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**November 17, 2008**

**Happy Thanksgiving!** The year is moving along. As I wrap up my time at the Maryland PTA State Convention, I reflect on what it means to be a part of PTA. PTA means strong advocacy. Sometimes that advocacy can be easy and sometimes very time consuming. Many advocates do it day in and day out.

At our meeting with the Annapolis Delegation on Monday, November 10, we saw how that advocacy works. We had a large attendance of MCCPTA Officers, Area Vice Presidents, Cluster Coordinators and Committee Chairs along with the Montgomery County Delegation. There were many conversations related to school funding needs. I was proud to see PTA advocacy in action. I work with a group of well seasoned advocates who never lose sight of the bigger picture in our school funding needs. I want to personally thank all of our PTA advocates who sometimes never hear a thank you nor expect to. You are valued. Without our local PTA advocacy, MCCPTA would not be as strong as it is. There is a sense of real pride in knowing that you are making a difference.

On October 29, the Superintendent released his Recommended FY 2010 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program and Boundary Recommendations. The Capital Budget supports school construction and other major projects related to schools and

other facilities. On November 12 and November 13, MCCPTA, MCCPTA Cluster Coordinators, local PTAs, and community representatives gave CIP testimony related to their school funding needs. Everyone did a great job!

The testimonies, representing our various school cluster funding needs, will be posted for viewing on our MCCPTA webpage at <http://mccpta.net/pressReleases.html>, under MCCPTA Testimonies, Press Releases, & Correspondence. On November 20, 2008, the Board of Education takes action on boundaries and CIP items. The County Executive will issue his recommended FY09-14 CIP amendments for all county agencies by mid-January, when he will send it to the County Council. The Council will hold a hearing in early February and will conduct work sessions in March and April, before adopting an approved FY 2010 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2009-2014 CIP by the end of May.

At our last Delegates Assembly, the Delegates approved the MCCPTA Resolution on FY2010 Operating Budget Priorities and MCCPTA FY2010 Operating Budget Compact. Our resolution on budget priorities is the result of MCCPTA officers visiting PTA leadership in each area of the county in June and July, 2008. The list of priorities represents the most frequently mentioned concerns.

The Compact, which aligns with the MCPS Strategic Plan,

provides the basis for testimony before the Board of Education and the County Council and in other forums concerning the MCPS Operating Budget for FY 2010. MCCPTA will not support any budget, MCPS Strategic Plan, or other planning or policy document, that does not make progress towards the requirements of this compact. Both documents are used in our advocacy during the yearly budget cycle and both will be referenced in our various testimonies to the Board of Education and the County Council. The Operating Budget supports the day-to-day operations of the school system, including the provision of teachers and other staff, supplies and materials, and various operational needs of schools and offices. The Superintendent will release his recommended FY2010 Operating Budget on December 11, at Rockville High School.

### FY 2010 Operating Budget Schedule:

Superintendent presents Recommended Operating Budget	December 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Sign-up begins for BOE Operating Budget Hearings	December 18, 2008
BOE Operating Budget Hearings	January 14, 2009 at 7 p.m.
	January 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
BOE Operating Budget Worksessions	January 28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
	January 29, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
BOE Operating Budget Action/Adoption	February 10, 2009 at 10 a.m.
BOE FY 2010 Operating Budget Request presented to County Executive and County Council	February 27, 2009
County Executive issues Operating Budget	March 16, 2009
County Council holds Operating Budget Hearings	April 2009
Council approves Operating Budget	May 21, 2009
Board of Education takes final action on Operating Budget	June 9, 2009

Our Blue Book directory is off to the printer. Each PTA will receive copies of the Blue Book; one is for the school, and the rest to be distributed to officers and board members. The books will arrive by pony mail at the school, addressed to the PTA president. MCCPTA Board members can pick up their book at our BOD

meeting. Please note that our timetable for distribution depends on when we receive them back from the printer. Updated information will be posted on the MCCPTA Bulletin Listserv when the Bluebooks arrive.

Local PTAs should make sure to pay their dues installment regularly. PTAs receive an invoice from Maryland PTA, which covers the state and national portion of your dues (\$3.25 per member). In addition, each PTA receives a monthly dues invoice for its MCCPTA dues (\$1.00 per member). Make a check payable to MDPTA for the State and National dues portion and mail that directly to MDPTA. For MCCPTA dues, treasurers need to make a separate check out to MCCPTA and mail it directly to the MCCPTA office monthly.

Our membership drive is still in full swing. The 2008-2009 Maryland PTA Membership Theme is "Let's Get Growing!" Maryland PTA is challenging all local units to increase their membership by "5" members over last year's membership - a campaign referred to as "HIGH 5!" Remember, that anyone can join a local PTA. They do not need to have children in the school. Please contact April Keyes, MCCPTA Membership Chair at (301) 515-8249 or [keyesa@sec.gov](mailto:keyesa@sec.gov), if you would like April to assist your PTA in growing your membership.

News from the MDPTA State Convention: At least 23 Montgomery County PTA representatives were up in Frederick at the MDPTA State Convention on Friday and Saturday to attend the General Sessions (business meetings) and the various workshops offered. I arrived at the convention on Thursday evening to attend the pre convention MDPTA Board of Directors meeting and to help set up for convention. The next two days, Friday and Saturday, I spent doing convention work and activities. On Sunday morning, I attended the post convention MDPTA Board of Directors meeting. It was one busy weekend!

There were 10 bylaws amendments passed at the Maryland PTA annual convention that will affect the local PTA bylaws template and the council template. We will make sure to keep everyone informed when the new local bylaws template is available.

MDPTA Nominating Committee Slate of Candidates elected during the Annual Convention: Congratulations to all!

MDPTA President Elect: Sam Macer

Nominating and Board Development Committee:  
April Keyes- Montgomery County  
Mary Jo Neil- Howard County  
Anita Owens- Anne Arundel County  
Karen Smith- Montgomery County  
Otha Thornton- Anne Arundel County  
Ben Brumbley, Wicomico County

Next year the 2009 convention will again be in Frederick, Maryland. So mark your calendars!

Reminder HOT TOPIC SPECIAL EVENT!  
MCCPTA Delegates Assembly and Program Tuesday,  
November 25, 2008, CESC Auditorium, 850  
Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland.

Don't miss the presentation on Internet safety and

cyberbullying that will be conducted immediately before the November MCCPTA Delegates Assembly. Special guests will include Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools, Chief J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department, and Mr. John J. McCarthy, Montgomery County State's Attorney.

Program (Internet Safety and Cyberbullying) 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium)

Delegates Assembly(Business Meeting): 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm (Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium)

*Kay Romero*

Draft Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly  
October 28, 2008  
Carver Educational Service Center

*6:30 -7:30 PM Program: Not Your Mom's PTA: Building a Multi-cultural School Community*

*Henry Pittman, Youth Advisor, & Randolph Carter, Chairman, NAACP Youth Leadership Council*

*Ray Moreno, Impact Silver Spring*

*Tam Nguyen, Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association*

*Alex Calinas, Spanish Language Outreach Committee, Einstein PTSA*

*Preston Rico, Asian American Parents Advocacy Council (AAPAC)*

*Eric Davis MCPS' Family & Community Partnerships*

**Call to Order:**

Kay Romero, President, brought the meeting to order at 7:40 PM

Merry Eisner, Interim VP for Educational Issues, read the PTA mission.

**Approval of Agenda and September 24, 2008 Minutes:**

The agenda was amended to include "Voting for Nominating Committee" under the Resolutions/Motions section, and was approved as amended.

The minutes from the Sept. 24, 2008 DA were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Dale Ryan, Treasurer, reviewed the Profit and Loss and Budget vs. Actuals statements provided to Delegates. She then reported on YTD amounts. There was one question about membership numbers, and Dale replied that she did not have numbers yet. She also stated that local treasurers would be receiving monthly invoices from MCCPTA as well as separate monthly invoices from MD PTA for dues.

Because the Operating Budget Chair had not yet arrived, we proceeded with other items on the agenda.

## **Resolution/Motion:**

### ***Voting for Nominating Committee***

Liz Wheeler, VP for Administration, presented the names of the people running for the Nominating Committee, along with a reading of the bylaws as they pertained to the formation of the Nominating Committee. People running that were present were introduced to the Assembly, and a call for nominations from the floor was made. Since there were none, the election was done by voice vote of the entire slate, and passed.

The Nominating Committee members and the Areas they are from for 2008-2009 are:

Jack Goble Blake HS PTSA President Blake cluster  
Northeast Consortium (Blake/Paint Branch/Springbrook) and Sherwood

Martha Crews Whetstone ES PTA President Watkins Mill cluster  
Clarksburg/Damascus/Gaithersburg/Magruder/Watkins Mill

Carol Salsbury Delegate Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS B-CC cluster  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson/Wheaton/Whitman

Rochelle Hodes Fallsmead ES & Wootton HS Delegate Wootton cluster  
Churchill/Richard Montgomery/Rockville/Wootton

Mary Abe Northwood Cluster Coordinator Northwood cluster  
Down County Consortium (Blair/Einstein/Kennedy/Northwood)

James Hampton Seneca Valley HS Delegate Seneca Valley cluster  
Northwest/Poolesville/Quince Orchard/Seneca Valley

Jim Keenan Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator Quince Orchard cluster  
At-Large

## **Reports:**

### **Legislative Update:**

Merry Eisner, Interim VP for Ed Issues gave the Legislative Update. The following events are upcoming:

Nov. 10 – Legislative Dinner – MCCPTA BOD meets with Montgomery County State House Legislators. Because this is a critical year due to budget constraints, it is important that PTA members talk to their Cluster Coordinators about what issues are important to them.

Oct. 29 – CIP is released by MCPS; Boundary studies were released 2 weeks ago. MCCPTA Cluster Coordinators will be offering testimony on these items in November.

Nov. 3 – MCPS will give a presentation to MCCPTA on the CIP.

Nov. 8 – Workshop conducted by CIP committee on writing testimony.

Nov. 12 and 13 – CIP testimony before the BOE, all clusters need to get the names of those testifying into Liz Wheeler.

There was discussion of whether or not the BOD would be provided with talking points for the Legislative Dinner and the answer was yes.

## **President's Report:**

Kay provided an update on the school calendar for next school year. She stated that the current plan is to have the school year would start on the Monday before Labor Day next year, eliminating the Tuesday start from this year that parents preferred. There will also be a professional day the Tuesday after Easter Monday. There are parts of the calendar that are yet to be determined, and Kay stated we are doing our best to advocate for priorities stated by our members.

Questions involved why the Monday for open houses was taken away, and how the Jewish holidays interact with the dates.

Kay and Merry have been attending budget meetings with MCPS. On December 11, 2008, Dr. Weast will give a presentation on the budget. Because of the tight budgetary times, initiatives are off the table. They are doing their best to advocate for our priorities, but this will be a very difficult year and we are trying very hard to hang onto what we already have and not lose ground.

## **Resolution/Motion:**

### **Resolution on FY2010 Operating Budget Priorities:**

Pam Moomau, Operating Budget Committee Chair, presented the Draft Resolution on FY2010 Operating Budget Priorities. She reminded everyone that this will be a difficult budget year and that we are looking at what we want to protect in what will likely be a year of cuts.

The Operating Budget Committee introduced a friendly amendment to replace the second priority with "safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities." A friendly amendment to the amendment, to retain the word "health," was suggested from the floor, and was accepted without objection.

The final wording of the second priority was: "Safe, secure, well-maintained, healthy, school facilities." The motion passed on voice vote.

Discussion then began on the full resolution.

Camilla Smith, Delegate from College Gardens ES, moved that the word "remediation" be removed from the final priority.

During discussion, Paul Morrison, Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator, introduced a motion to substitute "intervention" for "remediation". Discussion included that the word intervention was too broad and sweeping. Alternative wording was suggested but not moved. A voice vote on this motion failed.

Clarification was then requested on what exactly remediation meant. A discussion of the meaning of the word and possible substitutions ensued. Beth Kennington, Lakelands Park MS Delegate, introduced a motion to substitute reteaching and reassessment for remediation. Discussion of other alternatives in wording proceeded. A voice vote on this motion failed.

Laura Siegel, Churchill Cluster Coordinator, introduced a motion to reword the final priority to read "Tailored support and extra assistance and enriched and innovative programs for all students." Discussion of this motion included the difference between tailored support and extra assistance, whether or not it was now too long and wordy, and concerns that we make sure all students are covered so that none fall through the cracks. Discussion also included other possible wording and a definition of remediation. A Point of Order question was raised. It was clarified that the word remediation had not yet been removed. The current amendment under debate was on the overhead screen for delegates to see. Debate continued, and the motion failed on a voice vote.

Paul Simon, Delegate from Richard Montgomery High School, moved to word the last priority as "Tailored support and enrichment programs for all students." This motion passed on a voice vote.

Laura Siegel made a motion to change the first priority to read "Maintain or reduce teacher/student ratios at all schools." Pam reminded her that our goal is to protect what we have this year, and that asking for reduced may be unreasonable.

Laura revised her motion to read, “Current or improved teacher/student ratios at all schools.” Discussion of this motion included the fact that since this is a maintain budget, we needed to realize something was going to have to give, but that we needed to clearly state what is important to us. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Ted Willard, Magruder Cluster Coordinator moved that we add to the end of the final priority, “especially for those who are performing below grade level.” Discussion of this motion included that we want to make sure those who need to graduate do, that MCPS does not support enrichment for high achievers, concern for kids that are slipping through the cracks, concern for the need for enrichment programs for kids that want to get into special programs, whether or not the original intent of this line has been changed by the earlier rewording, opposition to the words below grade level, reminder of concerns that were brought up at the summer area meetings and that we needed to keep our focus broad. At this point Jim Baker, Delegate from Takoma Park Middle School, offered a friendly amendment, to move Ted’s clause to after “tailored support.” Ted agreed and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Pam reminded the assembly that we wanted to keep the Resolution on Priorities short and to the point and did not want to make it a long list.

Jim Baker, Delegate from Takoma Park Middle School, offered a motion to remove “roll-out” and substitute “implementation” to the third Priority. It was approved on a voice vote.

Jinhee Wilde, Delegate from Churchill HS, offered a motion to add a priority: “Review to streamline and downsize MCPS Administrative offices and staff in order to focus expenditures on classrooms.” Discussion of this motion included concerns about PTAs being asked to purchase books and concerns about safety issues that might be exacerbated by downsizing. This motion failed on a voice vote.

At this point, the entire amended Resolution was presented for vote. It passed on a voice vote.

### **Resolution on FY2010 Operating Budget Priorities**

*Whereas, MCCPTA's mission is to speak for children and without question our highest budget priority is education;*

*Be it resolved that the MCCPTA Delegates approve the following operating budget priorities for the organization to concentrate on this budget year.*

*Current or improved teacher/student ratios at all schools,*

*Safe, secure, well-maintained, healthy, school facilities,*

*Sensible, developmentally appropriate, fully supported curriculum implementation,*

*School-based community outreach,*

*and*

*Tailored support, especially for those who are performing below grade level, and enrichment programs for all students.*

### **Back Ground on Operating Budget Priorities:**

*MCCPTA officers visited PTA leadership in each area of the county in June and July, 2008. The list of priorities represents the most frequently mentioned concerns. Below are further details on each item.*

***Current or improved teacher/student ratios at all schools-*** *MCPS has made progress toward reducing class sizes in recent years. In a period of tight budgets it is important to protect this progress. It is especially important to target staff resources in subject areas and classrooms of highest need. This would include strategies such as:*

- Preserving current staffing ratios*
- Hours-based staffing for special education students*
- Caps on class-sizes in pivotal courses such as Algebra I*

***Safe, secure, well-maintained, healthy school facilities-*** Devoting resources to the classroom includes devoting resources to ensuring a classroom environment that facilitates learning. Components of a good learning environment include:

- *well-maintained classrooms free of mold, vectors, and other contaminants*
- *freedom from bullying and gang activities*
- *reasonably limited access to school facilities*

***Sensible, fully-supported curriculum implementation-*** Parents around the County continue to have concerns about the way major curriculum reforms are implemented, especially the accelerated math curriculum. Adequate supports would include:

- *more assistance to students in filling in gaps in their background*
- *more teacher training BEFORE introducing the changes*
- *adequate instructional materials*

***School-based community outreach-*** Parent involvement needs to be more of a two-way communication process. Unmet needs include:

- *school based interpretation services for parents who have limited English skills*
- *ongoing feedback to parents on their expressed concerns*

***Tailored support, especially for those who are performing below grade level, and enrichment programs for all students -*** The high stakes nature of HSAs emphasizes the need to make sure every student has help in filling in the gaps in his education. Enhanced supports include:

- *in-school tutoring opportunities*
- *after school programs*
- *summer programs*

*In addition, the diversity of interests and goals in the MCPS student body requires that enrichment support be provided for students who are working toward accelerating their learning.*

#### **MCCPTA FY2010 Operating Budget Compact:**

Next the Compact was introduced. Juan Johnson, AVP for Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, and Seneca Valley Clusters, moved that we limit discussion of the Compact to 15 minutes. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Pam Moomau offered two friendly amendments, one in Goal 1, to remove the word “additional” from before reduction at the beginning of the third bulleted point under the category of “In addition the budget should provide the following.” The second friendly amendment was to remove the last bullet under Goal 5, since it was already established at the last DA that MCPS does maintain background checks. The friendly amendments were accepted without objection.

Goal 1 and Goal 2 had no amendments suggested.

Goal 3:

Len Newman, Delegate from Paint Branch HS, moved to add: “Implement a comprehensive County-wide plan to grow the school volunteer base.” Discussion of this motion included that with tight budgetary times, and considering the level of expertise offered by the citizens of our county, that we should look for ways to get more from volunteers. This motion passed on a standing vote, 58 ayes, and 30 nays.

Paul Simon, Delegate from Richard Montgomery HS, offered a motion for an amendment to Goal 1 but withdrew it after it was pointed out his motion was already included in the text of Goal 2.

Goal 4: Jinhee Wilde, Delegate from Churchill HS, wanted to add text, but Pam Moomau pointed out it belonged in Goal 5. Jinhee agreed to move that it be included in Goal 5: “Review to streamline and downsize MCPS Administrative offices and staff in order to focus expenditures on classrooms and health and safety operations.” Discussion of this motion included a suggestion that instead of cutting staff, we should be looking at cutting expenditures by staff, concerns that cutting staff would not be a good thing because the central office staff already seems overworked, the fact that we possibly did not really have enough knowledge of where the money was being spent, and that the public needed more info on administrative expenditures, and that there was always waste that could be cut. The question was called, and failed on a voice vote.

A motion to extend the discussion by 5 minutes was approved on a voice vote.

Laurie Halverson, Safety chair, offered a motion for Goal 5: “BMPs (Building Maintenance Plans) for all new schools and increased implementation of BMPs for all other aging MCPS schools.” Discussion of this motion included the fact that schools that did not have plans could not rely on that school using the suggested schedule for changing air filters or other maintenance, a question about which schools had plans, and where the info on which school had plans could be found. This motion passed on a voice vote.

At this point, the question was called, and passed on a voice vote.

The entire Compact, as amended was brought up for vote, and passed on a voice vote.

### ***MCCPTA FY2010 OPERATING BUDGET COMPACT***

The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) believes that an Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) must provide funding to make progress towards the fundamental requirements described in this budget compact. This compact will provide the basis for testimony before the Board of Education and the County Council and in other forums concerning the MCPS Operating Budget for FY 2010. MCCPTA will not support any budget, MCPS Strategic Plan, or other planning or policy document, that does not make progress towards the requirements of this compact.

#### ***Goal 1 of the MCPS Strategic Plan: Ensure Success for Every Student.***

*MCPS must focus on raising academic performance of all students so that all may reach their full potential. There is a need for uniformly high expectations that all students, including Special Education, ESOL, and Gifted/Talented students, will succeed and will have their needs met. There must be sufficient funding for programs to raise the performance of under-performing students. There must also be adequate funding to enhance the performance of students who have attained satisfactory levels of performance but who can do better, and to challenge students who exceed satisfactory levels of performance but are able to perform at even higher levels. In order to further these goals, MCCPTA supports the following staff initiatives from the past several years and encourages continued support for these initiatives:*

- *Reduced class sizes throughout the County*
- *Reduced class sizes for art, music, and physical education*
- *Improved staffing ratios for LAD*
- *Move toward hours based staffing for special education students in order to ensure the success of a move toward promoting education in the least restrictive environment*

*In addition, the budget should provide for the following:*

- *Math specialists to provide early intervention for students*
- *Certification in the appropriate content areas for middle school teachers teaching high school courses and specialty courses offered in signature programs*
- *Reduction in student/teacher staffing ratios for art, music, and physical education*
- *Reduction in the use of substitute teachers in the classroom during academic year for teacher training*
- *Academic intervention/support such as summer learning opportunities for all students based on needs of the students throughout the County, not limited to Title I schools*
- *Phase-in of additional assistant principals*

#### ***Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan: Provide an Adequate Instructional Program***

*As adequate educational staffing is achieved, it will become even more important to provide staff with the tools necessary to assure success. In order to further this goal, MCCPTA supports the following staff initiatives from the past several years and encourages continued support for these initiatives:*

- *Reform of the middle school curriculum to increase rigor and ensure instruction appropriate for each student.*
- *Expansion of accelerated and enriched programs into more secondary schools*
- *Improvements to technology and support for improved technology use*

*In addition, priority should be given to providing for the following academic and developmental supports for students*

- *Increased support for high school literacy*
- *More emphasis on providing a well-rounded curriculum including a rich science, social studies, and arts curriculum*



- *Increased academic intervention/support resources, including:*
  - *Specific action/intervention plans for students not meeting standards under the grading and reporting policy*
  - *Specific action/intervention plans for students not meeting extracurricular activity eligibility requirements.*
  - *Consistent funding and implementation of special programs across the county*
- *Timely provision of new materials and textbooks when new curricula are introduced*
- *Improved vertical articulation to ensure students receive the foundation for future curriculum options.*

***Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan: Strengthen productive partnerships for education.***

*In a system with sufficient teaching resources in adequate buildings, other supports will still be needed to ensure a quality education for all children. We support continuation of the following former initiatives:*

- *Enhanced translation services*
- *Expanded study circles*
- *Implementation of on-line achievement and reporting systems in all secondary schools*

*However, there is a desperate need for enhanced communication and outreach at the local school level, especially in light of the growing number of families with limited knowledge of English. There is also a need for more general support for students and families. Therefore, we request more support for the following:*

- *Local school based resources for communications, especially with non-English speaking parents, and increased translation services*
- *Additional guidance counselors, pupil personnel workers, and other staff to address social/emotional/developmental needs at all levels*
- *Comprehensive countywide plan to grow the school volunteer base*

***Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan: Create a Positive Work Environment in a Self-Renewing Organization.***

*Development, retention, and recruitment of talented educational, administrative, and support staff are fundamental to maintaining a high quality of education in Montgomery County. The following initiatives are needed:*

- *Reduction in high turnover rate for staff from Principals to building services staff*
- *Increased diversity in hiring*
- *Focus on providing timely teacher training BEFORE the roll-out of new curricula*
- *Adequate training for all staff, including supporting services.*

***Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan: Provide high quality business services that are essential to the educational success of students.***

*MCCPTA recognizes that the supporting services, including curriculum development, maintenance, plant operations, transportation, and other central office functions play a key role in student achievement. Effective use of resources should be increased by examining the inventory of all MCPS programs to reduce duplications and overlaps. Outcome measurement should be used to rigorously evaluate programs for effectiveness and efficiency. It is imperative that the business model for delivering all MCPS services include accountability to parents. We support the following initiatives in prior and current plans:*

- *Budget document that is more clearly accessible to the public, including clear demarcation of new initiatives and increases or decreases in funding levels for existing services*
- *Adequate staffing for the Ride by the Rules program, to improve communication between bus drivers and principals*

*We urge attention to the following:*

- *Assessment of new programs and curricula before and after implementation, to ensure that sufficient course materials, guidebooks, and implementation documents are available*
- *Evaluation of the use of new technology to ensure that it is the most cost-effective way to increase student performance*
- *More oversight of local schools by the Community Superintendents*
- *Improved nutritional value for school lunch and a la carte menu selections*

*Finally, the setting in which education takes place should not be neglected. For optimal learning our schools, including portable classrooms, must provide an environment where the children feel safe and their health is protected. The following issues need to be addressed:*

- *Increased recess supervision*
- *More attention to addressing discipline problems, especially at the middle school level, including the problem of gangs, bullying and risk to student safety*
- *Adoption by MCPS of objective standards for portable conditions and installation, routine building systems maintenance, and prompt response to unanticipated repair and maintenance needs*

- *Revision of salary structures or increased outside contracting for positions that are persistently vacant, such as HVAC mechanics and speech and language therapists*
- *More maintenance and repair personnel, particularly HVAC mechanics*
- *Expanded indoor air quality staff, with training in building envelope issues*
- *Increased staffing of building services*
- *Adequate security personnel and other resources necessary for securing school buildings and portables*
- *Reassessment and adjustment of traffic patterns around schools to promote pedestrian safety*
- *Reassessment of bus stop placement to promote safety*
- *More activity buses to promote participation in after school programming as well as a safe return home from after-school programs*
- *BMPs (Building Maintenance Plans) for all new schools and increased implementation of BMPs for all other aging MCPS schools*

*The MCCPTA recognizes that an Operating Budget that satisfies all of these requirements will necessitate a continued strong commitment to education by Montgomery County. Such a commitment and investment, however, is more than justified by the benefits a well-resourced educational system provides to the community.*

### **Reports:**

### **CIP Committee:**

Steve Augustino, CIP Chair, provided the Assembly with a CIP update. He stated that this is an amendment year, so there will not be any major changes made to the budget. He said there would be no accelerations; there will not be much change at all. The boundary studies were released Oct. 15, Oct 29 the CIP will be released, there will be a CIP forum Nov. 3 in the cafeteria, Nov. 8 there will be a MCCPTA CIP workshop, and Nov. 12 and 13 will be the BOE Hearings – clusters need to let Liz know who is testifying.

Paul Morrison, Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator, asked when and where the CIP books would be sent. Kay said she would find out and get the info out to everyone. Steve will be producing talking points for Cluster Coordinators to help with testimony.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patti Twigg, Secretary for Delegates Assembly

## **MCCPTA Committee Reports for November 2008**

### **Communications Committee Report**

**Chair: Patti Twigg**

#### **1) Website:**

Website Coordinators:

Sharon Goodall      [webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com)

Lin-Lin Mao          [webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com)

The Website subcommittee updated the MCCPTA website with the following:

Webpages updated in October:

- MCCPTA Calendar
- MCCPTA Office with new office manager and office hours
- "Must Do's" for PTAs
- Insurance

- Local PTA and PTSA Websites. Website addresses were either added or updated.
- Grading and Reporting Committee
- Homepage with various announcements and link added to Carver Educational Services Center directions
- Spotlight update

Other additions:

- Maryland PTA Scholarship Fund announcement for students pursuing a career in public education
- BOD minutes for 9/4/2008
- Approved April 2008 DA minutes
- Draft September 2008 DA minutes
- Nominating Committee announcement
- Committee workplans for 2008-2009
- Committee reports for October 2008
- October President's Letter
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on FY 2009 Operating Budget: State Budget Reductions, October 16, 2008
- Halloween Safety Tips from Maryland Division of Parole and Probation
- Announcements for various programs and workshops
- Upcoming Workshops and Seminars List on Special Education Committee Page
- Cyber Safety Event for MCCPTA Delegates at Nov. DA, Nov. 25, 2008 - Flyer with details

We implemented an email obfuscation for the officers, committee chairs, and cluster coordinators addresses that are listed on webpages to try to cut down on spam to these people.

There were several changes to alias email addresses due to changes in officers, email delivery problems and hiring of a new office manager.

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](mailto:listsersmod@mccpta.com)

As of November 1, 2008 membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listsers	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA Board	84	+3
MCCPTA Bulletin	616	+7
MCCPTA Delegates	467	+3
MCCPTA Presidents	287	-2
MCCPTA Treasurers	219	+3

The new school year transition continues as new members are added and old members removed from all five listsers. The auto-reminder calendar for the Bulletin and BOD listsers has been updated as meetings and events are scheduled.

## 3) 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](mailto:office@mccpta.com) and/or [webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com)).

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### **Cultural Arts Committee**

**Chair: Priscilla Peterson**

The annual Cultural Arts Showcases took place at Carver Educational Center on October 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th. We had about 30 - 35 cultural arts reps from the schools attending each day, as well as a few librarians looking for performers to hire for the county's library shows. I had help the first day from Lorna Sykes (Julius West Middle School) and from Randy Chin (Poolesville High School) each day at the registration table. Performers on the last day of the Showcases included twelve of the new artists who had just auditioned for the first time in September, and were approved by the Superintendents' Committee for Performances in MCPS.

Questions were raised several times during the Showcases by people who said their schools had received advertisements from performers not on the approved list. One of these was a performer who had auditioned but had not been approved by the Superintendents' Committee, and then sent out materials anyway to all the schools about her show. Seda Gelenian, who heads the committee and runs the Showcases, reminded everyone that although there is no rule about hiring only performers from the MCPS Performing Arts Catalogue, the audition procedure these performers have gone through is for the schools' benefit. Members of the audition committee include professional performers with much experience in judging, who volunteer their time to help ensure that performers approved for the schools will be of high quality.

There were also many questions raised about whether it would be possible to have videos of all the performers available online, for the benefit of school reps who are unavailable during weekdays to attend the Showcases. Seda Gelenian spoke with members of her committee and with several performers about this, but the consensus of opinion is that it would be too complicated to arrange. Some performers would expect to be paid and there is no money available in the budget for this; some are members of unions with very strict rules about making videos of their shows available, etc. However, she did point out to everyone that many of the performers list their websites in the Performing Arts Catalogue and some of them already do have short videos online.

A number of new people have joined the Cultural Arts listserv (PTArts) and there has been much discussion since the Showcases ended about performers who are now being hired by the schools. The listserv provides an easy way for members to communicate with each other about which shows they recommend, when they are having a show at their school that others are welcome to attend, when an out-of-town performer will be available in this area and looking for work at several schools, etc. If your Cultural Arts Chair/Committee would like to join the listserv, please have them email me with their name, school, and committee position.

During the Showcases, we asked that school reps sign in and give their school's budget for Cultural Arts if they knew what it was. Since then I have also put a message out on the listserv asking everyone for this information, so that during November I will be able to post an updated list of all the schools' Cultural Arts budgets. I am also keeping track of how many say their budgets are being increased, and how many are being cut this year. (So far, it's running about 50/50!)

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### **High School Committee**

**Chair: Sharon St.Pierre**

It was a successful High School PTSA President's Fall Interactive Forum we had on Saturday, October 25th. Thanks again to Laurie Augustino and Gaithersburg HS for hosting our event. Dr. Beattie, MCPS Director of Systemwide Athletics came out to present on the structure and process of our interscholastic athletics program. We also had great discussion on issues of: ICB fees; Loss of Credit; Membership; Listserv management and MCPS hiring freeze and

enrollment. It was a wonderful opportunity for PTSA presidents and officers to hear from each other what concerns we have and share best practices on some of these issues.

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## **Membership Committee**

**Chair: April Keyes**

On October 16, 2008, the Membership Committee held its first meeting with the MCCPTA Membership Chairs from each school. Our agenda for the evening was to discuss how well our membership drive went this year and to share any best practices for the rest of the school year. We also addressed questions regarding the PTA's Online Membership Data Reporting Systems (OMDR).

The following schools and clusters were represented: Lorraine Poole from Benjamin Banneker MS, Tracy Archer from Germantown Elementary, Lynn Hemphill from Parkland MS, Janette Gilman, Cluster Coordinator for the Churchill Cluster, Sarah Crahan from Chevy Chase ES and April Keyes from Northwest HS.

On October 25, 2008, I attended the Fall High School PTSA President Forum and participated in a discussion regarding membership in our county schools. We talked about way in which we can attract new members and ideas on how to involve teachers and administrators into PTA.

I am still collecting membership numbers for the 2007-2008 school year and the current years numbers. Please have your President or Membership Chairs to send me those numbers, if you have not already sent them.

We are scheduled to have our second Membership meeting in January. I will let you know the date, once the room has been reserved.

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## **Safety Committee**

**Chair: Laurie Halverson**

**Pam Montgomery, MCPS Director of System Wide Safety Programs** attended our October meeting as our guest speaker. She explained her role and responsibilities in the safety of our children and MCPS staff.

MCPS spends approximately \$4 million per year on workers compensation, and that is why her "System-Wide Safety Programs" are very important to help reduce and prevent injuries in the workplace. Currently, there is no "dedicated" budget for system-wide safety programs. She is striving to provide a proactive safety program to prevent accidents before they occur. Some areas she is and has been involved in are emergency crisis preparedness development and implementation, including training of staff, overseeing the MCPS Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Program, overseeing the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program at high schools, overseeing hazardous material training on storage and use of such products in science, cleaning products, etc. She oversees OSHA/MOSH compliance with all applicable safety and health regulations including working with construction on safety requirements for new buildings, safety training, and responding to safety concerns at schools. She also oversees the play equipment replacement program for elementary schools, and assists schools with fire code compliance issues, facility safety issues, and work process safety issues.

Pam will soon have a program assistant to help with some of the administrative tasks and injury analysis, and data collection.

Pam has a safety handbook which will be updated. It has guidelines on safety equipment and recess supervision, but there are no requirements for a certain number of recess aides on the playground. Our nation or state does not have a requirement for various reasons such as liability, or different circumstances that make each playground unique (special ed students, blind spots or other factors making it difficult to view everyone from one location, type of equipment installed, etc.) Principals are given a budget and determine the need for their own schools. All new playground equipment is CPSI certified.

As part of the school's emergency crisis plan, volunteers and playground/recess aides should be aware of what to do in a code red or blue situation. It is recommended for one aide to hold a clipboard and a whistle with a blue or red sheet to hold up to alert other playground/recess aides/volunteers so they can quickly implement the appropriate plan if the students are on the playground. At least one aide should have a 2-way radio to call the nurse to attend to a medical emergency.

Pam answered several questions and gave contact numbers for traffic safety, security issues, pedestrian and bus safety and who to contact for more information.

**Pedestrian Safety:** PTAs are encouraged to let Laurie Halverson know if their schools have dangerous crossing areas. Our committee is gathering information to help us advocate for more crossing guards. Also, the short timing of lights came up as an issue at our last meeting, so if the lights don't allow enough time for crossing, please let us know where these locations are.

**Indoor Air Quality:** There are many problems associated with portables that involve the safety, security and health of our children. Laurie met with Sean Yarup of the Indoor Air Quality Team. His department responds to IAQ complaints, inspects and evaluates portables, and performs preventive services through BMPs, building maintenance plans. A few years ago, his department completed 17 BMPs and the past couple years has only been able to do 2 to 3 BMPs each year because of limited resources. They currently have an HVAC mechanic opening that is not frozen but has yet to be filled. They currently have 6 IAQ technicians and 4 mechanics (1 opening) and 1 electrician.

Last year, IAQ received 310 complaints compared to the previous year of 262 complaints. CO2 levels are elevated in portables, which affects the safety and health of our children. They are doing a pilot program with Fairland Center using a new heat pump/CO2 and humidity sensor that seems to be working. Rock Creek, Dufief, Burning Tree and Luxmanor are getting attention this year to some portables that need repairs and have a factory representative from Resun that is working on them.

Schools are chosen for BMPs using criteria like age, number of air quality complaints, number of air quality orders, geographic dispersion. New schools typically do not get BMPs such as Clarksburg HS.

The reason MCPS moved 1986 portables last summer to another school is that the MCPS owned portables are of better quality than leased portables and have been maintained better. IAQ is not involved unless asked when portables are moved from one school to another. The portables that moved to Clarksburg HS and Rocky Hill MS were inspected by IAQ at some point during the inspection process sometime in the past three years.

IAQ has inspected most of MCPS owned and leased portables in the past three years but does not inspect them on a periodic basis. No preventive work is done on portables by the IAQ department, only reactive based on IAQ complaints. However, schools with BMPs may receive preventive maintenance from the building service workers (if portables were on the property at the time the BMP was created.) In this case, the building service workers would be keeping a record of preventive maintenance they are performing in buildings and portables.

School Plant Operations has managers that periodically come to schools of those non-BMP schools to monitor work done by the building service workers. These managers have a manual with their own procedures for maintaining the schools.

**Playground Supervisor Training Resolution:** A proposed resolution is attached which will be discussed by the BOD at the November meeting.

**Incident Report:** In mid-November, an Incident Report will be made available on the MCPS website which will be in a similar format to "Schools at a Glance."

**Ground Covering on Playgrounds:** Safety chairs should check the ground covering on their school playgrounds. MCPS used to have a periodic mulch delivery but they are now only delivering when they are called. If it looks like it has not been replaced and there isn't much cushion to be safe in a fall, voice your concern to the principal to call Pam Montgomery to request a delivery of "engineered wood fiber." Laurie was not certain what amount is considered safe by MCPS, but 9 inches of ground cover (after settling) is what is recommended on The National Program for Playground Safety website.

Reminder: MCCPTA Delegates Assembly and Program  
Tuesday, November 25, 2008  
CESC Auditorium, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland

**HOT TOPIC SPECIAL EVENT!** Don't miss the presentation on **Internet safety** and **cyberbullying** that will be conducted immediately before the November MCCPTA Delegates Assembly. Special guests will include Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools, Chief J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department, and Mr. John J. McCarthy, Montgomery County State's Attorney.

**Program (Internet Safety and Cyberbullying) 6:30pm-7:30pm (Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium)**

**Delegates Assembly(Business Meeting): 7:30pm-9:30pm (Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium)**

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Montgomery County Award Winners  
Maryland PTA State Convention President's Dinner and Award Celebration November 14, 2008

At the November 25, 2008 MCCPTA Delegates Assembly, we will present these awards. Please make sure the MCCPTA Delegates representing your schools are there to receive your awards.

"DAD4PTA Award"

A male PTA member who has made contributions, which are outstanding and exemplary and reflect the Purposes of the PTA

Mr. Melvin Moore, Briggs Chaney Middle School PTSA

**MEMBERSHIP**

This was calculated based on the information that was submitted by the local units to Maryland PTA on March 31, 2008

Membership, 5 percent growth

Burning Tree Elementary  
Laytonsville Elementary  
Sherwood Elementary  
Spark Matsunaga Elementary

Membership, 15 percent growth

Westover Elementary  
Whetstone Elementary  
Robert Frost Middle School

Membership, 25 percent growth

Fairland Elementary  
John T Baker Middle School  
James Hubert Blake High School  
Northwood High School

PTSA Student Membership  
Ridgeview Middle School

**Outstanding County/City Award**

Given to one local in each county/city for the largest percentage of membership based on school population. This was calculated based on the information that was submitted by the local units to Maryland PTA

Winston Churchill HS

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

MCCPTA  
2096 Gaither Road  
Suite 204  
Delegates  
Rockville, MD 20850

PONY MAIL to PTA  
Presidents to be shared  
with School PTA

**November 2008**

**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:**

**November**

- 19 MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm
- 20 MCPS BOE Facilities and Boundaries Decisions 6:00pm
- 25 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm - 10pm

**December**

- 1 MCCPTA Special Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm - 9:00pm
- 4 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 10:00pm
- 11 MCPS Operating Budget Presentation (released) 7:30pm
- 17 MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm
- 18 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 12:30pm - 2:30pm

**January**

- 5 Reflections entries due to PTA Office
- 5 MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum 7:30pm - 9:00pm
- 7 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm
- 8 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 10:00pm
- 10 MCCPTA Operating Budget Workshop
- 14 MCPS BOE Operating Budget Hearing 7:00pm
- 21 MCPS BOE Operating Budget Hearing 7:00pm
- 27 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 6:30pm - 10:00pm

**February**

- 2 MCCPTA Special Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm - 9:00pm
- 5 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 10:00pm
- 9 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:30pm - 9:00pm
- 12 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm - 9:00pm



