

**Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)
Minutes of the Delegate Assembly on January 22, 2008
in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center**

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 7:43

Mission: Vice President for Programs April Keys read the mission of the PTA.

Agenda: Several committee reports were added to the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from the November Delegates Assembly were distributed and reviewed. April Keys made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Dale Ryan reported that additional dues have been received, but noted that there are number of PTAs that have yet to send in dues as well is a discrepancy in the number of members reported to the state and those reported to MCCPTA. Local PTAs may want to check their records and Cluster Coordinators will be asked to follow up with them. We are still short of our membership goals, so PTAs should continue their membership drive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PTA Night in Annapolis

PTA Night in Annapolis is on Monday, February 11. The state PTA realizes that this is the night before the state primary. Unfortunately, this night was set before the state moved the date of the primary. There was some concern whether the politicians themselves might not be there because of the primary, but we have contacted members of the Montgomery county delegation who have told us they will be in Annapolis that night. We will be giving packets to the members of the stated delegation. If PTAs want to include something, they need to supply 40 packets. Topics to advocate for include Construction funding, free or discounted use of the Comcast Center at the University of Maryland for Graduation ceremonies, and funding of the Bridge to Excellence Act.

Capital Improvements Program Committee

Jane de Winter reported that Ike Leggett, the county executive, recommends full funding of this year's CIP but reduced funding for the following years making the overall funding about 75 million less than planned. Dr. Weast prepared a list of possible cuts to meet these new guidelines. The first recommendation was to push back renovations for Paint Branch, Gaithersburg, Wheaton, and Seneca Valley high schools. Everyone is encouraged to let the council know of the need for construction funding. All cluster coordinators will be giving testimony to the County Council on Wednesday, February 6th.

Training Committee

Liz Wheeler, Vice President for Administration, announced that there will be several training sessions in the next month. Most will take place between 7:30 and 9:30. Sessions will include training for Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Bylaws. The secretary's training that was listed for February 6th will not take place, as that date conflicts with County Council CIP Testimony. There will be training for members of the Board of Directors on Saturday, March 1st from 9:30 am till 2:00 pm at the Garrett Park Town Hall.

Programs

Vice President for Programs April Keyes apologized for the lack of a program tonight. There were some difficulties securing speakers and it came to the point last Friday where it was decided that the best thing to do would be to cancel the program. Next month's program will focus on Counseling.

Presidents and Principals Dinner Support

April Keyes mentioned that because of the costs of holding the Presidents and Principals dinner, MCCPTA would be soliciting donations from companies in the area. This effort was fairly effective last year, but we learned that having a contact name is often very critical. Therefore, everyone is asked to forward any recommendations for companies or points of contact to her.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is at work developing a slate of officers for next year to present to the Delegates in March. Anyone who is interested, or who would like to recommend someone else, should forward the information to any member of the Nominating Committee. Nominations for Cluster Coordinators and Area Vice Presidents should be completed by the March meeting as well.

Grading and Reporting Committee

Beth Kennington shared with the delegates that MCPS is working on regulations for Grading and Reporting (IKA-RA). A workgroup has been formed to review the regulations.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Ride-on Bus Service

The county has withdrawn plans to start charging students to use Ride-on bus's in the afternoons. The plan had been to end the service in the spring in order to save money, but there was significant opposition. It will once again be free in the afternoons for MCPS students who show their ID.

Lunch Room Aids

Based in part on concerns raised by MCCPTA and other parents, the office of organizational development is working on training for Lunchroom Aids and Recess Aids for managing student behavior.

Youth Speak Out

The Youth Connectedness Steering Committee which is affiliated with the Collaboration Council is sponsoring a Youth Speak Out on February 12, which is Election Day, at three community centers around the county: Long Branch, Bauer Drive, and Germantown. It is a chance for students to comment on any topic they wish to, particularly what could be done to make them feel more a part of their school. They need facilitators for the events, so if you are interested, please let Jane know. They are also looking for about 30 High School students to be recorders for these events.

Listserv

Patti Twigg has worked with guidance from the Board of Directors to create for local PTAs a list of issues to consider and recommendations as they create or operate a listserv.

Parent School Relationships

Jane de Winter reported that on December 20th, a number of parents and outreach people attended a program from a professor at Harvard who wrote the book *Beyond the Bake Sale*. In the book, the author described several different types of relationships between schools and parents, from those schools who operate with a fortress mentality to those who form a true partnership with parents. Jane is interested in, looking into ways for MCCPTA to collect feedback from parents as to where they think their school fits on' this scale. ."

MANA food bank

Jane de Winter noted that donations were being taken at tonight's meeting for MANA food bank. The MCPS staff at the Carver Educational Services Center is also participating. People are welcome to drop off additional goods throughout the week.

NEW BUSINESS

PSAT Tests

Kay Romero presented the following resolution on behalf of the High School Committee. Whereas, students who take the 11th grade PSAT are eligible for a variety of scholarships and a lot of information from colleges as a result for taking the PSATS, and

Whereas, it is difficult for high schools to get all 11th graders registered, and

Whereas, MCPS pays for 9th and 10th graders to take the PSAT to identify students who could be accelerated, and

Whereas, the PSAT results are of limited value in identifying 9th graders who could be accelerated, and

Whereas, MCPS has stated that they could use an old PSAT exams or practice exams for 9th grade which would provide the same benefit at no cost, therefore be it

Resolved that MCCPTA supports MCPS paying for 10th and 11th graders to take the PSAT and MCCPTA supports MCPS's efforts to utilize other available resources to identify 9th graders for placement.

Delegates were asked to take this motion to their local PTAs and discuss it this month so that it can be debated and voted on at next month's Delegates Assembly. Several questions were raised. A background sheet with additional information will be sent out on the Bulletin and posted on the MCCPTA website.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.