

**Minutes of the MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
Tuesday, November 23, 2010
7:30 pm, Carver Auditorium**

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm

Presentation by David Frey, Producer, Homework Hotline Live, MCPS-TV

Mr. Frey offered to come to local PTA meetings to show parents how to utilize Homework Hotline. Homework help is now available via phone, on cable TV, the website (AskHHL.org), texting, Facebook, and Twitter. He can be reached at 301-279-3569 or david_m_frey@mcpsmd.org.

Agenda was approved.

October Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

Officer/Committee Chair Reports:

Operating Budget Forum - Monday, Jan 3, 7:30, Carver

It is crucial that we have a solid turnout at our Operating Budget Forum on January 3. County Councilmembers, Board of Education members and the County Executive's office will join us to discuss operating budget issues.

Reflections County Competition - Saturday, Jan 8, Clarksburg High School

More info on the process will be posted, but make sure your Reflections Chairs are aware. They should be subscribed to the Reflections Elist.

Reva Gambrell was elected to the Nominating Committee to represent the NEC/Sherwood area.

The Treasurer's report was presented.

Unfinished Business:

The proposed Resolution *Parent Involvement in the Development and Implementation of the Elementary Integrated Curriculum* was discussed and approved with amendments with the resulting final wording:

Whereas:

- A. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has begun developing an Elementary Integrated Curriculum
- B. MCPS expects full implementation of the new curriculum in kindergarten through second grade in the 2011-2012 school year and in third grade to fifth grade in the 2012-2013 school year.
- C. Teachers will access the curriculum online via the [mymcps](http://mymcps.org) portal, rather than through printed curriculum guides that had been previously used.
- D. Printed curriculum guides had been available in school libraries to any parents who wished to review the curriculum.
- E. MCPS hopes to eventually provide parents access to the [mymcps](http://mymcps.org) portal, but currently has no plans for when it will happen.
- F. Parents have the need and expectation to be able to review curriculum guides
- G. The Montgomery County Board of Education has granted preliminary approval of the MCPS Elementary Integrated Curriculum Framework, which combines existing elementary curriculum, Common Core State Standards, and Thinking and Academic Success Skills
- H. The Elementary Integrated Curriculum Framework has been posted as a single 154 page pdf on the MCPS website along with a four question feedback form
- I. MCPS will be working with Pearson Education in the development and assessment of the Elementary Integrated Curriculum.

Therefore be it resolved

1. MCPS should provide continued opportunities for parents to provide meaningful feedback in the development of the elementary integrated curriculum throughout the development and implementation process.
2. By the time schools are required to implement the curriculum, all parents in all schools should have regular access to the curriculum if they wish to review it.
3. MCPS should develop a reasonable timeline for parent access to the myMCPS portal.
4. In the future, when Curriculum Frameworks are put out for review on the MCPS website, there should be options to provide feedback on individual recommendations in the document. Furthermore people reviewing the document should be able to see what comments other people have left and be able to indicate their agreement or disagreement with the comments.
5. MCPS should make a concerted effort to educate, inform, and share with parents and the rest of the community any and all information about the effectiveness of the Elementary Integrated Curriculum. That information should be shared with the parents and the community before that information is shared with any other entity outside of MCPS.

New Business:

Donna Pfeiffer, Health and Safety Chair, proposed the resolution on *School Resource Officers*. The motion was made to consider the resolution on an emergency basis and approved. The resolution was discussed and approved with the resulting final wording:

WHEREAS School Resource Officers (SROs) provide vital safety and security functions at MCPS schools in partnership with school administration and staff members. These functions include crime prevention, intervention, outreach and enforcement efforts regarding alcohol and/or drugs, gangs, thefts, assaults, and other offenses; and

WHEREAS in order for SROs to achieve these functions by working consistently and proactively (in alignment with recommendations by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education for preventing catastrophic school violence situations) we must have at least one officer assigned to every high school, with the expectation that this program will be expanded to provide support to middle and elementary schools as needed.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE:

RESOLVED that MCCPTA supports and will advocate for at least one SRO to be assigned to every high school and provide support to middle and elementary schools as needed; and

RESOLVED that MCCPTA expects improved coordination and support between Montgomery County Police Department and MCPS as well as SROs and MCPS Administration and Security at local schools, in order to provide the safe, secure learning environment to which Montgomery County school children and staff are entitled.

Jennifer Chambers, AVP for Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, and Northwood, introduced the following proposed resolution on Edible Gardens on School Grounds. This resolution will be discussed and voted on at the January Delegates Assembly.

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.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.