

Minutes of the MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
7:30 pm, Carver Auditorium

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

President Kristin Tribble welcomed everyone and introduced the Executive Officers present. She then read the Mission Statement of MCCPTA.

Approval of the Agenda: Kristin asked that the “Approval of the November Minutes” be struck from the draft Agenda, as the draft minutes will not be available for review and approval until next month. With that change, the agenda was approved by consensus.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President’s Report: President Tribble referred all to the upcoming Superintendent Search Public Forums listed on the bottom of the agenda, and asked that they publicize these among their parent communities. She reminded all that the Capital Improvement Program Budget Forums will be coming up on February 8th, and that they should watch the eLists for further information posted by CIP Committee Chair Steve Augustino. President Tribble announced that the next program prior to a Delegates’ Assembly will be *Bullying and CyberSafety* on February 22nd at 6:30.

Vice President – Educational Issues: Vice President of Educational Issues Laurie Halverson spoke briefly about the Math Implementation Steering Committee, of which she and Merry Eisner are members. The charge of the committee is to oversee and monitor the development, vetting, communication and implementation of action plans in response to the recommendations of the Math Work Group. They expect to have their final action plans in May. She also requested that all delegates read the monthly MCCPTA Newsletter, as it contains, among other things, many important notices about committee meetings.

Vice President – Administration: Vice President in charge of Administration Paul Morrison thanked all cluster coordinators for their great efforts during the past two weeks as they testified to the Board of Education regarding the Operating Budget. He also reminded all that the CIP testimony to the County Council will be coming up, and that information will be forthcoming.

President Kristin Tribble reminded all to also watch for information about upcoming Advocacy Nights in Annapolis coming from the Legislative Committee.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Jaimie Jacobson briefly reported about membership – highlighting Matsunaga and Beverly Farms Elementary Schools, Hoover Middle School and Churchill High School as schools that have very high memberships. Jaimie also reminded all in attendance to remind their local Treasurers that the IRS Determination Letter that has been posted on the MCCPTA website will be coming down in response to a request to do so from MDPTA. Local PTAs will need to be in good standing from now on in order to receive a copy of the letter. Finally, he reported that MCCPTA is in sound financial health.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Operating Budget: Committee Chair Pam Moomau gave a recap of the current operating budget situation and reinforced the importance of operating budget advocacy. President Kristin Tribble remarked that Marshall Spatz, MCPS Budget Director, is available to come and meet with locals in the continuing effort to have all interested parties better understand elements of MCPS’ Operating Budget.

Reflections: BOD Secretary Deb Lang reported that the Reflections Award Ceremony was a lovely event and that all eligible winners were just brought to MDPTA for the State competition in February. Deb encouraged all delegates to remind their Reflections Chair and their PTA Presidents that art work from schools who are not in Good Standing with the State PTA will not be allowed to compete. Locals should contact MDPTA to verify their good standing asap.

High School: Committee Chair Dave Lechner reminded all that the deadline is approaching for submissions for the Prom Night Safety Video Contest.

Nominating Committee: Committee Chair Frances Frost reported that the Nominating Committee is currently soliciting nominees for the officer positions of President, VP-Educational Issues, VP-Administration, VP- Programs, VP-Legislation, Treasurer, Recording Secretary-Delegates Assembly, and Recording Secretary-Board of Directors. They are also soliciting nominees for the Area Vice President and Cluster Coordinator positions. Contact Nominating Committee Chair Frances Frost at francesfrost4@gmail.com or any member of the Nominating Committee to nominate someone or to have your questions answered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Jennifer Chambers, AVP for Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, and Northwood, proposed the following resolution on *Edible Gardens on School Grounds*. Following discussion, it was approved.

Whereas:

1. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has not permitted the planting of edible plants on school property because of concerns due to children's potential for allergic reactions to plants, maintenance of gardens, and rodent control.
2. Since September, MCPS Department of Facilities Management started a garden work group to develop guidelines to help schools create and implement container gardens as early as this Spring, with edible, leafy-green plants (i.e. lettuce, spinach, etc.). This work group is also currently finalizing plans for three community gardens through MNCPPC, giving several schools access to nearby community gardens, with additional resources and opportunities to grow more varieties of garden plots.
3. Successful models of school districts around the country (i.e. Cincinnati and DC) have built vegetable gardens on school grounds and implemented models of teaching that incorporate the garden with the school curriculum.
4. School edible gardens provide a rich, hands-on environment for students to learn skills and content knowledge across the curriculum from math to art, engage in positive social and communal skills, and practice healthy physical activity.
5. Engaging students in building edible school gardens teaches them about their food source and healthy eating when the U.S. has seen a rise in the childhood obesity rates.
6. Student engagement in planting edible gardens creates a relationship with the land and cultivates environmental stewardship.
7. First Lady Michelle Obama is creating a national movement of healthy eating with her garden on the White House grounds and hands-on work with students at DC Public Schools.

Be it resolved that:

1. MCCPTA supports the establishment of edible gardens on school grounds by students, teachers and parents,
2. MCCPTA supports the move by MCPS to permit the building of container gardens to grow edible plants and supports school communities who desire to plant safe, edible gardens, and
3. MCCPTA supports and encourages school communities desiring to plant edible gardens to provide detailed plans of their implementation to include a plant list, garden location on school grounds, and maintenance plan to MCPS Department of Facilities Management.

New Business:

Andrea Bernardo, Bylaws Chair, introduced the following proposed amendments to the MCCPTA Bylaws. They will be discussed and voted on at the February Delegates Assembly.

ARTICLE VIII.A: AREA VICE-PRESIDENTS, CLUSTER COORDINATORS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 4. Elections

- a. Each area representative of the MCCPTA nominating committee shall be responsible for convening and chairing an area nominating committee of at least **five (5)** ~~six (6)~~ PTA/PTSA presidents, **or his or her designee**, and/or cluster coordinators from that area, ensuring representation from each cluster, by February 1. The area nominating committee shall submit to the MCCPTA nominating committee by March 15 the name and qualifications of one (1) candidate for area vice president. The MCCPTA nominating committee shall accept the recommendations of each area nominating committee and include such nominees in their report. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting at which elections are held by any member of the MCCPTA voting body from the area represented by the area vice president.
- b. Each area representative of the MCCPTA nominating committee shall be responsible for ensuring that each cluster holds a meeting at which **a majority of each PTAs** in the cluster **is are** represented by ~~its~~ **their** president, or his or her designee, for the purpose of nominating at least one (1) and no more than three (3) cluster coordinators. A current cluster coordinator **or Area Vice President**, will submit the name(s) to the MCCPTA nominating committee by March 15. The MCCPTA nominating committee shall accept the recommendations from the cluster meeting and include such nominees in their report. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting at which elections are held by any member of the MCCPTA voting body from that cluster.

Section 5. Vacancies

- a. A vacancy in any area vice president position shall be filled by nomination from a committee consisting of at least five (5) PTA/PTSA presidents, **or their designees, and/or** cluster coordinators from that area at a meeting convened by a **Cluster Coordinator, Area Vice President, or** Vice President for Administration. The name of the nominee shall be submitted to the board of directors for confirmation.
- b. A vacancy in a cluster coordinator position shall be filled by a nomination from the PTA/PTSA presidents, **or their designee, from a majority of each local PTAs** in the cluster at a meeting convened by **another Cluster Coordinator, the Area Vice President** or Vice President for Administration. The name of the nominee shall be submitted to the board of directors for confirmation.

ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES

#Section 1. Only members of this council PTA or of the local PTAs constituting this council PTA shall be eligible to serve in any elected or appointed positions.

Section 2. The Board of Directors may establish such committees, as it may deem necessary to promote the purposes of MCCPTA and to carry out the work of MCCPTA.

Section 3 Chairs of ~~standing~~ committees shall be elected by the executive committee.

Section 4. The term of office of a committee chair shall be one (1) year or until the selection of a successor. Chairs shall assume their duties July 1st. Chairs may be re-elected by the executive committee for additional terms.

Section 5. Special committees may be established when such committees are deemed necessary by **the Executive Committee**, the Board of Directors or by the MCCPTA. **The Executive Committee must notify the Board of Directors immediately, and the Delegates within 15 days, of the establishment, appointment and charge of special committees.**

Section 6. The chair of each committee shall present a plan of work to the Board of Directors for approval. **Committees shall begin work under the direction and supervision of the Executive Committee until such time as the work plan is approved by** ~~No committee work shall be undertaken without the consent of the Board of Directors.~~

Section 7. A person elected by a majority vote of the executive committee shall fill a vacancy occurring in any chairmanship for the remainder of the term.

Article IX: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be an executive committee of the MCCPTA PTA, the members of which shall be:

- a. all elected officers.

#Section 2. Each executive committee member shall be a member of a local PTA within the area of the council whose state and council PTA dues are paid.

Section 3. Regular meetings of the executive committee shall be held with the dates and times fixed by the executive committee at its first meeting of the year. Special meetings of the executive committee may be called by the president or upon written request of three (3) members with two (2) days' notice to each member of the executive committee.

#Section 4. At all meetings of the executive committee, a majority of the members of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5. Duties of the executive committee shall be to:

- a. develop the agendas for delegate assemblies and meetings of the board of directors;
- b. elect standing committee chairmen;
- c. manage the business of the organization;
- d. make a report at each board of directors meeting
- e. **establish special committees**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm