

Minutes MCCPTA Board Directors
March 5, 2009
Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium

Officers

Kay Romero, President, Merry Eisner, VP Education, Liz Wheeler, VP Administration, Karen Smith, VP Programs, Rebecca Smondrowski, VP Legislation, Dale Ryan, Treasurer, Patti Twigg Recording Secretary, Delegate Assembly, Andrea Q. Bernardo, Recording Secretary, Board of Directors.

Jim Taylor, MD PTA VP for Councils.

AVPs, Cluster Coordinators and Committee Chairs

Lee Ann Doerflinger, Nagma Husain, Sharon St. Pierre, Susan Joyce Thomas, Paul Morrison, Julie Lucas, Susan Burkinshaw, Juan Johnson, Kevin David, Brenda Martin, Jim Keenan, Jennifer Chambers, Laurie Halverson, Janette Gilman, Laura Siegel, Jen Pories, Pam Moomau, Jack Hayes, Jennifer Cope, Deborah Goldman, Lori Merrill, Beth Kennington, Roy Broussard, Sally Taber, Kelly Giblin, Mary Abe, Carol Salsbury, Priscilla Peterson, Steve Augustino, Donna Pfeiffer, Jamie Jacobson, Sonya Leaman, Ted Willard, Martha Crews, Linda White, Susan Young, Elisia George, Deborah Goldman, Joe Stewart.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm. A quorum was present.

Kay Romero introduced Jim Taylor, Maryland PTA VP for Councils. Jim spoke briefly to the group about his visits to other councils.

The Agenda was approved.

The February Minutes were approved as presented.

Presidents and Principals Dinner—Sharon St. Pierre spoke about the progress of the dinner. (Her presentation was out of order from the agenda). The Committee needs additional funding and sponsors for the dinner. Several items have been cut or reduced for savings. Marriott has waived \$10 per person minimum charge for appetizers. Based on Sharon's request, a motion was made and seconded to allow the Committee to increase the ticket price in an amount up to \$75. The motion passed.

Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report. Dale Ryan presented the Budget and Profit and Loss Statement. Membership dues are still coming in. Expenses are meeting proposed budget. MCCPTA has leased a copier, thereby reducing monthly expenses.

Kay Romero reviewed a list of surplus office equipment for disposal. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Office Committee to take action to dispose of the equipment. The motion passed. The consensus suggestion was to donate the items to other organizations.

Kay Romero reported on the Board of Education (BOE) Budget Committee meeting. The BOE is considering rescinding Policy DBA and replace it with other policies. Policy DBA became an issue when the learning center closures occurred because the Superintendent had failed to notify the appropriate communities in accordance with the policy. However, it is not currently on the BOE agenda. In addition, the BOE has Policy AEB-Strategic Planning for Continuous Improvement on its agenda for action and discussion at their next meeting on Tuesday.

Liz Wheeler, VP Administration, announced that the County council Operating Budget testimony will be April 14 and 15. She has the order of testimony. Let her know if there are issues with times and dates. There will be a dinner with the County Council on one of the nights.

Liz Wheeler also reported that MD PTA is providing by-laws information on locals to MCCPTA. MD PTA has not received dues from some PTAs: Kennedy, Kensington Parkwood, Glenallen, Forest Knolls, Cresthaven, Cannon Road, and Brookhaven. Patti Twigg pointed out that there is still confusion at the local level as to the need to pay both state and county dues. Liz Wheeler reported that spring training schedule has not been set.

Legislation. Rebecca Smondrowski, VP Legislation, reported that the group meeting to Annapolis went well. The next meeting was scheduled for March 18. In addition, a joint effort with SEIU was scheduled for March 9.

Education. Merry Eisner, VP Education, reported that she would coordinate cross discipline meetings with committee chairs.

Programs. Karen Smith, VP Programs, reported on the Champions for Children awards process. The nominees were organizations trying to bridge cultural gaps. The winner was Arcola ES for doubling its membership with its “bilingual buddies” program. The event has changed this year, and MCCPTA will not be given a complimentary table for volunteering its time staffing the event. MCCPTA will receive 2 tickets.

Karen Smith also reported that she and April Keyes are on the Nominating Committee for MD PTA and encouraged volunteers. Jim Taylor encouraged participation at the state level.

Cluster Reports

Magruder reported that it will meet with the BOE the following week. There are concerns with the renovation at Redland Middle School and that MCPS may reduce the scope of the project.

Einstein reported that it is overall pleased with the Down County Consortium (DCC), but that there is concern of the loss of a sense of community. Einstein will be sponsoring community events with feeder schools. Eligibility is increasing.

Churchill held a meeting over concerns with acceleration of math and Spanish offerings at the Middle School level. The cluster will meet with the BOE in May. Cabin John renovation is scheduled to begin in June, and Seven Locks ES next year.

The Northeast Consortium (NEC) reported that BOE member Phil Kaufman attended the last NEC Clusters meeting where they discussed the Office of Legislative Oversight Report on the Consortia. The NEC has been in existence for 10 years, and some parents are concerned that it could be disbanded. Six NEC representatives went to Annapolis. The Community Superintendent supports NEC. Briggs Cheney MS will only offer Gifted and Talented Science next year. Sally Taber reported that the OLO committee did not want to end consortiums.

Quince Orchard reported that Brown Station will be a Title One School next school year. Rachel Carson is the second largest elementary school in the county and has only one counselor and one copier. The Middle School is scheduled for a renovation.

Wootton reported that it would meet with the Board of Education in April. The common concerns include: tests are not returned and no one goes over them in class; too much testing; volunteerism is dropping; and Gaithersburg West Development is expected to add 5,000 housing units and schools are already over capacity.

Gaithersburg reported that the Stimulus bill restored one school to its Title I status. All PTAs are operating.

Northwest reports that honors courses were eliminated in favor of AP courses. The community came together to achieve effective change.

Seneca Valley reported that it is on track for IB qualification. There is concern for keeping modernizations on track.

Clarksburg reported that it is over capacity and there is concern over the conditions of the portables. Clarksburg ES No. 8 is going through naming process.

Whitman reported several principals would be changing. There is overcrowding at all elementary schools. There is concern that the math curriculum is not taught in order and that middle school courses appear on high school transcripts.

Richard Montgomery will hold its dedication in April. The Twinbrook PTA President created a Title I PTA group.

Bethesda Chevy Chase reported that overcrowding is a problem.

Watkins Mill reported that there is a feasibility study for wellness center.

Rockville reported that they are trying to encourage parent involvement in the Hispanic community by asking parents to host events in their communities.

Committee Reports

Gifted Child. Susan Thomas reported that there is a “no label” program being piloted at Burning Tree ES. Eastern Middle School magnet program is seeking a 7 period schedule. Math Acceleration meetings will be held in April and May.

Grading and Reporting. Beth Kennington reported that the rule requiring teachers to update grades every 3 weeks is not being enforced. OARS will be implemented in 24 schools.

CIP. Steve Augustino thanked everyone who testified before the County Council. He also asked for input on the rest room renovations, expected to be a 7-10 year project.

Technology committee reported that it is trying to get national standard on curriculum.

Parent Involvement. Elisia George reported that it had 25 parents at a workshop.

Operating Budget. Pam Moomau reported that the stimulus funding is limited. The State still needs to provide funding. She reminded everyone that April testimony is important.

Communications. Lee Ann Doerflinger is the new Public Relations/Publicity subcommittee chair. Lee Ann would welcome additional help.

By-Laws. Joe Stewart reported on the work of the by-laws committee. Below are the recommended changes to the bylaws from the committee.

**MCCPTA Bylaws Committee
Recommend Revisions to the MCCPTA Bylaws
March 5, 2009**

1. Nominating Committee

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 5. Nominating Committee

c. This nominating committee shall be elected by ballot at the second delegate assembly of the school year. Within two weeks of the election, it shall be the duty of the vice president for administration to convene the first meeting of the nominating committee for the purpose of selecting a chairman.

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ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4. Duties of the board of directors shall be to:

d. approve and submit seven nominees for the nominating committee for submission to the second delegate assembly of the school year;

d. approve and submit seven nominees for the nominating committee for submission to the annual meeting held in April;

Rationale:

The bylaws committee believes the election of the nominating committee should occur concurrently with the election of the officers in case there is a need for the nominating committee to act over the summer or early in the year to fill a vacancy. This avoids issues revolving around last year's committee members still being qualified.

2. 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.

3. Vice President for Legislative duties

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 2. Vice-Presidents.

d. The vice president for legislation shall preside in the absence of the president, the vice president for educational issues, the vice president for administration, and the vice president for programs; shall serve as an aide to the president in supporting the legislative and advocacy work of the council; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

d. The vice president for legislation shall establish and chair the legislative committee, shall develop the annual legislative program for the Council, shall serve as an aid to the Council in support of the legislative and advocacy work of the Council and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Rationale:

The Bylaws committee believes that the Vice President for legislation should chair the Legislative committee and the language needed clarification in relation to duties. The committee believes that any legislative committee should be directed by the legislative vice president. The committee also believes that if the president and three of the four vice presidents cannot attend, meetings should be rescheduled to a time appropriate.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Duties of the Cluster Coordinator.

ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3. The members of the board of directors shall be elected officers, area vice presidents, cluster coordinators, chairs of committees, immediate past president of MCCPTA, and members of the Maryland PTA board of directors residing in Montgomery County. A parliamentarian (non-voting) may be appointed by the president, subject to approval by the executive committee.

Section 3. The members of the board of directors shall be elected officers, area vice presidents, **voting** cluster coordinators (**one per cluster**), chairs of committees, immediate past president of MCCPTA, and members of the Maryland PTA board of directors residing in Montgomery County. A parliamentarian (non-voting) may be appointed by the president, subject to approval by the executive committee.

ARTICLE X: AREA VICE-PRESIDENTS, CLUSTER COORDINATORS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 3. Cluster coordinators

a. A cluster shall consist of a high school plus its feeder schools. Each cluster shall have a cluster coordinator(s), the total number not to exceed three (3). The cluster coordinator(s) shall serve for a term of one (1) year, and not more than four (4) consecutive terms, until the election of their successors.

b. Cluster coordinators shall conduct meetings of the cluster PTA leaders; shall serve as a link between the area vice presidents and the local PTAs; shall represent the cluster at meetings of the Board of Directors, at meetings with the area vice president responsible for the cluster, and at other meetings; coordinate testimony of the cluster before the Board of Education and the County Council; shall assist the area vice presidents in the administration of PTA business; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

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b. Cluster coordinators shall conduct meetings of the cluster PTA leaders; **shall coordinate support for local PTA's in terms of the goals of MCCPTA and MCCPTA's agendas, training and ensuring effective communications**, shall serve as a link between the area vice presidents and the local PTAs; shall represent the cluster at meetings of the Board of Directors, at meetings with the area vice president responsible for the cluster, and at other meetings; coordinate testimony of the cluster before the Board of Education and the County Council; shall assist the area vice presidents in the administration of PTA business; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Add Section 3, Paragraph c

c. When clusters require more than one cluster coordinator, an individual cluster coordinator, selected by the group, will represent the cluster at the Board of Director meetings. All cluster coordinators will be allowed to participate in the discussion at meetings of the Board of Directors. If the designated cluster coordinator cannot attend any meeting of the Board of Directors, another cluster coordinator in the same cluster may vote as an alternate.

ARTICLE XII: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (VOTING BODY)

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Rationale:

Reducing the representation of the cluster coordinators will substantially reduce the quorum of half of the Board of Directors, as required by Maryland PTA. The Bylaws committee believes that all cluster coordinators should be able to participate in the Board of Directors meetings and vote at the DA, but limited to a single vote per cluster at the Board of Directors meetings. We believe that the cluster PTAs would be better served if a cluster coordinator if language is added regarding the support duties required to advance the goals of PTA.

After discussion, the Board voted to send the items below to the DA for a vote.

(THE PROPOSED REVISIONS ARE surrounded by asterisks)

Proposed Revisions to the MCCPTA Bylaws
From the MCCPTA Bylaws Committee

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10.

Respectfully submitted, Andrea Q. Bernardo, Secretary for Board of Directors