

Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
September 22, 2009
Carver Educational Service Center

The business meeting was preceded by a Committee Fair from 7:00 to 7:30 pm. Delegates had an opportunity to chat with MCCPTA Committee Chairs and find out about or join their committees.

Call to Order

President Kay Romero called the business meeting to order at 7:37 pm

Mission Statement

DeBora King, Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors read the PTA Mission Statement.

Approval of Agenda and April 28, 2009 Minutes

The presentation of the Plaque to MCCPTA as an advocate for children- Blair Ewing Life and Legacy will take place at a future meeting.

Kay introduced herself and the officers to the Delegates.

A correction to the minutes from the April 2009 DA was noted on page (add in), “from macros” was changed to read “from across.” The minutes were approved as amended by a voice vote.

Treasurers Report

Jaimie Jacobson, Treasurer, brought forward the proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year. He reminded the assembly that our sole source of income is the dues we collect from locals, and asked the delegates to please remind their PTA to pay in a timely manner.

After answering questions about the Reflections line item, Blue Books and reviewing the Balance Sheet, it was moved to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and the proposed budget was approved by voice vote.

Introduction of the Board of Directors

Orientation – How Delegates Assemblies Function

Kay Romero reviewed the basics of our Delegates Assemblies, where the business meeting starts at 7:30 pm, and the goal is to finish by 9:30 pm. She also discussed the

crates containing materials for all delegates to take back to their schools, the availability of the materials on the MCCPTA website, and the importance of the delegate being a conduit of information from MCCPTA to their local PTA.

She then reminded the delegates that Area Vice Presidents are also a good resource for them to use when they need help and information, and introduced the current AVPs.

She stressed the importance of the delegates attending the assemblies in order to bring concerns from their locals forward. By the same token, she reminded the delegates to ask for a spot on their local PTA agenda to discuss business conducted at the DA and get feedback for pending resolutions and other business. She also mentioned the Delegates Guidebook, which was distributed at the spring training and then materials not picked up were sent via pony mail to all local PTAs, and suggested that if they had not received theirs yet to ask their PTA president. The guidebooks for all officers are also available online on the MCCPTA website.

Carol Salsbury, Vice President for Programs reviewed the programs for the upcoming Delegates Assemblies this year. She pointed out that these programs are probably of interest to their local PTA members, and to encourage them to attend. The program section of the DA is also televised after the fact and the schedule is sent out via the Bulletin listserv. The schedule for this year is below:

MCCPTA DELEGATE ASSEMBLIES 2009 – 2010

Note: Except as noted, Programs start at 6:30 pm, Business meeting begins at 7:30 pm

Location, Auditorium, Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville

DATE:	PROGRAM TOPIC:
Tuesday, September 22, 2009	Committee Fair- 7:00-7:30 PM
Tuesday, October 27, 2009	Technology (Promethian Boards, etc.)
Tuesday, November 24, 2009	Curriculum (Special Focus: Math Curriculum & Process of Development)
No December Meeting	
Tuesday, January 26, 2010	Men in PTA
Tuesday, February 23, 2010	Student Service Learning (SSL)
Tuesday, March 23, 2010	Special Ed (Status on Closing of Secondary Learning Centers and other program updates if available)
Tuesday, April 27, 2010	Annual Meeting (Election) – check in starts at 6:30 for business meeting, no program due to election

Kay introduced our parliamentarian for this year, Vicki Rafel, who has extensive experience with PTA and is a past MCCPTA and MD PTA President. Vicki briefly reviewed resolutions, and how to bring them to the floor. She reminded the delegates to please submit proposed resolutions ahead of time so that the MCCPTA Office Manager can make copies for distribution. Submitting in advance also allows time for a review to be conducted to see if there is already an existing resolution from MCCPTA, MD PTA or National PTA that covers the issue of concern. Emergency resolutions can be brought forward from the floor, and she pointed out that the Guidebook contains a document showing the form resolutions should take. She pointed out that Parliamentary Procedure is all about respect and fairness for all and Robert's Rules are a tool to aid in conducting business. Finally, she reminded the delegates that they could always ask clarifying questions.

Kay pointed out the two microphones set up for delegates to use when speaking. Typically one microphone is used for people speaking in favor of an issue, and the other is used for people speaking against an issue.

Kay then reviewed key facts for delegates, such as each PTA has up to three, and the designation of alternates, both of which are determined by their bylaws, and the importance of obtaining the delegates voting card from their president. New voting cards will be needed starting November 1; until then, the green cards from last year are still good.

A Delegate from Burning Tree ES asked about the procedure to obtain the voting cards, and Kay explained that PTAs get their cards once they make a payment of dues to MCCPTA. She also explained how the cards are used, and that a Delegate only is allowed one vote, even if they represent more than one school.

Kay discussed the frequency of Delegates Assemblies, and mentioned the Principals and Presidents dinner, which will be May 19, 2010, which is earlier than usual. She noted that the Delegates would decide if we held a May DA later on in the year.

Reports

Officer Reports

Kay reported on her activities, which include attending the MCPS budget meetings. So far, she has attended 2 CIP Budget meetings, and there are 3 to 4 left. At the end of September, the Operating Budget meetings begin, and there are usually 15 of those. This is MCCPTA's third year participating in these meetings, and she emphasized that MCCPTA never advocates for any cuts whatsoever. We use the platform of our compact and resolutions to advocate for issues important to our membership.

Rich Edelman, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, asked if the employee contracts are up for negotiation this year, and Kay responded that she did not know because we are never involved in that process.

The Office of Shared Accountability is once again looking at the school environment surveys and how they are done, and will be discussing this at a meeting on Oct. 5. Kay will be attending that meeting along with Janette Gilman and they will report back.

Kay testified on behalf of MCCPTA at the September 17, 2009 MCPS BOE Community Forum at Quince Orchard HS. The next one is Oct. 15 at Kennedy HS. She pointed out that anyone can sign up to testify, and instructions for that are found on the MCPS website, along with instructions for submitting written comments if people are unable to attend and give live testimony.

On September 15, Kay attended the Virtual Town Hall Meeting with US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. There were 3 questions from Montgomery County addressed at that meeting. Earlier that day she attended the ceremony where Secretary Duncan awarded a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award to Highland ES.

State Convention packets will be sent soon to local PTA Presidents, so she reminded everyone to be on the lookout for them. It will be in Frederick again this year, and she urged local PTA members to attend, and to review the slate of officers up for election this year.

Finally, she reminded the Delegates to please be sure their PTA had submitted their Blue book info this school year.

Kristin Tribble, Vice President for Educational Issues encouraged people to join committees. She also reminded the Delegates to be sure to take the Math Workgroup flyer found in their materials back to their local PTAs.

It was pointed out that the Delegates handouts included a flyer and a survey form from the MCPS Math workgroup, and Delegates were reminded to take these items back to their local PTAs and to urge they provide feedback. A question was raised as to how the people were selected for the Workgroup. Kay responded that the Workgroup had been meeting since January, and prior to that, MCPS came to MCCPTA and requested names for participation. Andrea Bernardo, AVP for Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Wootton Clusters and one of our four Representatives on the Workgroup came forward and spoke briefly on the Workgroup, saying that it is a mixture of administrators, principals and teachers at all levels, and parents. They will be finishing up in early December and at that time will have some recommendations to be forwarded.

Kay also mentioned that Steve Augustino, CIP Committee Chair, was currently at the County Council testifying on behalf of her regarding the Growth Policy.

Legislative Committee

Rebecca Smondrowski, Vice President for Legislation reported that she had been meeting with various members of the Montgomery County Delegation in the State House

advocating for funding for our schools. She is planning a Legislative Dinner, which will be attended by the MCCPTA BOD members. She urged the Delegates to contact their AVPs and Cluster Coordinators regarding issues of concern at their local schools. She said the Legislators are currently putting together bills and she is working with them on items of concern to our members. She urged people to get involved in the Legislative Committee. Don Mewha is the Chair for that committee.

Rich Edelman, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, came forward to bring up the teacher pension issue, and to briefly explain why it is an issue of importance. Rebecca added that it could negatively impact the budget.

A Delegate asked if cuts were made in K-12 funding, would it impact specific programs. Rebecca responded that the State does not look at specifics when it makes cuts. Kay pointed out that the local school system must then decide where to spend the money allocated. The pension plan issue is of great concern to counties with smaller school systems.

Operating Budget Committee

Pam Moomau, Operating Budget Chair, came forward to talk about her committee. She urged people to join, explaining that the committee's job was to communicate the MCCPTA advocacy positions and bring our platform forward in meetings and testimony with the BOE and County Council. She pointed out that it will be another tight budget year, and we must advocate for the needs of our schools. The current hiring freeze, that began even before the school year began, is currently causing problems because of the use of long-term subs in critical positions. MCPS is expecting shortfalls of funding, so they are trying to reduce the impact.

Written report from Calendar Workgroup

Lee Ann Doerflinger, Blake Cluster Coordinator, reviewed the Calendar Workgroup that she and Jane de Winter participated in. The charge was for the 2010-2011 school year calendar, and so far it is in draft form, needing final approval from the BOE. The written report was included in the handouts for the Delegates, and is available on the MCCPTA website at:

http://www.mccpta.net/calendar_comm.html

CIP Committee

Steve Augustino, CIP Committee Chair, discussed the work his committee does, explaining what CIP is – Capital Improvements Program - and detailing what types of items are covered in that portion of the budget. His committee assists with advocacy at the State, County and BOE level for building construction, rehabilitation, roofs, and major renovation projects. The MCPS CIP Budget will be released the end of October, and then on Nov. 11 and 12 there will be testimony on it before the BOE. Cluster

Coordinators and the MCCPTA President will testify on behalf of the clusters and MCCPTA, and it is important to have PTA members attend the testimony to show support. In the spring of 2010, the same people will once again testify before the County Council, and then decisions are made regarding the CIP budget in May.

New Business

Proposed Draft Resolution MCCPTA Operating Budget Priorities for FY2011 and Proposed Draft MCCPTA Operating Budget Compact FY2011

Pam Moomau brought forward the Proposed Operating Budget Priorities and Budget Compact from the Operating Budget Committee:

MCCPTA Proposed Resolution on FY2011 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.

*Minimum possible class sizes,
Well-maintained, safe, secure, mold-free school facilities,
Sensible, developmentally appropriate, fully supported curriculum implementation,
Adequate staffing for special education students,
Focus on adequate school-home as well as home-school communication,
and
Academic support for students needing assistance and/or enrichment.*

Proposed MCCPTA FY2011 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 2011. 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 initiatives from the former years and encourages continued support for these initiatives:

*Reduced class sizes throughout the County
Reduction in the use of substitute teachers in the classroom for teacher training
Math content coaches
Educational facilities officers and other security measures*

In addition, the budget should provide for the following:

*Certification in the appropriate content areas for middle school teachers teaching high school courses and specialty courses offered in signature programs
More staffing for art, music, and physical education
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*

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
- Implementation of on-line achievement and reporting systems in all secondary schools
- 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, 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
- Improved staffing ratios for LAD

Increased academic intervention/support resources, including:

- o Specific action/intervention plans for students not meeting standards under the grading and reporting policy
- o Specific action/intervention plans for students not meeting extracurricular activity eligibility requirements.
- o 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
- Parent access to 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 maintenance, plant operations, transportation, and other central office functions play a key role in student achievement. 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:

- New budget document: Superintendent's Recommended Operating Budget in Brief
- Program to improve school building security through increased surveillance in secondary schools and around elementary school entrances

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

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

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.

She explained these documents would become our basis for advocacy. The Delegates will be voting on these items in October, and she asked that they discuss these documents with their local PTAs and bring back any concerns to the October DA. She noted that the Compact has been around for a long time, and has evolved over the course of time, and is a very detailed document. It is organized according to the MCPS Strategic Plan at the request of MCPS. This year's is similar to last year's, but some items have been moved around to reflect changes in the Strategic Plan. The Resolution on Operating Budget Priorities is more focused and thus much shorter. In past years, when there was more money available, it was a list of things we wanted, but with all the budget cuts, it currently is more a list of things we do not want to see cut. The items in these documents came out of the discussions at the Area Meetings held this past June throughout the County. She explained that the Resolution is purposely brief, and it is undesirable to expand it, since that will cause a loss of focus. She also urged attendance at hearings when MCCPTA gives testimony. They will be after the first of the year. There will be a meeting in early January attended by MCPS and elected officials to discuss the Operating Budget. Rich Edelman urged people to attend this meeting; since otherwise the officials get the idea that we are not interested. Kay noted the date is Jan. 4, 2010, in the Auditorium at Carver.

Proposed Motion on Spending Affordability Guidelines

Steve Augustino brought forward a time sensitive resolution from the CIP Committee:

*Motion Regarding Spending Affordability Guidelines
Approved by the MCCPTA Delegates
September 22, 2009*

The Montgomery County Council currently is soliciting comment on the Spending Affordability Guidelines for the FY 2011 Capital Budget and FY 2011-16 Capital Improvements Program. The CIP Committee moves that MCCPTA submit a letter to the Council stating

- (i) that MCCPTA recommends that the Council adopt SAG guidelines that provide sufficient flexibility to pursue opportunities to accelerate capital projects while conditions are favorable, balanced with prudent consideration of the bond capacity of the County and its taxpayers;*
- (ii) that schools should continue to receive at least the same percentage of County bond capacity they have received in recent years; and*
- (iii) that any increases in the SAG should enable MCPS to accelerate planned addition and modernization projects in order to achieve potential cost savings.*

He explained that the CIP budget is front loaded, so this issue must be dealt with now. He explained the funding sources for the CIP budget and that the County Council is voting on the Spending Affordability Guidelines in early October, which is why action is needed now. He presented a resolution on the Spending Affordability Guidelines, which will allow MCCPTA to send a letter to the County Council and facilitate our participating in the upcoming discussion process. He pointed out that currently construction bids are coming in low due to the poor economy, and it is wise to take advantage of that fact. Since his resolution was from a Committee, it needed no second.

Laurie Halverson, Churchill Cluster Coordinator and MCCPTA Safety Committee Chair, asked about roof replacement and HVAC, since the Resolution seemed to only deal with modernizations? Steve responded that there would be another resolution from his committee dealing with those items.

A Delegate asked if it was possible to increase the number of modernizations, since there are a limited number of holding schools? Steve responded that high schools already do not have a holding school, but if this resolution is passed, then we could discuss the details of how to accomplish the goals.

Vivian Sretchen, Northwood HS Delegate, asked if we needed to put in writing what to do with the extra money? Steve replied that the other CIP Resolution would address that. This resolution says to use money to advance other projects.

Jim Roberts, Takoma Park MS Delegate asked if perhaps it would be better to be more general in the resolution statement instead of giving specifics? Steve responded that the possibility of extra money would allow MCPS to accelerate construction.

Juan Johnson, AVP for Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley Clusters, spoke in favor of the resolution, explaining that the current projects have been delayed for a long time, and it is time to get them moving so that other projects way down the list can also move forward.

This resolution passed on a voice vote without modification.

Proposed Draft Resolution on FY 2011-16 CIP priorities and Proposed Draft Resolution on Restroom Renovations

Steve then brought forward the CIP Committee's Priorities and Draft Resolution for presentation and clarifying questions only.

***Proposed Resolution on the FY 2011 Capital Improvement Program Budget
And FY2011-2016 CIP***

WHEREAS, in November, 2009, the Montgomery County Board of Education will consider a Recommended FY 2011 Capital Budget appropriation request and a FY 2011–2016 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) request;

WHEREAS, in order to implement the FY 2011-2016 CIP the county and the state must make available sufficient funding sources from the state and county budgets, including at least \$40 million in state school construction funding;

WHEREAS, in this fiscal environment, the availability of sufficient funding is subject to significant uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the types of projects planned in the FY 2011 Capital Budget appropriation request and the amended FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program would provide critical school additions, modernizations and other improvements to provide students with safe, secure and adequate learning facilities;

THEREFORE, the MCCPTA RESOLVES:

THAT the County and State should provide adequate funding to ensure that critical school projects may proceed forward as planned;

THAT the State should provide school construction funding to the County in an amount at least equal to \$40 million;

THAT the County and the Board of Education should reconcile budgetary restraints in a way that does not harm the educational opportunities provided to all students and that provides all students with a safe, healthy and modern learning environment for education;

THAT MCCPTA supports prioritizing available funds to ensure that planned school additions and modernizations are not delayed; and

THAT MCCPTA further supports prioritizing available funds to support county-wide programs for HVAC Replacement, Roof Replacement, Building Modifications and Program Improvements, Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement and School Security Improvements.

This will be voted on at the October DA, and Delegates were asked to discuss this with their local PTAs. Two days after the DA, MCPS will be releasing the CIP Budget. This Resolution is a companion piece to the Operating Budget Compact and is similar to the CIP Resolution adopted back in January of 2009. It will also be used to guide advocacy in testimony and discussions with MCPS and other elected officials. He included background information in the handout given to the Delegates to help answer any questions that locals might have. PTAs can contact him with any questions that come up over the next month.

Steve also brought forth a Proposed Resolution on Restroom Renovations:

***MCCPTA Proposed Resolution on the Restroom Renovation Project In the FY 2011-2016
Capital Improvement Program***

WHEREAS, in November, 2009, the Montgomery County Board of Education will consider a Recommended FY 2011 Capital Budget appropriation request and a FY 2011–2016 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) request;

WHEREAS, the Recommended CIP is expected to contain a recommendation regarding the continuation of an existing Restroom Renovation project to an additional 108 schools in the county;

WHEREAS, individual schools have submitted comments on the conditions of the restrooms for MCPS' consideration in evaluating the 108 schools for the next phase of the project;

WHEREAS, MCPS has recently completed an initial group of restroom renovations consisting of 47 schools renovated over a four year period;

WHEREAS, the CIP Committee has been studying the Restroom Renovation project results and has met with MCPS staff regarding the scope and timing of the next phase of the project; and

WHEREAS, the CIP Committee has received feedback from individual schools regarding the level of satisfaction with the initial group of restroom renovations;

THEREFORE, MCCPTA RESOLVES:

THAT the quality, cleanliness and condition of restrooms in county schools is vital to providing a safe, secure and modern environment for students;

THAT MCCPTA supports the implementation of a county-wide maintenance program to ensure that all school restrooms are maintained in good working order and that all fixtures and facilities are promptly repaired,

THAT the maintenance program should improve ventilation in all restrooms;

THAT the maintenance program should ensure that all restrooms are kept clean and well-supplied throughout the year;

THAT the maintenance program should be developed with clear, identifiable goals and that permits public monitoring of its implementation; and

THAT MCCPTA recommends that the Board of Education consider whether the extension of the Restroom Renovation project under its current scale and scope is a worthwhile expenditure of capital funds in the current environment.

He explained the current status of this countywide project, and the plan MCPS has to evaluate schools and create a new priority list. He asked for feedback from schools that recently had a renovation, as to their satisfaction level of what was done, and also what exactly was done. He calls these projects more a rehabilitation rather than a renovation, since these projects are limited in scope. They do not upgrade, only repair and replace broken and damaged fixtures. They will look at ventilation and replace it if it is inadequate or not functioning.

Rochelle Hodes, Fallsmead ES Delegate, stated that she felt this resolution did not state a position. Steve responded that there are three options, 1) to continue on the same way, 2) to put the money in and do an actual upgrade, or 3) don't waste money on something called a restroom renovation and instead replace things when they break, do maintenance when needed, in other words, have a comprehensive maintenance plan in place. He mentioned that posted on the CIP Committee webpage on the MCCPTA website are documents detailing the schools being considered for restroom renovation, the list of school not being considered, and the comment worksheet where he tried to gather feedback from schools. He also used the 2006-2007 School Environment Survey, looking at the comments from students. He really would like input from schools as to what they want to see included.

Ann Witkowsky, Bethesda ES Delegate, asked about the projects underway and wanted to clarify that these were not actually renovations? Steve replied that he really calls it

rehabilitation, not renovation. She asked if we were to support his recommendation, would that mean the cost would be shifted to the Operating Budget? Steve replied it would free up Capital money to do other things, and that it is currently a million dollars a year being spent on the Restroom Renovation project. He wants to put a laser focus on what should be done in the way of maintenance.

Proposed Amendments to MCCPTA Bylaws

Andrea Bernardo, Bylaws Committee Chair, brought forward two resolutions from her committee to change the MCCPTA bylaws:

Proposed Amendment 1:

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.

To read thusly:

Section 3. The members of the board of directors shall be elected officers, area vice presidents, **one cluster coordinator per cluster, and** chairs of **standing** committees. A parliamentarian (non-voting) may be appointed by the president, subject to approval by the executive committee. **The immediate past president of MCCPTA, members of the Maryland PTA board of directors residing in Montgomery County, other cluster coordinators, chairs of ad hoc committees, subcommittee chairs and committee points of contact may participate in discussion at the meetings, but will not be permitted to vote, and thus will not count in the quorum.**

Proposed Amendment 2:

Article VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 6. Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held nine times per year [each month] unless the board of directors votes exceptions. *This reduces the number of meetings by two. This will be handled by next year's Executive Committee upon election since this year's calendar is set.*

Section 9. The board of directors, by a two thirds (2/3) vote of its members present and voting, may remove from office a member who fails to perform his/her duties as outlined in these bylaws or the current standing rules, fails to attend four (4) consecutive board of directors meetings without being excused, ... *This inserts an attendance requirement – or at least you have to call an executive committee member and explain why you can't make it.*

She explained the current issues we have regarding the quorum for our BOD and not always being able to conduct business due to the large size of our BOD. These proposed amendments were arrived at after extensive discussion. She read the resolutions as proposed.

Rich Edelman, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, asked if the two resolutions were separate? Andrea answered they were separate.

Ted Willard, AVP Watkins Mill, Gaithersburg, Clarksburg, Damascus, Magruder Clusters, asked if the BOD voted upon these resolutions, and in whose possession they

were for action. Andrea responded that they were voted by the BOD to be brought forward to the Delegates.

Janette Gilman, Churchill HS Delegate, asked who would be restructuring the committees? Kay responded that the BOD had charged the Executive Committee to come to the next BOD meeting with a proposed plan to restructure the committees. The BOD has the power to create or restructure committee according to our bylaws.

Laurie Halverson, Churchill Cluster Coordinator, asked if the resolutions are being brought forward as one resolution or two? She thought that at the BOD meeting they were one resolution. Andrea clarified that they were voted on separately at the BOD meeting, that one was not dependent on the other.

Jen Pories, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, asked if in the first resolution, where it states that one cluster coordinator per cluster would be a member, does a certain cluster coordinator have to be designated, or can the cluster coordinators for a given cluster alternate? The answer is yes, they can alternate.

Beth Kennington, Northwest Cluster Coordinator, asked about the removal of a board member for not attending meetings, and if that would be imposed on all cluster coordinators in a given cluster if just one misses the meetings? Andrea replied that the intention is not to punish, but rather encourage attendance. Beth then asked if the plan to restructure the standing committees would come before the Delegates? Kay responded that the BOD had the power to create committees under our bylaws. The Delegates would be informed of the BOD action.

An ES Delegate asked how many would be on the BOD after the restructure? Andrea responded that the number would be reduced, but at this point it was uncertain exactly how many would be on the BOD since all positions are not currently filled.

Rochelle Hodes, Fallsmead ES Delegate, asked if the amendment regarding sanctioning members that do not attend would be effective? Andrea replied that we think so.

Lori Goodwin, Sherwood ES Delegate, asked if since this is the state template, would our bylaws have to go to the state for approval? Any changes made will have to go to Maryland PTA.

Jim Keenan, Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator, asked if the standing committees restructuring would be identified at the next BOD meeting? Kay replied they would be. Existing standing committees and subcommittees are currently identified on our website and in the bluebook. Restructuring would be voted on if we have a quorum at that meeting.

Darnestown ES Delegate asked if we would need voting cards at our October DA? Kay replied that we would and that she would send out a reminder about that.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Patti Twigg
Secretary, Delegates Assembly