



President

Kay Romero
301-946-2190
president@mccpta.com

VP for Educational Issues

Merry Eisner
301-983-5225
vpedissues@mccpta.com

VP for Administration

Liz Wheeler
301-424-8457
vpadmin@mccpta.com

VP for Legislation

Rebecca Smondrowski
301-325-6246
vplegislation@mccpta.com

VP for Programs

Karen Smith
240-338-0180
vpprograms@mccpta.com

Treasurer

Dale Ryan
301-253-1780
treasurer@mccpta.com

Recording Secretary BOD

Andrea Q. Bernardo
301-340-3011
secbod@mccpta.com

Recording Secretary DA

Patti Twigg
301-384-3847
secda@mccpta.com

MCCPTA Office

2096 Gaither Road
Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850

Office Manager

Pam Loebach
Phone 301-208-0111
Fax 301-208-2003
office@mccpta.com

Visit our web site

www.mccpta.com

It is already March and PTAs are still hard at work.....

Our next Delegates Assembly will be Tuesday, March 24th.

Program: Curriculum in MCPS - 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Curriculum in MCPS:

Development History and Process. MCPS specialists in Curriculum & Instruction will present information on the whys and hows of curriculum development within MCPS, answering questions such as:

- Why has MCPS developed its own curricula?
- Why are curricula developed at the county level?
- How does the centrally developed curricula affect what is taught in the classroom?
- How can a single curriculum be designed to meet the diverse learning needs of Montgomery County students?

Speakers: Terry Cepaitis, Director of Curriculum
Marty Creel, Director of Enriched & Innovative Instruction
Betsy Brown, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Business Meeting: Delegates Assembly - 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Budget Advocacy Is Still in Full Swing- MCCPTA, local PTAs and school communities are still publicly advocating for full funding of both the Capital Improvement Budget and the Operating Budget. Many have

given public testimonies, as well as submitted written testimonies to the Board of Education and to the County Council. MCCPTA representatives have been busy making trips to Annapolis on a regular basis during this budget cycle to meet with our Maryland Delegation. Cluster/Area PTA representatives have been advocating during these trips to make sure school communities received attention for their funding needs. MCCPTA representatives are speaking one on one with our delegation members to help them understand our school funding needs. Our children and schools are worth every penny! If you are interested in helping to advocate, please contact Rebecca Smondrowski, MCCPTA VP for Legislation.

MCCPTA and Cluster Testimonies on both recommended budgets are located on our MCCPTA website: <http://www.mccpta.com/pressReleases.html>

Capital Improvement Program Budget Timeline

February–May 2009 -County Council reviews requested Amended FY 2009–2014 CIP
Early-May 2009* -Board of Public Works decisions on FY 2010 State CIP

May 31, 2009* -County Council approves the Amended FY 2009–2014 CIP and the FY 2010 Capital Budget

**Estimated date*

Operating Budget Timeline

County Executive issues operating budget: March 16

County Council operating budget hearings: April
Council approves operating budget: May 21
Board of Education takes final action to adopt FY 2010
Operating Budget: June 9

“Must Do’s” for PTAs

Pursuant to Maryland PTA Bylaws: All PTAs must be incorporated. Go to www.dat.state.md.us to see if your PTA is incorporated and in good standing with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

All PTAs must carry bonding, liability, and Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance. Go to www.mdpta.org for more information. The insurance agent for all MD PTAs is:

Kathryn R. Meagher, CPCU, ARM
BB & T Insurance Services of California, Inc.
Previously UnionBanc Insurance Services, Inc.
535 North Brand Blvd., 10 Floor
Glendale, CA 91203
MD License # NPF3106

All PTA checks must be signed by two people - the treasurer and one other authorized officer.

All PTAs must submit a copy of their annual Treasurer’s Report and audit report to the MCCPTA Treasurer, Dale Ryan at MCCPTA, 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204 by pony mail, or MCCPTA, 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204, Rockville, MD 20850 by US mail.

All PTAs must maintain current by-laws. The by-laws must be reviewed and resubmitted every three years.

All PTAs must pay annual dues to Maryland and National PTAs and to MCCPTA.

Pursuant to Maryland State Law: All PTAs must be registered with the Charitable Organizations Division - Office of the Secretary of State (www.sos.state.md.us) - and follow the links to “Registering a Charity”. All incorporated PTAs must file a personal property tax return by April 15 of every year in order to maintain their corporate status. If your PTA resells any items, such as gift wrap, plants, candy, it must have a sales tax license and file returns according to the schedule your PTA establishes with the state.

Pursuant to Federal Law: All PTAs with gross receipts of \$25,000 or more must file Form 990 PT (with Schedule A) annually. The return is due on the 15th day of the 5th month following the last day of the organization’s fiscal year. For example, if the local unit’s fiscal year ends on June 30, the 990 must be filed before November 15. A form 8868 can be filed requesting an automatic 3-month extension. Go to the IRS website for more information and forms. (<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>)

All PTAs with gross receipts less than \$25,000 must file electronically a 990N postcard by the 15th day of the 5th month following the last day of the organization's fiscal year. For example, if the local unit's fiscal year ends on June 30, the 990N must be filed before November 15.

Questions? Need assistance? Please don’t hesitate to call me! My “job” is to be a resource for you and your PTA.

Dale Ryan, MCCPTA Treasurer -
treasurer@mccpta.com - 301-253-1780

ALL PTAs MUST BE INCORPORATED - Maryland PTA has started an Incorporation Project. Some local PTAs in Montgomery County have been identified as NOT being incorporated as required. MDPTA has asked MCCPTA to follow up with these identified PTAs. PTAs need to make sure they attend to the matter as soon as possible.

BYLAWS - There are several PTAs in Montgomery County that currently have expired Bylaws. Those PTAs should have received a letter from the MDPTA Bylaws chair, as well as communications from the MCCPTA VP for Administration and the MCCPTA Bylaws Chair asking that PTAs update their bylaws as soon as possible. If you are asked to contact the MDPTA bylaws chair, it means there is a pending question about your bylaws and they have not been approved. Your PTA must follow through and make any suggested changes to get your bylaws approved by MDPTA. When locals receive their bylaws, there is a cover letter. If your bylaws were accepted, the cover letter will state they are approved. If your bylaws had one or two small errors, the cover letter will tell you that your bylaws were approved with the following changes, which will be listed. These changes become a mandatory part of your bylaws and should be included whenever you copy or distribute your bylaws.

Is your local a Unit in Good Standing? (Refer to Article IV of your local bylaws)

MONTHLY- MCCPTA sends each PTA a monthly dues voucher as a reminder for PTAs to send membership dues to MCCPTA. Membership is year round. Please remember that MCCPTA dues are to be paid for each of your PTA members - \$1.00 per member. MCCPTA does not make a profit off its members. All membership dues are used to support the advocacy work of MCCPTA. PTAs should be checking their records to make sure that they have paid both the Maryland PTA and MCCPTA for all members. We receive monthly membership reports from the MDPTA. We know if

PTAs have paid MDPTA for more members than they paid MCCPTA or vice versa.

MEMBERSHIP - PTA Membership - Remember: Membership is open all year round- Inform your members on the benefits that they receive as a PTA Member- Inform your membership of the accomplishments of your PTA. As a PTA leader, you believe in the PTA and would like to see membership increase. But what can you do? First, recognize that there are many people in your community who are important human resources. Know who these individuals are. They may be parents, teachers, teenage mothers and fathers, couples without children, grandparents, senior citizens, community leaders, business people, school board members, or students. Remember, everybody can be a PTA member!

How can you recruit new members? Ask yourself these questions:

- What are the benefits and services available at the local, state, and national levels?
- What do prospective members want to know about our PTA?
- How can our PTA best provide that information?
- Do our PTA materials reflect the cultural, economic, and social backgrounds of the community groups we are trying to reach?
- What are our strengths, and how can we build on them?
- What are our weaknesses, and how can we overcome them?
- What other PTA programs and activities are our neighboring PTAs doing that attract new members?
- What barriers exist in the PTA's programs and practices that might discourage someone from joining?

See that dues payments are sent monthly to Maryland PTA. Work with the treasurer to correctly send in your monthly payment for dues collected. All dues payments must be received in the Maryland PTA office by March 31(for reporting purposes to National PTA). Maryland PTA remits \$1.75 to National PTA and retains \$1.50 in Maryland.

<http://www.mdpta.org/members/documents/membershipbook08.pdf>

ALL ABOUT MCCPTA - The Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) serves approximately 189 local PTAs and 50,000 members - parents, teachers and people in our community who, through training and advocacy, support the mission of PTA: to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children; to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect children; and to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of the nation.

MCCPTA does this by providing information and training to local PTAs about the structure and functioning of MCPS, and the local, state, and national governmental entities and policies that affect our children's education; providing a forum for PTA members across the county to communicate with each other on issues of common concern; and amplifying the voices of its local members through concerted and focused advocacy at the county level (and, to a lesser extent, at the state and national level). In order to promote effective PTA advocacy, the structure of MCCPTA reflects the structure of the school system within which we advocate. This is why we have Cluster Coordinators, who focus on the advocacy and resource needs of one cluster (an MCPS cluster consists of a high school and all of its feeder schools), and Committees, which focus on particular issues. This is also why we have Area Vice Presidents (AVPs), who help coordinate the advocacy within the MCPS "Area" (composed of 4 or 5 clusters) supervised by a single Community Superintendent.

MCCPTA cluster coordinators serve as a bridge between groups of local PTAs within a cluster and MCCPTA, sharing information on issues of local and countywide import and assisting the locals as needed. Every local PTA is represented by its cluster coordinators in the annual Operating Budget cycle for MCPS, and in the bi-annual Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) cycle for MCPS.

Our 26 committees, working with the cluster coordinators on our Board of Directors, identify issues of countywide impact, and establish relationships with decision-makers within MCPS, and with the county and state government officials who work on those issues.

This structure allows us to bring local issues to the attention of the county-level school and other government officials who have the power to address those issues. Maintaining open lines of communication at the county level allows us to function as a guide for parents new to the system, and as effective and thoughtful advocates for the concerns of all parents.

Like every PTA, we are a membership driven organization: Every local PTA that belongs to the council has up to three (3) votes in our monthly assembly (its President and up to two (2) delegates). MCCPTA cluster coordinators are elected by the MCCPTA delegates from that cluster (each cluster may have up to three (3). MCCPTA Area Vice Presidents (AVPs) are elected by the MCCPTA Delegates within that area. Topics raised in summer area meetings, open to all PTA members, form the basis of the MCCPTA Operating Budget Compact, which is presented to the Delegates' Assembly for approval in the fall, and forms the basis for Operating Budget advocacy during the school year. Issues of concern to the membership are the focus of our monthly programs.

Through the work of our committees, cluster coordinators, AVPS, and officers, MCCPTA facilitates the involvement of PTA volunteers from our locals in workgroups and committees within MCPS and Montgomery County government, representing the interests of our members and all children in decisions affecting the running of Montgomery County Public Schools. We bring information obtained through this work to our monthly Assembly so that our Delegates can decide the direction of our organizational advocacy. Once our membership has adopted a position, local PTAs, council officers, committees, AVPs, and cluster coordinators all work to advance that position.

MCCPTA also works to strengthen each local unit by facilitating the sharing of information and experience and providing leadership training in many areas, including but not limited to:

The National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs
[Building the Home-School Partnership Resource Notebook](#) developed in conjunction with MCPS
Advocacy as Focused Persuasion
Organizational Structure and Supports - from by-laws to Robert's Rules
Goal Setting

There are no restrictions on membership; any person can join, even if they do not have any children in the public schools. To learn more about PTA, please read [What is PTA?](#) <http://www.pta.org/1169.asp>. If you want to be a voice for children, contact a school near you and ask to join their PTA!

News From Maryland PTA - It seems as if this year is just zipping by and for many of you, it is time to form your Nominating Committee.

Please review your bylaws under Article VI: Officers and Their Elections, Section 3 for the specifics of your units nominating committee. We have posted on the website Quick Tips information on Nominating Committees as well as Tips for Elections.

Remember: Only members may vote or be elected - Have your current membership list available at the time of elections - Set up a membership table on the day of the elections - The president **may not** be a member of the nominating committee. - Maryland PTA has mailed a nominating packet to all local units for positions on the Board of Directors of Maryland PTA. This packet is also on our website. Please take a moment and review the information. The only way that Maryland PTA can remain strong for our locals is for members to step up. In the members' only section, you can also review the current Maryland PTA bylaws.

I am encouraging you to please share the information with your members. We still have approx. 150 local units who have not reported any dues to the state office. Please send in your membership dues by March 31, 2009. While membership will continue to be open year round, Maryland PTA is required to submit a final report of our locals for the 08-09 school year to National PTA so that they can prepare for the National Convention June 26-28, 2009.

Don't forget to check the calendar for a list of trainings. If you have not allocated money in your budget for Summer Leadership Conference, there is still time to amend your budget to include this very important expense. Training is a legitimate expense and is a requirement of the IRS to maintain our 501(c)3 status.

Thank you for what you do for all of our children.

Debbie Ritchie, President 2007-2009, Maryland PTA
president@mdpta.org

Maryland PTA Upcoming Dates for Training

Regional Trainings
August 22, 2009 - MDPTA Office
9am - 3 pm

Financial Training
August 15, 2009 - MDPTA Office 9am - 3pm
October 17, 2009 - MDPTA Office 9am - 3pm

Reminder - Mark your calendars for MCCPTA Spring Training on June 1, 2009, for local PTA leadership at Blake High School. More information about training sessions offered will be posted soon. PTA leadership is encouraged to attend the spring training offered by MCCPTA to help PTAs get off to a good start in the upcoming school year.

MCPS Volunteer Champion of the Year - Congratulations to the Arcola ES PTA on winning the MCPS Volunteer Champion of the Year award for their innovative Bilingual Buddies program! Arcola's program pairs bilingual parents with parents who don't speak English in a simple, straightforward process that has dramatically increased parent participation in school events and doubled the membership of their PTA! The Arcola ES PTA will be honored at the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education's annual Champions for Children Gala, which will take place April 21, 2009, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

Kay Romero

Draft Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly February 24, 2009 Carver Educational Service Center

From 6:30-7:30, Dr. Susan W. Hammond & Gwendolyn J. Mason presented a program entitled "Special Education in MCPS: Diverse Learners & Individualized Programs."

After the program ended, and before calling the meeting to order, the Wellness Workgroup conducted a survey of the members.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:47 pm. A quorum was present.

Merry Eisner, VP Education, read the PTA Mission.

Liz Wheeler, VP Administration, announced that the following schools had not yet paid MCCPTA dues, and Delegates from those schools were not eligible to vote at the Delegates Assembly (DA):

Brookhaven	Weller Road
Burnt Mills	Gaithersburg ES
East Silver Spring	Harmony Hills
Watkins Mill	

Liz Wheeler then asked if anyone from any of those schools was present: no one responded.

MCCPTA President Kay Romero introduced Vicki Rafel as Parliamentarian and went over the information that was in the Delegate's folders to be taken back to their school PTAs to share.

The Agenda was approved, as amended by including a motion to be introduced by Magruder Delegates under New Business.

The January Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report. Dale Ryan, Treasurer, presented the Budget. She indicated that income was less than expenditures, but that there were sufficient funds in reserve. Expenses are on target. MCCPTA has leased a new photocopier, resulting in cutting monthly maintenance costs. MCCPTA has received its letter from the state certifying that it is a charitable organization through 12/31/09. Locals need to file 990 forms with the state.

Officer Reports

Rebecca Smondrowski, VP Legislation, reported on this year's strategy for Annapolis. She has organized weekly trips during the legislative session for smaller groups divided by cluster. Future dates are: 3/4, 3/18, and 3/25 in the mornings. Carpools should leave by 8:30 am. She urged delegates to attend and to pass the information to the schools. Meetings with the state delegates are scheduled for 9:30 am, and the legislative session begins at 10:00 am. The MCCPTA visitors are announced from the House and Senate floors. Rebecca can set up meetings with state Delegates and Senators, as well as tours of the capital. The purpose of the visits is to let legislators know that MCCPTA cares about what they are doing to express support for delivering full funding to MCPS programs. The Board of Education and the County Council have urged this advocacy in Annapolis.

Jeanne Ellinport, Legislative Committee member, indicated that the budget and implementing slots are the most significant issues this session. She indicated that the list of significant bills would be put on the website.

Rebecca Smondrowski further reported that she and Kay Romero had testified in Annapolis with regard to the Capital Improvement Program and Aging Schools Program. Another parent stated that she has testified with regard to peanut allergy legislation.

Delegates were urged to volunteer to give testimony. However, they were cautioned that they should not state they represent MCCPTA on positions unless authorized to do so. MCCPTA testimonies are on the website.

Liz Wheeler, VP Administration, reminded delegates that locals' by-laws needed to be current. She announced that CIP testimony before the County Council on February 10 had been scheduled hastily and thanked everyone for their participation. She announced that Operating Budget testimony before the County Council is scheduled for April 15 and 16. Time slots for clusters will be posted. Individuals are also allowed to testify.

Steve Augustino, CIP Chair, encouraged everyone to attend meetings in Annapolis because the budget is the most important issue this year. The MCCPTA is using every effort to get \$200 million in construction funding. He indicated that it is unclear how much stimulus money the county will be getting. He pointed out there is \$4 billion for energy efficiency that could be used to retrofit schools and there is additional funding through the U.S. Department of Education. He urged delegates to e-mail him with ideas.

Pam Moomau, Operating Budget Chair, reported on changes in the Operating Budget based on the stimulus. Title I funding increased \$6.1 million and MCPS will increase the number of Title I schools from 15 to 18, adding Rosemont, Brown Station and Watkins Mill. In addition, IDEA funding increased, and MCPS will increase full-day head start at 21 schools in FY 10. Proposed Special Education funding cuts for FY 2010 will be restored in the next budget with IDEA funding. The MCPS website can provide more details. In addition, federal stimulus funds should result in Governor O'Malley supporting full GCEI funding, which should, in turn, result in \$22 million for Montgomery County. In addition, the State made an error in calculating Thornton funding last year. This should result in \$23.7 million more for the county. However, because the budget projections for 2011 are low, those funds may be put toward reserves.

Joe Stewart, By-laws Committee Chair, reported that MCCPTA by-laws revisions will be presented at the next Board of Directors Meeting and will be voted on by the Delegates in April.

New Business

Steven Augustino introduced the CIP Committee Motion. After discussion, including several endorsements and one statement in opposition, the resolution passed as amended to clarify a redundancy.

Resolution on the FY 2010 Capital Improvement Program Budget From the MCCPTA CIP Committee

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2008, the Montgomery County Board of Education approved a FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request totaling \$200.7 million and an amended FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) request totaling \$1.3 billion;

WHEREAS, the FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request assumes the availability of sufficient funding sources from the state and county budgets, including \$40 million in state school construction funding;

WHEREAS, in this fiscal environment, the availability of sufficient funding is subject to significant uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the projects planned in the FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request and the amended FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program would provide critical school additions, modernizations and other improvements to provide students with safe, secure and adequate learning facilities;

THEREFORE, the MCCPTA RESOLVES:

THAT the County and State should provide adequate funding to ensure that the FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request and the amended FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program may proceed forward as planned;

THAT the State should provide school construction funding to the County in an amount of at least \$40 million;

THAT the County and the Board of Education should strive to reconcile any gap in available funding so as not to harm the educational opportunities provided to all students or to threaten the health, safety or welfare of students;

THAT in the event adequate funds are not available in FY 2010, MCCPTA supports prioritizing available funds to ensure that planned school additions and modernizations are not delayed; and

THAT MCCPTA further supports prioritizing available funds to ensure that the HVAC Replacement, Roof Replacement, Restroom Renovation, Building Modifications and Program Improvements and Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement county-wide projects may proceed without delay.

Merry Eisner introduced a resolution expressing opposition to school system pilots without appropriate parent notice and input. The resolution passed as read.

Resolution on School System Pilots

Whereas, The National PTA adopted a resolution in 1990 titled "The Commercial Exploitation of Students in School"; and

Whereas, The National PTA Executive Committee adopted in 1991 "National Principles for Corporate Involvement in the Schools"; and

Whereas, In February, 2008 Montgomery County Public Schools Transportation Department entered into a pilot program with BusRadio; and

Whereas, In December 2008, the Montgomery County Public Schools Transportation Department requested parent participation in a proposed workgroup to review BusRadio for possible expansion to all school buses in the county; and

Whereas, A pilot program of BusRadio was already in progress for approximately 10 months before parents were asked by the school system to participate in the workgroup; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Montgomery County Council of PTAs will not support any school pilot programs for students that omit parental input and feedback before any pilot programs begin, and be it

Resolved, that parental input and feedback gathered by MCPS will be done in languages spoken in school communities.

Susan Thomas and Ted Willard, on behalf of the Gifted Child Committee introduced a Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction. The Resolution will be voted on at the March Delegates Assembly. Clarifying questions were asked by many Delegates.

Proposed Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction from the MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee

Whereas:

MCPS Strategic Plan states that “A high-quality education is the fundamental right of every child.”

MCCPTA believes that, to ensure that right, every child should be appropriately challenged in accordance with his or her academic ability, motivation and interests.

MCCPTA passed a *Resolution on Mathematics* on April 24, 2001, a *Resolution on Wider Use of the Methodologies Used in Magnet Programs* on January 24, 2006, and a *Resolution on Gifted and Talented Curriculum in Middle Schools* on April 25, 2006.

The MCPS Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction is working on recommended changes to *Policy IOA: Gifted and Talented Education* for the MCPS Board of Education’s consideration in 2009.

Therefore be it Resolved:

MCPS must identify students who need additional academic challenge beyond that which is provided to similar aged peers.

MCPS must continue to provide global screening for all students in grade 2 to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must provide additional screenings throughout elementary school, middle school and high school to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must inform parents when their children need additional academic challenge and must inform parents how MCPS will ensure that those needs are met.

MCPS must provide students who need additional academic challenge with instruction that is accelerated and enriched.

MCPS must ensure that accelerated and enriched instruction is delivered consistently and with fidelity in every school across the county.

MCPS must ensure that students are given the opportunity to work in groups of students with similar academic abilities, motivation, and interests.

MCPS must provide curriculum resources and professional development to teachers and administrators to ensure that students are provided with accelerated and enriched instruction in accordance with research-based best practices.

MCPS must monitor the implementation and effectiveness of accelerated and enriched instruction by collecting, analyzing, monitoring and publishing key data measuring student participation and performance in grades K-12 in all core subject areas.

Laura Siegel, on behalf of the Churchill Cluster, introduced a Motion on Curricular Fees to be voted on at the March Delegates Assembly. The Motion follows:

MOTION REGARDING CURRICULAR FEES

Students are entitled to a free public education. As MCPS and the Board of Education review changes to the policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees, MCCPTA wants to ensure that these changes do not result in any reduction in the level of services as it relates to any of the following:

1- the quality of instruction,

- 2- the quality of the curriculum,
- 3- the assortment of course offerings,
- 4- the level of student achievement.

MCCPTA, parents and students should be notified of any proposed changes to policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees. These stakeholders should have an opportunity to provide public comment before any new procedures are put into place.

Joe Stewart, on behalf of the Magruder Cluster, introduced a motion on Delegates' duties at Delegates Assemblies to be voted on at the March Delegates Assembly.

**Proposed Resolution on the Duties of MCCPTA Delegates
as approved by Magruder High School PTSA on February 17, 2009**

Whereas, when the MCCPTA Delegates are aware of the desired will of the PTA on a particular matter scheduled for consideration before the MCCPTA, the Delegates are required (by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition—Duties of Delegates, page 586) to represent the will of the PTA with their votes, even if it is different from their personal position on the matter.

Be it resolved, that in cases where the will of the PTA is not clear, or if revisions are proposed that alter the particular matter being considered, the Delegates are expected to use their best judgment to vote in a manner that is consistent with the will of the PTA as established at a PTA meeting.

Kay Romero asked whether Delegates favored a May Delegates Assembly. The Delegates voted not to hold an Assembly in May.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Q. Bernardo, Secretary, Board of Directors

**Proposed MCCPTA Resolution on Indoor Air Quality at MCPS Schools
From the MCCPTA Safety Committee
To be presented at the March 24, 2009 Delegate Assembly**

WHEREAS The National PTA has urged local units to work with school administrators and boards of education to ensure that school heating, ventilation, and air conditioning operation and maintenance plans comply with the highest current standards supplied by accepted experts.

WHEREAS Children may be especially susceptible to air pollution because the same concentration of pollution will result in a higher body burden in children than adults because children breathe a greater volume of air relative to their body weight.

WHEREAS Portables are a particular concern because most are stand alone units that are subject to unique challenges. They are vulnerable to weather conditions, water infiltration, security issues, pest infestation, and building pressurization problems that compromise the safety and health of our children.

WHEREAS The poor quality of existing MCPS portables in combination with the limited staff resources at MCPS in completing proactive maintenance goals results in continuous problems with water infiltration, mold growth, pest infestation, and CO2 levels higher than the recommended level (1000 ppm.)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that MCCPTA requests the following actions be taken by MCPS to move forward in efforts toward providing a safe and healthy environment for our children, staff and administrators. These actions include but are not limited to:

- A two-year carpet removal plan for portables beginning this summer, replacing with tile or other mold resistant material. (Carpets remaining are likely to be infested with mites and may contain mold.)
 - For any portable HVACs with a history of being serviced for moisture issues, replacement of any fiberglass lining with Rubberflex or other insulation that can be cleaned. (Some portables include HVACs with fiberglass lining that cannot be cleaned properly when mold spores attach.)
 - Annual “walk-through” inspections of all school buildings and portables, as recommended by EPAs “Tools for Schools Program.”
 - HVAC staff and/or other staff to help Indoor Air Quality meet demands and increase the number of Building Maintenance Plans (BMPs).
 - Disclosure to parents whenever there is an Indoor Air Quality Complaint at their school (in buildings or in portables.)
- MCPS and school communities need to collaborate and communicate with each other on air quality concerns.
- Maintenance logs must be easily accessible for all parents, staff and administrators.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Education create a policy on MCPS’ commitment to “air quality” in all classrooms with measurable performance objectives and recognize ”air quality” as a health concern for all children.

MCCPTA understands the fiscal constraints this year and implores MCPS to include more comprehensive specifications when leasing/ purchasing portables in future years. Energy efficient HVACs, better building designs and materials will result in improved air quality for our children.

Supporting Documentation:

"**WHEREAS** The National PTA has urged local units to work with school administrators and boards of education to ensure that school heating, ventilation, and air conditioning operation and maintenance plans comply with the highest current standards supplied by accepted experts."

---This is taken from the National PTA Resolution: "School Buildings' and Portable Classrooms' Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)" and can be found at: <http://www.pta.org/2017.htm>

---This paragraph sets up the directive from National PTA, and introduces one reason why we are presenting this resolution.

"**WHEREAS** Children may be especially susceptible to air pollution because the same concentration of pollutants will result in a higher body burden in children than adults because children breathe a greater volume of air relative to their body weight."

---This was taken word for word from the National PTA Resolution <http://www.pta.org/2017.htm>. EPA has recommendations for certain levels of carbon dioxide and biological contaminants, but these are guidelines based on studies of adult lungs. There are no EPA guidelines based on air quality studies for children, whose lungs breathe in more air and can be more affected by air pollution. This paragraph introduces another reason for this resolution.

"**WHEREAS** Portables are a particular concern because most are stand alone units that are subject to unique challenges. They are vulnerable to weather conditions, water infiltration, security issues, pest infestation, and building pressurization problems that compromise the safety and health of our children."

---Small stand alone units are more susceptible to water damage, when compared to school buildings. Although school buildings present their own problems with lack of proactive maintenance, most portable classrooms are leased, not owned by MCPS. These leased units have been found to have design flaws that can be subject to water infiltration. Rain/ wind/ nearby sewer receptacles/ idling cars and buses can create poor air quality inside a portable. It is difficult to prevent water infiltration where the siding meets the floor board. Many MCPS portables have windows nailed shut because of design flaws in addition to preventing teachers from accidentally keeping windows open allowing rain to enter. The wind combined with improper ventilation and slight building imperfections, can have an affect on the pressurization of portables, making it possible for moisture to be sucked into the classroom. Roof leaks are frequent problems. The crawl spaces underneath can be homes for pests. Ants or termites can harbor where there is rotted wood from water damage. In a Code Blue, there are no bathrooms for children to use if they must stay inside a portable for a lengthy period. Children would not be as safe in a portable during a terrorist attack (biological or other.)

"WHEREAS The poor quality of existing MCPS portables in combination with the limited staff resources at MCPS in completing proactive maintenance goals result in continuous problems with water infiltration, mold growth, pest infestation, and CO2 levels higher than the recommended level (1000 ppm.)"

---Most portables on MCPS properties were leased with minimum specifications, causing windows to be nailed shut and expensive maintenance costs through the life of the portable. Teachers and administration do not pay as close attention when damage occurs in portables. It has been reported to the Safety Committee that some administrators and teachers are afraid to report problems with portables. Water problems often go unreported until it is too late, and children begin to suffer health symptoms, such as what occurred at Bells Mill ES three years ago. While building service managers should be changing filters quarterly and inspecting/vacuuming the coils in the HVAC systems, parents have expressed concern that this isn't being done regularly at all schools. MCPS testing of carbon dioxide have shown levels higher than recommended by ASHRAE and OSHA, over 1,000 ppm (for more information on CO2 comfort levels: http://www.engineeringtoolbox.com/co2-comfort-level-d_1024.html.) The MCPS budget recommendations will result in a loss of 7.5 positions in maintenance. Additional HVAC mechanics are needed to keep up with maintenance/ air quality demands. IAQ staff is barely keeping up with IAQ complaints and is not able to keep up with proactive goals. The IAQ Department is still acting more on a reactive basis instead of a proactive one, although progress has been made. Portables have been inspected at least once in the past couple of years and IAQ is focusing on 93 portables that are rated in "fair" condition.

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that MCCPTA requests the following actions be taken by MCPS to move forward in efforts toward providing a safe and healthy environment for our children, staff and administrators. These actions include but are not limited to:

- A two-year carpet removal plan for portables beginning this summer, replacing with tile or other mold resistant material. (Carpets remaining are likely to be infested with mites and may contain mold.)
- For any portable HVACs with a history of being serviced for moisture issues, replacement of any fiberglass lining with Rubberflex or other insulation that can be cleaned. (Some portables include HVACs with fiberglass lining that cannot be cleaned properly when mold spores attach.)
- Annual "walk-through" inspections of all school buildings and portables, as recommended by EPAs "Tools for Schools Program."
- HVAC staff and/or other staff to help Indoor Air Quality meet demands and increase the number of Building Maintenance Plans (BMPs).
- Disclosure to parents whenever there is an Indoor Air Quality Complaint at their school (in buildings or in portables.) MCPS and school communities need to collaborate and communicate with each other on air quality concerns.
- Maintenance logs must be easily accessible for all parents, staff and administrators."

---While MCPS no longer leases new portables with carpets, some existing portables still have carpets. Carpets, while being helpful in diffusing acoustical sounds, can collect dust mites. Moisture can be absorbed in carpets and mold can grow. Here is what the EPA says about carpets in classrooms:

http://iaq.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/iaq.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=2970&p_created=1171986246&p_sid=7WC6qJrj&p_accessibility=0&p_redirect=&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPSZwX3NvcnRfYnk9JnBfZ3JpZHNvcnQ9JnBfcm93X2Nu dD02MCw2MCZwX3Byb2RzPTM3MiZwX2NhdHM9JnBfcHY9MS4zNzImcF9jdj0mcF9zZWfYy2hfdHlwZT1hbnN3ZXJzLnNIYXJjaF9ubCZwX3BhZ2U9MQ**&p_li=&p_topview=1.

---If fiberglass lining inside HVACs becomes wet, it becomes a breeding ground for mold. Another economical product exists called Rubberflex that can be cleaned, while fiberglass cannot. Here is a link about health risks of fiberglass lining: <http://www.greenbeaninsulation.com/documents/IndoorAirQualityofFiberglass.pdf>. Here is another link:

<https://www.schoolmoldhelp.org/content/view/78/187/>. MCPS has already replaced some HVAC fiberglass lining with Rubberflex, but we want MCPS to be proactive in their efforts. If the fiberglass has ever been subject to moisture, we want it replaced. We don't want to wait until there is an indoor air quality complaint, using our children as barometers for mold in HVAC systems.

---The EPA recommends annual walkthroughs as the #2 way to improve indoor air quality in schools. Walkthroughs identify problems or potential problems with mold. Here is a Youtube video with an example of a walkthrough:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVIThSXKbv0>. Temperature and humidity levels, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide levels are checked during a walkthrough and priorities are set for fixing problems.

---MCPS cannot keep up with the demand for HVAC mechanics, even though the number of portables has been reduced substantially over the past few years. Before the year 2000, MCPS set a goal to create Building Maintenance Plans for all schools, yet in 2009 only about 60 schools have BMPs. MCPS is only able to add BMPs to 2 or 3 additional schools per

year with the current staff-meaning many of our schools do not have a complete maintenance plan to establish complete maintenance care.

---Parents are often not notified when there is an indoor air quality issue at their school. This is an issue that can affect the health of our children, so parents should be notified. Being upfront with parents from the beginning can create a more collaborative atmosphere. Follow-up communication is essential to ensure parents that an issue is resolved.

---Maintenance logs are not easily available and are not all kept in a central location at MCPS. Parents, teachers and administrators should be able to inquire and review complete school maintenance logs and work order requests. There is no MCPS policy that requires transparency to the public on maintenance or IAQ service calls.

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Education create a policy on MCPS' commitment to "air quality" in all classrooms with measurable performance objectives and recognize "air quality" as a health concern for all children."

---There is no MCPS policy on indoor air quality listed in the "MCPS Policy and Regulations Handbook." There is some language on protecting the health of children with allergies in Regulation JPD-RA. There is some language on energy conservation in Policy ECA. But there is nothing about indoor air quality as a health concern. This statement applies to all classrooms, not just portable classrooms. If measurable performance objectives are created based on a policy, then MCPS staff can be accountable for the health and safety of our children in classrooms.

"MCCPTA understands the fiscal constraints this year and implores MCPS to include more comprehensive specifications when leasing/ purchasing portables in future years. Energy efficient HVACs, better building designs and materials will result in improved air quality for our children."

---Green portables exist that meet LEED certification requirements, but they are more expensive. Leased portables come out of current revenue and MCPS has not planned for green portables this year. But, looking to future years, MCPS should look at alternatives that would increase the health and safety of our kids which in turn will be less costly to maintain over time.

Additional links that can be insightful:

EPA Tools for Schools Program: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/actionkit.html>

NCEF-National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities provides a resource list on Indoor Air Quality
<http://www.edfacilities.org/rl/iaq.cfm>

The Center for School Mold Help:

<http://www.schoolmoldhelp.org/content/category/4/21/41/>

Newsletters on school indoor air quality from states in the Northwest:

http://www.energy.wsu.edu/pubs/default.cfm#iaq_schools

The Collaborative for High Performance Schools: <http://www.chps.net/>

Pressurization in Commercial Buildings: http://www.trane.com/Commercial/library/vol31_2/index.asp

WUSA article about no regulations on IAQ for schools:

http://www.wusa9.com/rss/local_article.aspx?storyid=78450&provider=email

***(THE PROPOSED REVISIONS ARE UNDERLINED)**

Proposed Revisions to the MCCPTA Bylaws

From the MCCPTA Bylaws Committee

To be introduced at the March 24, 2009 Delegate Assembly

1. Temporary Appointments

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 6. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice-president for educational issues shall become acting president until a replacement has been elected at a Delegate Assembly. A vacancy in any office other than president may be filled by a temporary appointment made by the president and approved by the Board of Directors until such vacancy can be filled pursuant to the process set forth in this Article.

Section 7. The seated nominating committee will identify a nominee to fill a vacancy in any office within two (2) weeks of notification of said vacancy. Notification of the election to fill the vacancy will be made prior to the delegate assembly at which the election will occur.

Section 6. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice-president for educational issues shall become acting president until a replacement has been elected at a Delegate Assembly. A vacancy in any office other than president may be filled by a temporary appointment made by the president **to take effect immediately and to be ratified** by the Board of Directors **at the next meeting. This appointment remains in effect** until such vacancy can be filled pursuant to the process set forth in this Article.

Section 7. The seated nominating committee will identify a nominee to fill a vacancy in any office within **four (4)** weeks of notification of said vacancy. Notification of the election to fill the vacancy will be made prior to the delegate assembly at which the election will occur.

Rationale:

This change would add flexibility for the president to immediately fill a position so that important work of the council will not be interrupted by a vacancy in the executive committee. The Bylaws committee also believes that extending the time the nominating committee has to find a permanent replacement will allow for a more thorough process.

2. Recording Secretary for Board of Directors Meetings duties

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 3. Secretaries

b. The recording secretary for board of directors meetings shall record and maintain the minutes of all board of directors meetings, shall act as recording secretary for delegate assemblies in the absence of the recording secretary for delegate assemblies, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

b. The recording secretary for board of directors meetings shall record and maintain the minutes of all board of directors meetings, **and** shall act as recording secretary for delegate assemblies in the absence of the recording secretary for delegate assemblies. **The recording secretary for board of directors meetings shall also hold and preserve the essential documents of the association such as the Charter of MCCPTA, the Articles of Incorporation, Certification of Non-profit Status and current Bylaws** and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Rationale:

The Bylaws committee believes that the bylaws need to clearly state what the essential documents of the council are and who is responsible for maintaining and retaining such documents.

3. Quorum

ARTICLE X: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 8. At all meetings of the board of directors, a majority of twenty-five (25) members of the board of directors, including a majority of the elected officers in the 25, shall constitute a quorum of business.

This amendment was passed by the MCCPTA Delegates on April 22, 2008.

#Section 8. At all meetings of the board of directors, a majority of the members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Rationale:

Pounded articles in the Bylaws template cannot be altered or amended in any way.

MCCPTA Committee Reports

MCCPTA Capital Improvement Program Committee Report

Chair: Steve Augustino

1. **Budget update.** On February 10, Kay Romero, on behalf of MCCPTA, and many clusters provided testimony to the County Council on the Board of Education's proposed FY 2010 CIP budget and amendments to the six-year CIP. Thanks to all clusters who were able to testify on such short notice.

Also in February, Kay Romero testified before the House Appropriations Committee in Annapolis in support of Governor O'Malley's proposed \$260.3 million budget for school construction aid. Kay testified that these funds are necessary to ensure that counties are able to proceed with critical addition, modernization and facility improvement projects to benefit

our students. MCCPTA continues to work with legislators to obtain at least the \$40 million in school construction funding for Montgomery County that is assumed in the FY 2010 CIP budget.

2. CIP Resolution. The CIP Resolution was adopted by the Delegates Assembly in February.

3. Restroom Assessments. In January, Kay Romero and I met with Joe Lavorgna and his staff to discuss the process for conducting the next round of restroom renovations. In the next full CIP (FY 2011-16), MCPS plans to assess 102 schools and propose a schedule for completing renovations at these schools. We have proposed a process to MCPS whereby each cluster would provide written comments on the condition of restrooms at the 102 schools. These written comments would be provided to inspectors prior to their evaluation of the schools in question. MCPS has responded favorably to this suggestion, and we are working with Joe Lavorgna to ensure that comments may be provided in a timely manner.

4. Looking Ahead. The County Council Education Committee is reviewing the proposed CIP budget, including MCPS expenditures on the purchase of Promethian brand electronic whiteboards for schools. We are monitoring the Ed Committee's deliberations and intend to provide input to assist the Committee's analysis.

MCCPTA Communications Committee Report

Chair: Patti Twigg, listservsmod@mccpta.com

1) Website:

Website Coordinators:

Sharon Goodall webmaster@mccpta.com

Lin-Lin Mao webmaster@mccpta.com

The Website subcommittee updated the MCCPTA website with the following:

Webpages updated in February:

- MCCPTA Homepage
- MCCPTA Calendar
- Testimonies, Press Releases, & Correspondence
- Local PTA's Websites
- Capital Improvement Program Committee
- Operating Budget Committee
- Dues
- Minutes from MCCPTA meetings
- Nominating Committee
- Special Events – MCCPTA Presidents and Principals Dinner
- MCCPTA Standing Committees 2008-2009
- Archived MCCPTA President's Letters & Committee Reports

Other additions:

- February 2009 MCCPTA Presidents Letter
- February 2009 Committee Reports: Capital Improvement Program, Communications, Cultural Arts, Grading and Reporting, Health, Legislative, Membership, Nominating, Operating Budget, Presidents and Principals Dinner, Reflections, Safety, Special Education, Training
- Updated Spotlight on MCCPTA homepage
- "Thanksgiving in February" materials
- Items for newsletters from Summer Food Service Program
- YMCA Youth & Family Services Parenting Classes – Spring schedules in English and Spanish
- Link to Maryland PTA Legislative Platform 2009
- Links to Maryland PTA Membership Book 2008, and Cash Encounters Booklet 2008-2009
- Link to 2008 Maryland Student Records System Manual
- February Delegates Assembly Program Agenda
- Free Registration Winners to the MDPTA Summer Leadership conference on July 18, 2009

- Updated Dues Voucher
- Maryland PTA Election Tip Sheet
- Quick Tips about PTA Nominating Committees
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE, subject: Update on Implementation of the Bridge Plan/High School Assessments, February 9, 2009
- MCCPTA Testimony to BOE on High School Plus, February 9, 2009
- MCCPTA Letter to Montgomery County Council about Testimony Communications, February 10, 2009
- Cluster Testimonies and MCCPTA Testimony Before the Montgomery County Council on FY 2010 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program, February 10, 2009
- Thank you letter from Kay Romero to Cluster Coordinators for their CIP testimonies before the Montgomery County Council, February 14, 2009
- MCCPTA Testimony on School Construction before the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development, Public School Construction, Annapolis, MD, February 19, 2009
- MCCPTA Testimony about Learning Centers for 2/23 Board of Education Meeting- Public Comments

Updated committee chair listings and email addresses.

Committee chairs, please look at your committee's website page and let the Website subcommittee know of any changes you would like to make. All MCCPTA standing committees website pages can be accessed from the following link: <http://mccpta.net/committees.html>.

Officers, please take a look at the other MCCPTA website pages and let us know if there is information that is no longer relevant or needs to be updated. The MCCPTA website is at <http://mccpta.net>.

2) Listservs:

Listsers Moderator:

Patti Twigg listsersmod@mccpta.com

As of February 28, 2009 membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listsers	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA Board	86	0
MCCPTA Bulletin	617	+1
MCCPTA Delegates	478	+2
MCCPTA Presidents	289	0
MCCPTA Treasurers	218	0

The auto-reminder calendar for the Bulletin and BOD listsers has been updated as meetings and events are scheduled or changed.

Members have been added to and removed from the various listsers as requested.

Assistance has been given to locals' listsers moderators as requested.

3) Public Relations/Publicity:

Sub-committee Chair:

Lee Ann Doerflinger

I volunteered to take the position of chairing this subcommittee in the week following the BOD meeting on February 5, 2009. Since then, I have written several press releases and sent them to the *Washington Post*, the *Gazette* newspapers, the *Sentinel* papers, and the *Washington Examiner*, and drafted two letters for Kay Romero, president of MCCPTA.

I have three goals for the next few weeks:

- Draft procedure guidelines for press releases so that it will be clear how to get information on the various activities and committees of MCCPTA out to the press. Currently, I am simply writing up the things that look most important which are then reviewed by Kay Romero and sent out to the press via e-mail.
- Identify media outlets, including radio and local television, in addition to the newspaper contacts.
- Write a letter of introduction to all of these media outlets so they will have a number and e-mail address for MCCPTA immediately available to them.

4) 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!

MCCPTA Cultural Arts Committee Report

Chair: Priscilla Peterson

We are continuing to have a very good exchange of information on our PTArts listserv. Many of the Cultural Arts chairpersons in the county schools write in seeking information on what shows or performers are available that will tie in with particular subjects, which ones are best for certain age groups, price ranges, etc. Other members of the listserv often respond with recommendations of performers they have hired themselves. We also occasionally have members notifying everyone about upcoming performances that others are welcome to come and see, to preview if they are considering hiring them for their own schools.

At this time of the year, most schools' Cultural Arts budgets have either been spent or already designated toward performances that have been arranged for the spring, so things are beginning to slow down a bit. However, if any PTA members connected with their school's Cultural Arts program are still interested in joining the listserv, they may send their name, school and committee position to: PTArts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. They can also fee free to contact me at the email address listed below with any questions.

MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Report

Point of Contact: Merry Eisner

The CAA and CAC both met in February. The CAA covered both the curriculum that's available on-line to teachers and support staff in MCPS as well as the new communications being developed around the new fees. The CAC continues to allow interested parents to focus in on specific areas of MCPS curriculum. More specific information will be provided in next month's committee report. Additionally, regular committee meetings will be replaced this spring with the wonderful programs that Susan Thomas has put together for her committee. Finally, we have heard that a financial literacy course will be offered on-line this summer to high-school students. This, in part, is due to the advocacy efforts of MCCPTA who passed a resolution in the past calling for the availability of such a course to all high school students in the county.

MCCPTA Down County Consortium (DCC) Committee Report

Chair: Sally Tabor

The DCC Committee did not meet in February, but two clusters, Kennedy and Northwood, hosted a meeting with the BOE. Both meetings were well-attended by principals and PTA leaders from the cluster schools.

In addition, the Blair and Northwood clusters are starting a boundary committee to look at elementary school assignments for the following schools: Takoma Park ES, Piney Branch ES, East Silver Spring ES, and Sligo Creek ES. The two middle schools, which receive these students, Takoma Park MS and Silver Spring International MS are also represented on the Boundary Committee. The initial community meeting was held Tuesday, February 24, and the Boundary Committee meetings have been scheduled starting in March. The Boundary Study is being done because East Silver Spring is moving from a pre-K-2 school to a pre-K to 5th grade configuration and overcrowding at Sligo Creek needs to be relieved. Both ESS and TPES will have additions built starting next year.

The following communication was sent to DCC coordinators:

Dear DCC cluster coordinators,

This email with several issues/events that are coming up in March and April, on which I need a response from you:

1. --scheduling a March DCC cluster coordinators meeting
2. --participation in lobbying trips to Annapolis
3. --cluster testimony on Operating Budget before County Council

I would like to schedule a March cluster coordinators meeting after March 10. Tentative agenda items include: review of data from first round choice for DCC and MSMC for next fall; update on budget issues from our Community Superintendents; preparation for County Council testimony on operating budget; DCC leadership for next year.

ACTION NEEDED:

1. Here are some possible meeting dates—please let me your availability in the next few days:
 - Wed, March 11
 - Thurs, March 12
 - Mon, March 16
 - Wed, March 18
 - Mon, March 23
 - Wed, March 25
 - Thurs, March 26
 - Mon, March 30 (students have no school because it is the end of 3rd qtr)
2. Annapolis lobbying trips-night. There is a MCCPTA leadership trip planned for Monday, March 9, 6-8 pm with two school union groups. MCCPTA is encouraging BOD members to attend this meeting. I think I can go and drive. If you are interested in going, please respond and we'll arrange a carpool. You may also be able to carpool with staff from your school.
3. Annapolis lobbying trips-daytime. MCCPTA VP for Legislation, Rebecca S. has been setting up daytime lobbying trips to Annapolis by cluster. I have heard now at 2 different meetings that this is an important year for Montgomery County PTA leaders to come to Annapolis and talk to their delegates. MCCPTA will provide talking points on both operating and CIP issues. Rebecca will also set up meetings with our local delegations. She has already set up trip dates for Wed, March 18 and Wed, March 25. However, I cannot do either day as I am working, but I could do Tuesday, March 17, and there are several education-related bills that will have hearings that afternoon starting at 1 pm.

Please let me know if you are interested and available in going to a daytime lobbying trip on the following dates: March 17, March 18 or March 25. I think the proposed schedule starts at 10 am in Annapolis with time for a tour, meeting local delegates and Senators, and attending an afternoon hearing. Other interested PTA leaders and members are encouraged to go on these trips. I know that 2 Blair folks—Jeannie Philbin and Jill Ortman-Fouse have said that they are interested. Do you have others in your cluster who would come? We can try to carpool.
4. Operating budget testimony before County Council: Liz Wheeler told me that the DCC clusters are scheduled to testify on Wed., April 15. Please check your calendars and let me know if one of your coordinators can testify that night. There will also be testimony on April 16. I'll send more info about this later, but please let me and Liz know who will testify for your cluster.

MCCPTA Health Committee Report

Chair: Susan Young

The Montgomery County School Health Council met on February 19. The featured speaker was Dr. Harry Goodman, Director of the Office of Oral Health at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

Dr. Goodman presented the Maryland Strategic Plan for Improving Oral Health. The case of Deamonte Driver, a Prince George's County 12 year old, brought dental reform issues to the forefront. A Dental Action Committee (DAC) was

convened at DHMH and issued 7 main recommendations. The recommendations are supported by Governor O'Malley and Secretary Colmers.

Recommendations include:

- a single dental vendor for Medicaid;
- increase the Medicaid dental reimbursement rates;
- enhance the dental public health infrastructure (several counties statewide did not have a dental clinic for Medicaid patients);
- widen the scope of practice performed by a public health dental hygienist;
- training healthcare providers, including training dentists in working with pediatric patients, and training pediatricians to apply fluoride varnish;
- create a unified oral health message and a statewide oral health literacy campaign; and
- performing dental screenings in public schools.

Screenings in public schools are still being developed. They will be most likely be incorporated with the vision and hearing screenings, as opposed to an alternative option of requiring dental exams for all children prior to entering school. Parental consent will likely be passive, and the screenings would target students in public schools and Judy Centers in grades pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, 3rd grade, 7th grade and 9th grade. The plan would be instituted over three phases until all screenings are performed. Funding may be approved in the April 2010 budget with a goal of disbursement of funds between May and September 2011. For the complete DAC report go to:

[http://www.fha.state.md.us/pdf/oralhealth/DAC Final Report.pdf](http://www.fha.state.md.us/pdf/oralhealth/DAC%20Final%20Report.pdf)

MCCPTA High School Presidents Committee

Chair: Sharon St. Pierre

The Spring Forum will take place on Saturday, April 18th from 1-4 PM at Walt Whitman HS in the Media Center. This forum is an opportunity for high school PTSA presidents and their executive boards to get together to discuss issues, areas of concern and share best practices as it relates to high school.

MCCPTA Legislative Committee Report

Chair: Rebecca Smondrowski

One of our main objectives for the Legislative Committee this year has been working to establish relationships between MCCPTA and the other county organizations while increasing our advocacy in Annapolis. Working together adds strength to all of our organizations, and is a great chance for us to show support for each other while doubling our efforts to maintain funds for our schools.

In that vein, we have planned a couple of leadership events with MCEA (teachers unions), MCAASP (administration association), SEIU (service employees union), as well as the Retired Teachers union. These are evenings of advocacy for our Board members and Delegates and a chance to show the state that we are all working together to support the needs of our county. Monday, March 9th we will be holding one of those events from 6-8 at the House Building in Annapolis. I encourage every Board Member and Delegate to make joining us a top priority. Bus service and a box dinner will be provided, and it should prove to be a great evening of advocacy. (These are RSVP events.)

The Legislative committee also continues organizing weekly day trips for groups during the legislative session. We encourage everyone to attend and to pass the information on to the schools. Carpools should leave by 8:30am at the latest. Occasionally, meetings with the state delegates are scheduled for 9:30am and the legislative session begins at 10:00. If there in time, the MCCPTA visitors are announced from the House and Senate floors. Members are scheduled to meet with state Delegates and Senators based on their districts, and at noon we have been taking tours of the capital. The purpose of the visits is to let legislators know that MCCPTA cares about what they are doing, and to express support for delivering full funding to MCPS programs. The Board of Education and the County Council have urged this advocacy in Annapolis, and the Legislation really seems to notice that we are there. The feedback from our elected officials so far has been exceptional.

If anyone is interested in joining us for any of the upcoming trips, please contact Rebecca Smondrowski as soon as possible for the Guest List.

On the home-front, we are continuing to work with the MDPTA Legislative Committee, and are trying to keep current on all legislative issues and how they are affecting Montgomery County as well as the state. A list of current and significant

bills is on the website, and is being updated regularly. In addition, all MD House and Senate legislation can be tracked at <http://mlis.state.md.us>

On Thursday, February 19th Rebecca Smondrowski and Kay Romero testified in Annapolis with regard to the \$280 million Capital Improvement Program as well as the Aging Schools Program.

MCCPTA Nominating Committee Report

Chair: Carol Salisbury

The MCCPTA Nominating Committee is hard at work calling prospective candidates for MCCPTA Leadership positions. There are two openings on the Executive Committee: Vice President for Educational Issues and Vice President for Administration.

Nominees should represent the diversity and strength of our membership, continue to provide leadership and support for local PTAs in the coming year, and be committed to the overall mission of PTA. Our goal is to ensure that MCCPTA has strong and skillful leaders who will work together to advocate for our children.

If you, or someone you know is interested in serving in one of these positions and would like more information, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee as soon as possible.

MCCPTA Nominating Committee Timeline:

MARCH 15, 2009 - Area Nominating Committees and Cluster Nominating Committees submit nominations for Area VP and Cluster rep(s) to MCCPTA Nominating Committee.

MARCH 28, 2009 - MCCPTA Nominating Committee submits (publishes via listserv) nominee's names and qualifications for Area VPs, Cluster Coordinators, and MCCPTA officers to locals, delegates and MCCPTA Board of Directors.

APRIL 28, 2009 - Annual Elections are held. Nominations can be made from the floor if the candidate's permission has been given prior to nomination

MCCPTA Operating Budget Committee Report

Chair: Pam Moomau

There is some good news and some bad news on the MCPS Operating Budget front. In the current fiscal environment, it continues to be critical that the PTAs actively advocate for school funding.

The good news

The Federal fiscal stimulus bill is projected to provide assistance for our operating budget in several ways:

1. \$6.1 mil in Title I funding will provide for increasing the number of Title I schools from 27 to 30, increasing the number of full-day Head Start programs from 13 to 21, and retaining lower class sizes and additional academic supports in these schools.
2. \$15.3 mil in IDEA (special education) funding will allow the restoration of 20.5 elementary school special education positions that had been proposed in the budget the Board of Education adopted on February 9, allow the expansion of hours based staffing to 15 more middle schools, restore funding to certain middle school magnets that had been cut in the February 9 budget, restore the reimbursement rates on private placements to 80 percent, and provide some additional academic supports, including 2 counselor positions, staff development, and supports to prevent inappropriate special education designations of certain students.

[see: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=2470>

And

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/meetings/agenda/2008-09/2009-0223/8.0%20Operating%20Budget%20Amend%20w%20attach.pdf>

for more details]

3. The State of MD will receive federal stimulus funding, which the Governor has announced will in part support education in his proposed budget. Of particular significance to MCPS: (a) he pledges to fully fund the Geographic Cost of Education Index, which would mean an additional \$22 million to MCPS above what was projected in the

February 9 budget.; and (b) he recommends the state continue to fund its share of public employee pensions - worth \$125 million to MCPS in FY2010.

4. State Thornton money will be higher than projected based on a correction of a mistake the State made in its FY 2009 calculation of the aid formula; this will result in an additional \$23.7 million above projections in the February 9 budget. MCPS plans to use these funds to make payments to reserve funds that had been deferred in the February 9 budget - a necessary adjustment to catch up on required pension fund and other reserves. In addition, Montgomery County will be getting approximately \$24 million more from the state than originally planned for FY 2009. As the FY09 catch-up funds are non-recurring, and as the capital budget does not have as much dedicated stimulus funding for schools as the operating budget, MCCPTA may want to consider advocating that those funds be dedicated to the CIP.

The bad news

To put the recent MCPS budget amendments in context, the February 9 MCPS budget had incorporated a reduction of 280 positions. After the Feb 23 budget amendments, there is still a reduction of approximately 230-240 positions, as well as reductions in other expense categories.

Anticipated funding from Montgomery County, the far larger share (roughly $\frac{3}{4}$) of the MCPS budget, is less optimistic. When the Feb 9 budget was put together, the County Council had forecasted a "current services" deficit of about \$450 million - after public employee unions (including MCPS employees) had agreed to re-open their contracts and sacrifice their previously negotiated cost of living increases. Recent revisions to projected revenues put that deficit at approximately \$520 million. Since MCPS represents about half the County budget, that could translate to an additional \$35 million shortfall for MCPS. These projections have not taken account of anticipated stimulus funding at the local level. We do not yet have information as to what type of funding might be available for schools. The County Executive has been quoted as noting that stimulus funds are short-run, and thus the County would be wary of using them for possibly continuing expenses. The County Executive is expected to release his budget recommendations on March 16.

Advocacy needs

The next advocacy step will be reminding our State delegation that we are following the budget process in Annapolis, and expect them to advocate strongly for the school funding recommended in the Governor's budget. We will also need to monitor the County budget closely, again advocating strongly for school funding. Operating budget testimony before the County Council will be April 15 and 16. Cluster coordinators should be signing up with MCCPTA Administrative VP Liz Wheeler.

MCCPTA President's & Principal's Dinner Committee Report

Chair: Sharon St. Pierre

The Presidents and Principals Dinner will be held Wednesday, May 27th at 6 PM at the North Bethesda Marriott. There will be student entertainment including the Walter Johnson HS Jazz Combo and the Sherwood HS Rock and Roll Revival group. We are pleased to announce that Leon Harris, news anchor for Channel 7 and Shirley Brandman, BOE President will be our masters of ceremonies for the evening. It is a wonderful evening to come out and celebrate the achievements of PTAs. Principals are guests of the PTAs for this dinner.

Go to the MCCPTA website: www.mcccpta.com to get all the details regarding the Presidents and Principals Dinner. Look forward to seeing you in May!

MCCPTA Reflections Committee Report

Chair: Melissa McDonald

I am pleased to announce that the following MCPS students have been selected as Maryland PTA 2008-2009 Reflections award winners:

Outstanding Interpretation-Visual Arts*
Julie Zhu, Wootton HS

Outstanding Interpretation-Film
Kiera Murphy, Newport Mill MS

Outstanding Interpretation-Music*
Justin Hung, Potomac ES
Catherine Gao, Little Bennett ES

*Outstanding interpretation recipients will move forward to the National PTA competition.

Award of Excellence- Photography
John Cardea, Rocky Hill MS
Aaron Bernstein, Poolesville HS

Award of Merit- Photography
Alex Rubenstein, Northwest HS
Sajni Patel, Wootton HS

Award of Merit- Literature
Adele Gilman, Beverly Farms ES

Award of Merit- Music
Sandow Sinai, Poolesville HS

Award of Excellence - Visual Arts
Erica Tsou, Wootton HS

Award of Merit - Visual Arts
Max Anstine, Seven Locks ES
Chen Dou-Poolesville HS

Award of Merit - Dance
Hillary Templeton, Poolesville HS

A state awards ceremony will be held May 3, 2009 from 1-4 p.m. at Michael's in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

Several of the local PTAs have submitted information to the Gazette newspaper about their school's county winners, and articles have been appearing the past few weeks. In addition, I have sent a press release to the Gazette newspaper regarding the MCPS state award winners.

The MCCPTA award ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at the BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown. Invitations have been sent to the students and awards have been ordered. Several local chairpersons have volunteered their time to help organize the awards ceremony, but I still need a few more people to make the evening successful.

MCCPTA Safety Committee Report

Chair: Laurie Halverson

Indoor Air Quality: The Safety Committee approved a resolution on Indoor Air Quality at MCPS Schools. The resolution will be discussed at the MCCPTA Board meeting on March 5 and if the Board approves, it will be introduced to the Delegates at the March DA meeting.

On February 5, Laurie Halverson, Kay Romero and Rebecca Smondrowski met with Director of Facilities, Joe Lavorgna, Director of Construction, James Song and Supervisor of Indoor Air Quality, Sean Yarup to discuss portable concerns. Joe gave us a list of all portables and their inspection rating. Here are some things we learned:

- Joe's Department lost 7.5 positions with the budget amendment which will reflect painfully.
- A Cluster Coordinator last summer observed HVAC work on some portables and learned that filters at this particular school were the wrong size. We asked about this and Joe said there was a problem with the vendor delivering the wrong size frequently when orders were placed, so other schools experienced the same problem. MCPS has now switched vendors and the first delivery was 100% accurate.
- There are about 93 portables listed by the IAQ Department in "fair" condition. MCPS is focusing on making repairs to these portables.
- An indeterminable number of MCPS portables have fiberglass lining inside the HVAC system. This is allowed by building code, however, if the HVAC system has ever been damaged with moisture, fiberglass cannot be cleaned. Mold spores can attach and cannot be removed and often cannot be seen if visually checked. Another product exists that can be cleaned and MCPS already uses it they suspect mold, called Rubberflex. There currently are no plans to replace all fiberglass lining with Rubberflex. There are also no plans to remove all carpet
- About 75 units will be moved over the summer. There are 437 portables for class use currently at MCPS. Every summer, they send back 20-30 portables to the vendor.
- Site placement depends on many factors and is the result of collaboration between principals, staff and the community. Factors considered include blacktop available, exit door location, drainage issues, bus loop, parking areas, county codes, etc. An architectural engineer is involved to assure correct grading and drainage. Portables that are going to be moved over the summer are evaluated by Sean in February/ March. The Department of Construction is responsible for the movement of portables to another school. Once the move is completed, parents can expect the portables should be in good condition.

- It costs about \$75,000 in a year for one portable to be leased and installed on site. Joe says “green” portables or better quality portables are not an option this year because MCPS must use current revenue and cannot afford more expensive portables.

Joe, James and Sean expressed a desire to be as transparent as possible, but are concerned about putting data out without explanation. MCCPTA will have a meeting for all parents concerned about portables near the beginning of the 2009/10 school year.

Bullying Policy: MSDE has announced the completion of the “Maryland’s Model Anti-Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Policy.” The new policy prohibits bullying, harassment, or intimidation of any person on school property or at school-sponsored functions, or by the use of electronic technology at a public school. Reprisals against individuals reporting bullying also are prohibited.

By July 1, MCPS must send a copy of its policy to MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education.) This spring, MCPS will gather stakeholder input in developing the policy. The Safety Committee has informed MCPS that we would like a representative at the table for discussion and we are waiting for more details.

A bullying subcommittee has formed. If you are interested in being on the subcommittee, please contact Laurie Halverson. The Subcommittee Chair is Melissa Kupferschmid.

Visitor Management System: This month, we have not received feedback from any schools on this new security technology. If you have any comments or concerns, please contact Laurie Halverson.

MCCPTA Special Education Committee Report

Chair: Jeanne Taylor

Our last meeting of the school year was held on Monday, February 2, 2009. We showed the Rick Lavoie video, "Last One Picked, First One Picked On". Many felt this presentation was helpful but perhaps not as informative as Mr. Lavoie’s prior films. Due to the level of interest, information on how to purchase additional Rick Lavoie videos was sent to the Special Education Chair Listserv.

We are gearing up for our annual Special Education Awards ceremony. We have received almost fifty nominations, along two requests for deadline extensions. Many thanks to Sharon Goodall who updated our electronic submission form for us. Entertainment for the opening ceremony has been confirmed – the audience will be treated to the sounds of a band featuring three young musicians. The food order has been placed with Rock Terrace Bistro.

Janice Edwing, Special Education Chair for Darnestown ES, has been representing our committee on the GRIT Committee. Here is an excerpt from her last posting to our list:

Good Afternoon All: Please find January's Flash report from GRIT. Of extra special note this month is the last action item. MCPS is soliciting stakeholder feedback from special populations on the impact of policy IKA, Grading and Reporting. (It provides the grading and reporting website location with related documentation.)

Rudy Dockery, Special Education Chair for Galway ES, has been representing our committee on the Secondary Learning Center Transition Project Management Team.

Rudy was not able to attend one of the last meetings due to an injury.

We are very appreciative of Kay Romero’s public testimony to the BOE on the recent report published by MCPS on the closing of the Learning Centers. We continue to support a continuum of placement options for special education students.

There is no update on the replacement of the ES Chair who resigned because of a family commitment but another chair was recently identified for the Maryvale ES PTA.

MCCPTA Technology Committee Report

Chair: Linda B. White

The Technology Committee is in the process of gathering updates from MCPS staff Division of Career and Technology Education on integration of the Maryland Technology Standards into the curriculum and staff development. We are also working to set up a meeting with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer to get an update on their goals and vision for the next three years.

Some interesting News Clips related to Technology in the classroom and schools which reflect how quickly technology is changing the way we teach our children and how teachers will operate for the future:

The phrase “21st-century skills” is everywhere in education policy discussions these days, from faculty lounges to the highest echelons of the U.S. education system.

Broadly speaking, it refers to a push for schools to teach critical-thinking, analytical, and technology skills, in addition to the “soft skills” of creativity, collaboration, and communication that some experts argue will be in high demand as the world increasingly shifts to a global, entrepreneurial, and service-based workplace.

Spending Law Offers Educators Several Options for New Aid

By [Michelle R. Davis](#) and [Kathleen Kennedy Manzo](#)

Technology experts are advising school officials to look closely at the new federal economic-stimulus package for indirect as well as direct sources of aid for technology projects.

The \$787 billion stimulus bill, signed into law last week, includes \$650 million for an existing educational technology program and opens additional opportunities to find money for such purposes as improved broadband access for rural schools and enhanced data-management systems.

Handheld Electronic Device Helps 5th-Graders Learn

By [The Associated Press](#)

Searcy, Ark.

Class is in session and the children are at their desks ... except for that one student reclined on a beanbag in the corner with his thumbs on an electronic gadget.

But wait, he's not goofing off, he's learning.

What fifth grader Logan Glewen, 11, calls a "learning video game" is a big hit in the classroom of David Pietzman, who teaches math and science at Southwest Middle School. The device, which looks at first like a Gameboy or other gaming device popular among young people today - a toy forbidden in most classrooms - is the latest way technology...

Mobile technology for teachers soon

By **Vasudha Kamat.**

For teachers across the country, access to the latest information could soon be just a phone call -- or SMS -- away. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is all set to launch mobile technology to enable teachers to get the latest know-how in the teaching domain.

In an interview to *Education Plus*, Vasudha Kamat, Joint Director of Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) of the NCERT in New Delhi, said the mobile technology for teachers would be launched this year. “Almost all teachers have mobile phones. We will be creating a mobile phone portal for the purpose at CIET and create a database of teachers across the country,” said Ms. Kamat, who was in Puducherry for a seminar on Information and Communication Technology in education.

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 PTA's and PTSA's 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.

Summer Food Service Program- Would you like to get involved? *Please See Attached Flyer

Did you know that approximately 27% of the children in Montgomery County are eligible for free or reduced meals each school year? That equals 37,640 students. The Summer Food Service Program feeds approximately 6,000 – 7,000 children each day. Would you like to find out how to be a part of increasing this number? The one sure way to do this is by increasing the number of locations that provide the food and program. Once a site is qualified to participate in the Summer Food Service Program, all children at the site are eligible to receive meals at no cost! Are there members of your community that could benefit from the food services provided to needy children in the summer? Find out how your

community can become a qualified site and/or how to access these services by contacting the Division of Food and Nutrition Services of Montgomery County Public schools at 301-840-8170. More information available at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv

As a reminder, students can apply for the free and reduced-price meal program at any time during the school year. As you are aware, for many of our families, work, and subsequently income, declines in the winter months. It is important that these households apply for the meal benefit. If the student is currently eligible for reduced-price meals and the household income has declined, they should reapply as well. Applications, in multiple languages, are available on the Division of Food and Nutrition Service Web page at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv/farms/application.shtm>.

Please contact my office at 301-840-8155 if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance.

Thank you,

Kathleen C. Lazor, Director, Division of Food and Nutrition Services
Montgomery County Public Schools
301-840-8170,
301-840-4658 (fax)

All-Day Conference Set on Challenging 21st Century Learners

The Fifth Annual Partners for Rigor through Relevancy Conference, *Challenging 21st Century Learners—Connecting Classrooms*, will be held June 23, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Northwest High School located at 13501 Richter Farm Road in Germantown.

The one-day event will bring together school and community leaders with a stake in shaping the future of education in Montgomery County. Parents are invited to attend as an individual or a member of a team. Parent—Teacher Associations are encouraged to consider sponsoring a team from their schools.

All registration is online and includes meals and materials. An early-bird rate of \$20.00 per person is available through April 17, 2009. The conference website is: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/conf>

Keynote speaker, Dr. Ronald Ferguson, Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University, will address racial disparities in high-achieving suburban schools. The event will feature an incredible line-up of nationally renowned presenters and more than 25 breakout sessions targeting best practices within five conference strands. Additional information, including a downloadable flyer, is available on the conference website.

The conference is sponsored by Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery County Council of Parent—Teacher Associations, Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education, and The Universities at Shady Grove.

Please direct questions to conference coordinator, Laura Grace at 240-632-6937 or Laura_R_Grace@mcpsmd.org.

AWARDS - AWARDS - AWARDS

MCCPTA wishes to congratulate the following schools for winning cash awards for their schools in the **Drawing the Line on Under 21 Alcohol Use's "Commercial Challenge."** Roberto Clemente rocks with the most wins! The videos were fantastic and very professional! Thanks to the students and teachers who chose to spend time in this excellent learning/teaching opportunity on the dangers of alcohol use! This contest is held each year.

Middle Schools

First Place: Roberto Clemente MS-Media 8

Second Place: Roberto Clemente MS-Media 8

Honorable Mention: Roberto Clemente MS, Rocky Hill MS, Silver Spring International MS

High Schools

First Place: JF Kennedy HS-TV Production

Second Place: Springbrook HS-Springbrook Muslim Student Association

Honorable Mention: Bethesda Chevy Chase HS, Damascus HS, Einstein HS, JF Kennedy HS, Rockville HS

Reed S. Snyder Memorial Teacher Excellence Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2009 Reed S. Snyder Memorial Teacher Excellence Award. This is an award presented annually to a Montgomery County, Maryland, public school teacher who has made an exceptional contribution to the teaching profession. Any person may nominate a teacher. To nominate a teacher, please fill out the nomination form found on the website www.ReedSnyderAward.com and, per the instructions on the website, submit it with an essay no longer than two double-space pages describing why you think the teacher deserves this award. Nominations due by April 10, 2009.

The nomination form and accompanying essay should be sent via email to Entry@ReedSnyderAward.com. Please indicate the name of the nominated teacher in the subject line. A nomination can also be addressed to the Reed Snyder Award Committee and faxed to 301-330-4343. For more details please go to www.ReedSnyderAward.com. If neither of these options is possible for you, or for questions, please contact Marianne Koster at 301-840-8484.

MCCPTA Presidents and Principals Dinner Awards

Return forms by April 3, 2009

[Partners for Education Award](#)

[Maryland Life Membership Award](#)

For more information, details and nomination forms: <http://www.mccpta.com/index.html>

These award flyers and additional information were ponied to all school PTAs after the weather related cancellation of the January 27th Delegates Assembly. Please share with your PTA communities and submit your nominations. All items are also located on the MCCPTA website and posted to the MCCPTA Bulletin Listserv.

Maryland PTA News and Future Dates of Interest

SAVE THE TIME IN 2009!

July 18, 2009 - Summer Leadership Conference

The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute

Linthicum Heights, Maryland

November 13-14, 2009 94th Fall Convention

Holiday Inn & Conference Center

Frederick, Maryland

National PTA News and Future Dates of Interest

2009 PTA National Convention

113th Annual PTA National Convention & Exhibition

Friday, June 26–Monday, June 29, 2009

Greater Ft. Lauderdale Broward County Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Registration and hotel information will be available March 2009. For more information to help you plan, please email nptameetings@pta.org.

PTA Family Expo

PTA Family Expo! Is a one-day extravaganza providing moms, dads, caregivers, and kids amazing opportunities for fun, education, and tools to help families in today's modern world. The first Family Expo will be Saturday, June 27, 2009, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. <http://www.pta.org/2534.asp>

Types of PTAs

<http://www.pta.org/1162.asp>

Local PTAs

PTA at the local level is linked to the state PTA and the national PTA organization, forming a nationwide network of members working on behalf of all children and youth.

Because of its connections to the state and national PTAs, the local PTA is a valuable resource to its school community with:

1. access to programs to benefit children, youth, and their families
2. Recognition and size to influence the formulation of laws, policies, and practices—education or legislative.

Early Childhood PTAs

Preschool groups often round up parents from several neighborhoods and various early-childhood programs. They involve child-care providers, grandparents, and others concerned with the education and development of children from birth to age five.

Elementary/Middle School PTAs

PTAs serve as a type of forum where parents, teachers, administrators, and other concerned adults discuss ways to promote quality education, strive to expand the arts, encourage community involvement, and work for a healthy environment and safe neighborhoods.

Parent-Teacher-Student Associations

PTAs actually provide youth members with the opportunity to make a difference by developing leadership skills, learning about the legislative process, increasing their self-esteem, and contributing to the school. In turn, adult members gain a new perspective for program development, as well as acquire a better understanding of the youth of today.

Special Education PTAs

PTA believes that all children have the right to a quality public education, which allows each child the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential. Special Education PTAs are designed to help parents advocate for special-needs children.

PTA's Nonsectarian Policy

PTA welcomes into membership people representing a diversity of cultures, ethnic backgrounds, and political and religious beliefs. The purposes of the PTA acknowledge the importance of a spiritual life in the development of children and youth. As an association, PTA has the right to offer inspirational messages to open or close its meetings, but such messages by PTA leaders or invited religious leaders should be inspirational rather than sectarian, recognizing that in this pluralistic nation not all members share the same beliefs. Poetry, quotations from great men and women, uplifting anecdotes, and moments of quiet meditation can be used.

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**

March 2009

MCCPTA Calendar 2008-2009

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

Upcoming Calendar Items:

March

- 19 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 23 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 24 MCCPTA Program “Curriculum in MCPS” 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- 24 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm – 10:00pm

April

- 2 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm – 10:00pm
- 6 Grading and Reporting Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 20 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 22 Gifted Child Committee Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00 pm
- 23 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 28 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 6:30pm – 10:00pm
- 29 Reflections Award Ceremony at BlackRock Center for the Arts 6:30pm – 8:30pm

May

- 4 Special Education Recognition Ceremony at Rockville HS 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 4 Grading and Reporting Committee Meeting 8:00pm – 9:00pm
- 6 MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 6 Gifted Child Committee Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm
- 7 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm – 10:00pm
- 11 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 14 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 18 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 20 MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 21 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 27 MCCPTA Presidents and Principals Dinner at Marriott 6:00pm – 9:00pm