheduled to begin in the fall. Also on March 15th, we participated in a county council work session discussing the proposed budget for FY '08 for Special Education Services. On March 28th we will hold a program on "Culturally Sensitive Instruction". We will also hear a brief talk by Kent Weaver of the MCPS School Counseling Services Unit on how to secure testing accommodations for students taking the PSAT. This will be held at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Carver Educational Services Center.

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

The Technology Committee held a Web Site Workgroup on Monday February 26, 2007. Participants included Principals, Teachers, Students, Parents and Staff from the Community.

Most people expressed a concern about out-of-date and/or badly organized school web sites, and a desire to aid in improving their particular school's site as well as other school sites throughout MCPS. Some felt their sites were well-managed in terms of content, timeliness, and stakeholder input, and expressed a desire to share their methods with other schools. Those who feel their sites were falling short are looking for help and ideas from other schools on how to improve their web communications.

Consistent themes were:

- Lack of time and resources to keep web sites up-to-date
- Teachers and other school staff being given webmaster duties without prior training in web communications.
- Webmasters leaving and schools having no staff to take over web sites
- Little or no knowledge of what the school system and parents expect from school sites
- How to engage students so they will access and engage in school sites.

Desired outcomes

- Feb 26, 2007 meeting: Define the desired state for school web sites (ES, MS, HS)
- April 23, 2007 meeting: Outline the obstacles to reaching the desired state. Why can't we achieve it?
- June 12, 2007 meeting: Outline some possible solutions to overcoming the obstacles.
- By the end of the process the MCC-PTA Technology Committee will have some kind of recommendation to take back to the MCC-PTA, MCPS central office, and the schools

The Best of the Web nominations will open on February 27. Anyone can nominate a site. Also there is a new category – student contribution. Information will be in the Feb. 27 webmaster e-mail and will be on WST site. Only webmasters will vote for winners. The winners will be presented at the Webmaster convocation Apr 25th. Maybe this workgroup can evaluate the winners to help with further outlining of the desired state of school web sites.

PRESIDENTS and PRINCIPALS DINNER

MCCPTA

***Invites you to
Celebrate another year of
Advocacy for education on
Wednesday, May 23, 2007
At the Marriott Bethesda North
Hotel and Conference Center
Beginning at 6:00 pm.***

***Please be on the lookout for your
invitations in the very near
future!! Principals are guests of
their PTSA's.***

***If you have any questions you may call
Cathy Lilja, at the MCCPTA office(301-208-
0111)or Paula Robinson, Presidents and
Principals Dinner Chair
(523-6102).***

MCCPTA PARTNERS FOR EDUCATION AWARD
(GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATING INDIVIDUALS)

This award, to be given annually by the Montgomery County Council of PTAs is established to recognize programs formed by local PTA/PTSAs, local schools and local businesses or community groups, which demonstrate outstanding support for the education of Montgomery County youth.

You and your local PTA are invited to nominate any business, community group or individual not directly associated with your local PTA who has worked with you and your school to support the education of Montgomery County youth. Examples of projects which might be nominated include: tutoring programs between members of a business and students supported by the PTA; school landscaping or environmental projects in which students, parents and business or community members took part or which were funded by a business or community organization; drug-free school or after prom or homecoming activities organized by the PTA/PTSA where a business or community group provided substantial support. Programs may be on-going (such as tutoring) or one-time (such as a special event or school assembly in which a community or business were important contributors). To be eligible, nominees must be involved in programs or activities which have taken place or are ongoing after September 2006 or will occur prior to June 30,2007.

The award winner will be a guest of MCCPTA at the Presidents/Principals Dinner. They will be recognized along with the nominating PTA/PTSA and the school including a short description of the winning partnership program. In addition to the recognition at the dinner, the winner(s) will receive a plaque from MCCPTA.

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PARTNERS FOR EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name of partner _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Description of specific services provided for the 2006-2007 school year (no more then one page back and front, please).

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name of contact _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

PTA/PTSA, belongs to _____

Please return this form by April 13, 2007 to the MCCPTA office.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL OF PTAs
MARYLAND LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD
2006-07
GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATING INDIVIDUALS**

The Awards and Honors Committee of MCCPTA will consider the following information when choosing recipients of the Maryland Life Membership Award presented by MCCPTA at its annual Presidents/Principals Dinner:

- Nominees may be a parent, teacher, student, administrator, supporting staff or community member whose efforts are tied to the mission and objects of PTA
 - Nominees efforts should demonstrate cluster and countywide benefits to children and families
 - Individuals depth, breadth and length of service to PTA

The award winner will be a guest of MCCPTA at the Presidents/Principals Dinner. The nominator will be asked to speak about the nominee providing a description of their accomplishments and how they benefited the children and families of the MCCPTA.

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**MCCPTA NOMINATION FORM FOR THE
MARYLAND LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

NOMINATION INFORMATION

Name of individual _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

PTA/PTSA (if individual belongs to one) _____

Description of services, including depth, breadth and length of service (no more than one page back and front, please).

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name of contact _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

PTA/PTSA, belongs to _____

Please return this form by April 13, 2007 to the MCCPTA office.

DRAFT Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly

February 27, 2007

Walter Johnson High School

Program: High School Assessments 7:03 PM-8:15 PM

Business Meeting

Call to Order: Jane de Winter, MCCPTA President called the meeting to order at 8:17 PM

Mission of the PTA: April Keyes, MCCPTA Vice President for Programs

Approval of Minutes: On motion made and seconded, the draft minutes of the January 23, 2007 Delegates Assembly was approved as written by voice vote.

Treasurer report: Juan Johnson, MCCPTA Treasurer presented Balance Sheet as of February 27, 2007, Budget vs. Actuals for the period of July 2006-February 2007 and Profit and Loss for period January 24-February 27, 2007. PTAs were reminded to make sure that unused PTA membership cards are returned to Maryland PTA by March 15 along with any final reports. PTAs were reminded to reconcile accounts with Maryland PTA and in addition with MCCPTA as well. PTAs will be charged for cards not returned to Maryland PTA.

Resolution: Course in Personal Finance Management- Curriculum Committee

Sharon Schulman Co-chair Curriculum Committee gives background explaining the need for the course to help students with their personal finance management offered as a one semester course available to all. Want this to be a uniform course offered at all schools as an elective. This resolution was previously offered as proposed at January's Delegates Assembly.

No second is needed since brought by committee.

Questions/concerns raised by Delegates: What is time frame? Why not leave up to MCPS if required or just make it available? What about staffing allocation and money as related to budget?

Delegate from Rosa Parks, MS offers a motion for an amendment: to last Resolve, *"by the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year."*

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 *by the beginning of 2008-2009 school year.*

Motion for amendment was seconded

Motion passed by voice vote.

Cluster Coordinator from Clarksburg offers a motion for second amendment to last Resolve, *"personal finance available for both honors and regular credit."*

RESOLVED that Montgomery County schools should develop a one semester course in *personal finance available for both honors and regular credit* that should cover these and related subjects and that this course should be made available at every county high school by the beginning of 2008-2009 school year.

Motion for second amendment was seconded

Question from Delegate from Piney Branch on the criteria for honors and regular and does MCPS have a course similar to adopt for both.

Motion passed by show of hands.

Continued discussion about main motion on resolution raises issues about developing one semester course and is that prudent to do and it was clarified that more research on this revealed similar courses. Discussion continued on whether this could be a tech credit and if this could even be a senior year credit. It was noted that we like the idea of the course and it is up to MCPS, etc. to design the course for county-wide program.

Motion for Resolution on Course in Personal Finance Management passes by voice vote as amended.

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 available for both honors and regular credit that should cover these and related subjects and that this course should be made available at every county high school by the beginning of 2008-2009 school year.

Reports

Ted Willard, Co Chair Curriculum Committee gives report of what other items the committee has been working on this year. Handout included updates on Mathematics, English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Social Studies, Language Arts, Science, Health, Music and Foreign Language from MCCPTA representatives on MCPS Curriculum Advisory Committee. Past resolutions from MCCPTA Curriculum Committee were also noted. These are posted on MCCPTA website. Curriculum Committee is seeking additional members for committee and subject groups.

State standards are in place for all major subject areas. Reading, Language Arts and Mathematics have testing requirements under NCLB. Science testing requirements under NCLB will be coming soon.

On March 19th there will be a MCCPTA Curriculum Committee meeting over at Carver auditorium with Linda Ferrell about middle school curriculum. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Some questions will be submitted ahead of time. If anyone has questions please email Ted. Committee chairs emails are on website.

Concerns about Foreign Language with French being eliminated and classes for Gifted and Talented, etc. were raised. Not sure if immersion programs have been looked at in limited meeting times.

Ted reminded all that MCPS is required to review K-12 curriculum every 5 years. Math will be up for review in next 18-24 months. Review of curriculum documents or how curriculum is implemented is a clarification we need about these reviews as problems are in both.

Information about Curriculum Assembly (addition to Curriculum Advisory Committee) that meets 4 times a year came from Sharon Schulman, Curriculum Committee, Co-Chair. Last subject topics were Kindergarten curriculum and other part on how writing is taught. Grammar was discussed as well.

Victor Salazar, MCCPTA VP for Legislation brought a motion forward for a resolution on HB 160 for MCCPTA to write a letter in support. This resolution deals with qualifications for State Board of Education. Maryland PTA has asked MCCPTA for a letter of support.

Discussion includes how many parents are on there now (1) and we need parents of students in public schools and at least 2 for 4 year term. Terms are staggered. Governor appoints these members. This bill went before House before and failed so keeping the number to 2 in request may help bill move forward.

Motion for this resolution was seconded.

Delegate from Rosa Parks offers an amendment to motion to increase number of parent on State Board to six. *That motion to HB 160 be changed to require that at least 6 out of the 12 member body on State Board of Education be parents of students presently enrolled in the public school system.*

Motion to amend was seconded.

Discussion by Delegates: Have to be careful in making numbers high so as to seem unreasonable and hurt bill passage. Legislators want to see things like MCPPTA supports. If we are saying a higher number than two points out that we are not supporting legislation and that could be problematic for this bill.

Motion to amend fails by voice vote.

Vote on main motion for resolution as originally proposed for HB 160 passes by voice vote. It should be noted it was unanimous. A letter will accompany this from MCCPTA in support of HB160.

MCCPTA Resolution for HB 160 Education - State Board of Education Members - Qualifications

That MCCPTA Believes:

One guiding principle that has been expressed by members of MCCPTA through letters, written testimony and public testimony, before school staff, the board of education, county council and county executive is the importance of the parent perspective and the need for parents to be at the table during the conceptualization, planning, implementation, and follow up of education initiatives.

HB 160 recognizes and acknowledges this guiding principle and proposes to require a certain number of members of the State Board of Education to be parents of students enrolled in public schools.

That MCCPTA Resolves:

MCCPTA believes that in making appointments to the State Board of Education, the Governor shall appoint at least two members who at the time of their appointment are parents of students enrolled in public schools in the State effective October 1, 2007.

Safety Committee- Pam Moomau, Chair gives update since safety resolution about security was passed last month. Item under discussion was the reply letter from Dr. West and that was given to Delegates. Pam asks that we approve another letter from MCCPTA be done to respond to this letter to request MCPS to address other items MCCPTA raised. Additional items (concerning protocols, etc.) from Pam will be posted to MCCPTA website and posted to listerv. Safety committee would like to follow-up to have MCCPTA concerns addressed.

President and Principal Dinner- April Keyes, MCCPTA VP for Education gives update and expresses the need for MCCPTA to raise money by donations and selling ads for program to keep costs down. April presents copies of brochure related to this and explains it more detail. Delegates should reach out for contacts to make donations. MCBRE has made a donation already. Board members and others have been approached. This is a celebration of a whole year's work. Different tiers of donations are explained. Seats can be purchased and donated for PTAs. Contact April for brochure.

Nominating Committee, Mark Rother, Chair gives update on what nominating committee has been working on and reminds all that nominations are due in by March 15. These will be presented at general meeting in March. Nominations can come from floor in general meeting for election in April. Nomination forms are located on MCCPTA website.

MCCPTA Bylaws- Jane de Winter gives an update about letter from Maryland PTA that came mid January concerning quorum. We had verbal approval before letter was received recently. Board of Directors majority is now requested. Delegates approved quorum of 15 even though item was pounded and wanted approval for the 15 number. Majority for Board of Directors is 45 versus 35 for Delegates Assembly. MCCPTA Board of Directors will not conduct business unless we have quorum. We have asked Maryland PTA to change template. We may be bringing some bylaw amendments in near future to Delegates.

Reminder is given about Maryland State PTA meeting in November. It will be held in Towson.

New Business

Proposed Resolution: Draft Resolution on Site Coordinators is presented by Liz Wheeler, Co-Cluster Coordinator, Richard Montgomery HS Cluster. Majority of schools in cluster passed this resolution. This resolution was presented at last Board of Directors Meeting. The Board of Directors asked that language specific to Richard Montgomery should be removed. That was done. This resolution will be offered for vote at March Delegates Assembly.

A site coordinator is not a project manager. Richard Montgomery's coordinator is now being funded through ½ furniture budget and MCPS Division of Construction.

Delegates questions: Why not for elementary schools? Is this a person from school? How many other schools have them? What about when kids on site? What is the experience of site coordinator and their job description as well as qualifications? Do principals choose site coordinators? In construction management oversight what does MCPS provide? Are we asking for full time or part time? More information will be posted on listserv by Liz as related to this proposed resolution for more background.

Draft Resolution on Site Coordinators (Submitted by the Richard Montgomery Cluster Coordinators), February 27, 2007

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) currently only funds site coordinators for secondary schools under the construction budget;

WHEREAS, a current Site Coordinator has alerted a school to issues arising with the replacement school construction, thereby resulting in savings for the school, MCPS and county citizens;

WHEREAS, the funding for the salary of this Site Coordinator is shared between the MCPS Division of Construction and the school's budget for furniture;

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) knows the benefits of a Site Coordinator and urges its extension to other MCPS schools scheduled for renovation;

AND WHEREAS, MCPS currently does not offer Site Coordinators to elementary schools;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCCPTA endorses and will advocate for Site Coordinators to be assigned to any MCPS school under construction or modernization;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCPS should revise the funding source for salaries for Site Coordinators such that implementation of the objectives of this resolution will not negatively affect the school's budget for construction or modernization.

May Delegates Assembly: Jane de Winter asks Delegates if they want one? Do we want to leave pending? Last year was first year we had one. This meeting would fall on night right before Presidents and Principals dinner. Delegates need to think about what they want to do. Delegate asked if we did any business at last May Delegate's Assembly? This will be left on calendar pending action by Delegates to change.

Delegate from Hoover MS, Brenda Willett brings forward a proposed motion for a resolution on gum games that as used as part of sex education classes in MCPS as taught by an outside source. This was recently in the news on television as well as articles in Washington Post. Parents have expressed concerns about the health related risks of this activity.

Delegate's concerns/questions: Was this run by Health Committee or Safety Committee? Concerns are raised about limitations as contained in this proposed resolution. What about Career Day and speakers? Proposed resolution needs refinement. Costs associated with this along with staffing are what? Could this have a significant budget impact to implement? Need more information as to scope of this as proposed and impact.

Motion was made and seconded to refer this back to MCCPTA Executive Committee for their review and possibly to be referred to appropriate committees for review/recommendations or other action.

Motion passed by show of hands.

**Proposed Resolution Regarding the Monitoring of Outside Speakers in MCPS Schools
Presented by Brenda Willett, Delegate from Hoover MS**

WHEREAS recent incidents involving religious groups masquerading as health care professionals and being hired by MCPS as outside speakers; and
WHEREAS the hiring/retention of outside speakers is left to individual school principals and is not centralized by MCPS; and
WHEREAS all students and all parents of students in MCPS should be assured that they or their children will never be subjected to another gum game or other high risk behavior in a classroom;

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that Montgomery County Public Schools conduct a survey of all outside speakers regardless of their subject matter and compile a comprehensive list to be accessed on the MCPS website;

RESOLVED that MCPS centralize the administration of all outside speakers which includes approval, hiring, retention, and review of speakers' program content; and

RESOLVED that MCPS review and update the outside speaker list annually.

Executive Committee will come back with recommendations once more information is gathered concerning Delegate's questions and concerns.

Wootton Cluster Co-Coordinator, Andrea Bernardo brings forward a motion for a resolution concerning Delegates Listserv.

Motion was seconded.

A request was made for a vote tonight. Vote was taken to vote tonight by show of hands.

Discussion and concerns by Delegates: Delegate notes that since this involves this body a vote can be taken tonight. Delegates Listserv is being used by those who are not necessarily members of this body. Emails can be excessive. Delegates Listserv should be used by Delegates. If you are not able to post one can bring items up through Delegates.

Delegates from Winston Churchill HS offers a motion for an amendment: *"All elected PTSA Officers be allowed to post comments to the Delegates Listserv."*

Motion was seconded.

Discussion: Read only allowed. Those allowed to post would be involved. Clarification is for those who are voting members. They will be allowed to post. Point of listserv is for discussion among members of this body. Listserv should be for those actively involved.

Motion to amend fails by voice vote.

Original motion on Delegates Listserv Resolution passes by voice vote.

**Delegates Listserv Resolution
Presented by Andrea Bernardo, Wootton Cluster Co-Coordinator**

Whereas, The MCCPTA Delegates Listserv was created for the benefit of Delegates, MCCPTA Officers, members of the MCCPTA BOD and administered by a moderator

Whereas, email traffic is excessive

Whereas, the MCCPTA Delegates may choose to reduce the excessive email traffic

Now be it Resolved, that only sitting Delegates (including PTA Presidents), MCCPTA Officers, members of the MCCPTA BOD and the listserv moderator shall be permitted to post on the listserv. The moderator shall immediately effectuate this resolution.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 PM.

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

Pony Mailing

MARCH 2007

MCCPTA Calendar 2006-2007

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

March	27	7:00	Delegates Assembly Program – Safety
		8:00	Delegates Assembly Business Meeting
April	11	7:30	BOD's Meeting
	13		Nominations due for the Life Membership and Partners for Education Awards
	24	7:30	Delegates Assembly
May	25	7:00	Reflection Awards Ceremony: (Northwest HS)
	3	7:30	BOD's Meeting
	7	7:30	Special Ed Recognition Ceremony: (Rockville HS)
	22	7:30	Delegates Assembly
	23	6:00	Presidents/ Principals Dinner: (Bethesda North Marriott)

MCCPTA ELECTIONS: APRIL 24, 2007

***IMPOTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR UPCOMING MCCPTA ELECTION
HELD DURING THE APRIL DELEGATES ASSEMBLY***

- ***Arrive EARLY – 6:45pm***
- ***Bring your MCCPTA Green Voting card (Upon payment of dues, each school was issued 3 cards – If cards have been misplaced please contact the MCCPTA office for replacement card)***
- ***Bring your PTA membership card***
- ***Payment of DUES and INSURANCE must have been made in order to Vote - (Payments will be accepted at the April DA Meeting)***