

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, May 5, 2011 at Carver Education Services Center - Auditorium

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Kristin Tribble, Laurie Halverson, Rebecca Smondrowski, Jaimie Jacobson and Debra Lang

Area Vice Presidents, Cluster Coordinators & Committee Chairs: Steve Augustino, Ted Willard, Donna Pfeiffer, Pam Moomau, David Lechner, Suzanne Weiss, Mary Cobbett, Jennifer Cope, Jean Schlesinger, Frances Frost, Christopher Kelly, Cheryl Peirce, Todd Powell, Laurie Augustino, Patti Twigg, Larry Edmonds, Juan Johnson, Beth Kennington, Dawn Albert, Jim Keenan and Kevin David.

Also in Attendance: Shebra Evans, PTA President from Harmony Hills and Kay Romero, Immediate Past President of MCCPTA and President Elect of MDPTA.

OPENING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: At 7:35 pm the meeting began informally, as it was determined that a quorum was not present. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Officer Reports:

President:

President Kristin Tribble spoke briefly about the Selection of the new Superintendent, and about her role as our representative in the final stage of the process. She also encouraged all to attend the Retirement Celebration for Dr. Weast, the flier for which is included in the packet tonight. Kristin reported that many of the participants of the Study Circles program will be meeting monthly to continue finding areas of common interest/concern and to perhaps undertake advocacy initiatives together. Kristin mentioned that nominations for PTA President of the Year must be sent in to the MCCPTA Office immediately, and it was decided that in Paul's absence, Deb Lang would hold a conference call on Wednesday for AVP's to review the applications received. Finally, Kristin reiterated the need for Cluster Coordinators to assist their locals with meeting MDPTA's Standards of Continuing Affiliation. Patti Twigg requested that a current list of dues paid by locals to MCCPTA be distributed.

Treasurer:

Jaimie Jacobson reported that dues are still being received, and that the donations for the Presidents & Principals Dinner are coming in slightly above budget.

Vice President – Education Issues:

Laurie Halverson referred everyone to the flier in their packet regarding the Parent Involvement Workshop on May 12th. Laurie also announced that in lieu of the DA meeting on May 24th, there would be a presentation by the Math Steering Committee reviewing their work done to date. Laurie invited everyone to the Special Education Recognition Ceremony on Monday evening at Rockville High School. Laurie reported that her work with the Charter Schools committee is heating up, and that she will be reviewing two applications this weekend to ensure that they meet the MCPS criteria for charter schools. Finally, Laurie reviewed the plans for the upcoming Presidents & Principals Dinner, and announced that Pam in the MCCPTA office will distribute a

spreadsheet of RSVP's by Area to AVPs so they can reach out to PTAs in need that might not be attending

Committee Reports:

Operating Budget: Committee Chair Pam Moomau referred members of the BOD to the email that Kristin sent earlier this week summarizing the current budget situation. There was a suggestion made that members of the business community might inform the County Council about how important great schools are in their decision to locate in Montgomery County.

CIP - Committee Chair Steve Augustino reminded all that local school comments regarding CIP issues are due on June 1st. He also mentioned that Bruce Crispell had asked to hold the CIP Area Meetings by the 3rd week of June. Members of the BOD were vocal in their opposition to holding these meetings so early in the process and asked Steve to request that these dates be pushed back until feedback from MCPS can be received.

High School Committee – Committee Chair Dave Lechner has circulated a draft of the traffic study that his committee has done to MCPS and to the PTA Presidents' eList. It highlighted the amount of time that parents spend trying to get in and out of County High Schools. Dave will finalize the report within the next month, so it will be available for inclusion in the CIP reports.

President Kristin Tribble announced that a quorum was reached at 8:30 pm.

Steve Augustino reported that he (as CIP Committee Chair) and members of the Health and Safety Committee held an informational forum regarding artificial turf issues last night. He noted that he earlier has distributed over the Board eList a draft turf report issued by an MCPS Staff Work Group, and that comments on the report are due on May 13th. Steve expressed concern over the statement in the report on page 4 that asserts that MCPS “consistently falls short of its goal” of maintaining safe, adequate playing conditions on high school stadium fields. Steve moved that MCCPTA send a letter to the Board of Education stating that students deserve athletic fields that are safe and adequate for playing of contests, and recommending that the Board examine why MCPS is consistently falling short of this goal and that it identify ways to improve its performance regardless of the field type installed at the school, which motion was seconded and approved.

President Kristin Tribble noted that due to Committee Chair absences, the agenda should be changed to delete reports by the Ad-Hoc and the By Laws Committees. Patti Twigg requested that Organizational Transparency be added under New Business. Mary Cobbett asked that Boundary Studies for the BCC Cluster be added under Cluster Reports. With these changes, the agenda was approved.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. It was pointed out that there was an extra comma after Michelle Gluck's name under Attendance, which comma should be deleted. Ted Willard moved that the minutes of the March 31st BOD meeting be approved as amended, which was seconded and approved.

Unfinished Business:

MCCPTA Communications: –Laurie Halverson moved that we adopt the recommendations contained in Suzanne Weiss’ memo regarding MCCPTA Communications, which was seconded. Discussion ensued. Juan Johnson moved that we separate each of the 13 items suggested on page 2 of the memo, which was seconded but not approved. Further discussion ensued. Juan Johnson moved to table the discussion, which was seconded and approved. There was a request that the Communications Work Group attempt to streamline the proposal and make it voter friendly. There was another request to receive statistical data related to the current eList subscriptions. There was an expression of interest in the creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee for Online Communications, which the Executive Committee will consider.

New Business:

Appointment of Cluster Coordinators:

Juan Johnson nominated Donna Lowell, Jennifer Kasten and Dawn Albert as the Cluster Coordinators for the Poolesville cluster, which nominations were approved by the Board. Frances Frost nominated Amber Khan, Susan Fleck and Bladimir Duenas as the Cluster Coordinators for the Blair cluster, which nominations were approved by the Board.

Organizational Transparency – Patti Twigg expressed concern that members of the Executive Board had used MCCPTA letterhead inappropriately and asked who was allowed to use the letterhead, under what circumstances and by what authority? She and Kay Romero indicated that a letter of complaint regarding Kay was sent to National PTA, and since the Board of Directors was not made aware of National having been sent a “cc” of the letter in which the MCCPTA President catalogued the Executive Committee’s issues with Kay, they felt that this was a misuse of MCCPTA letterhead. President Tribble stated that her letter dated January 28, 2011 was absolutely not blindly copied to National PTA and the other Executive Committee members present each asserted that they knew nothing about this. Responding to a further inquiry by Pam Moomau, Kristin said that they would look into this and report back to the BOD.

Cluster Reports:

Richard Montgomery – Cheryl Peirce spoke about what seems to be a new trend to co-locate County services (unrelated to the school system) within school buildings. Several local PTAs are passing resolutions opposing such a practice.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase – Mary Cobbett spoke about the Middle School Site Selection Committee and difficulties that she is having with being held responsible for the lack of non-PTA community representation on the committee.

Magruder – The Magruder Cluster designated a community day at a football game, which was a great success building community among the various schools in the cluster.

President Kristin Tribble adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Debra Lang, Recording Secretary BOD