

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, January 4, 2007 at Carver Education Services Center

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Jane de Winter, April Keyes, Liz Wheeler, Juan Johnson, Cassandra Abdelmeguid, Kay Romero, Victor Salazar, Sharon St.Pierre

Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators: Jim Keenan, Steve Crowley, Paul Morrison, Ellen Paul, Harlivleen Gill, Deborah Stevens-Panzer, John F. Hall, Jr., Linda Kuserk, Andrea Bernardo, Kristen Tribble, Livleen Gill, Liza Durant, Susan Stavenhagen, Alies Muskin, Carroll Lovelace, Joanne Vanderhorst

Committee Chairs: Patti Twigg, Diane Dickson, Sharon Schulman, Pam Moomau, Neal Myerson

OPENING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM.

Agenda:

Minutes/Secretary's Report: The December 7, 2006 Board of Directors (BOD) meeting minutes were distributed. One correction made to the Vice President's report was, "Please let the President or Vice President know if you have any connections at any local businesses so we can send them our letter or you can hand deliver them." The correction made to the President's report under the bylaws section was, "According to MD PTA, as currently written, our bylaws do not require an officer to resign when applying for an appointment to public office. Mary Jo Neil, MD PTA President, will confer with the MD PTA parliamentarian and MD PTA Executive Board on December 9. If the Delegates want to require officers to resign upon their application for appointment to public office, they can amend the bylaws." A date correction to December 12 was made to the DCC cluster report.

John Hall made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Insurance payments of approximately \$14,000 deposited this week aren't shown on the report, yet. The majority of insurance payments are outstanding. Dues/Insurance Payments Received 2006-07, Profit and Loss statements for November and December 2006 and the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2006 were distributed. Area vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators please pass this information on the dues/insurance sheet on to your locals. Dues payments refer to MCCPTA dues. MCCPTA has approximately 39,000 members. There are about 700 new members from one new middle school PTA.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Vice President for Administration:

Testimony Schedule - Please e-mail the name of who will be testifying for your cluster to Cassandra Abdelmeguid by Monday, January 8. Next week's Operating Budget testimony on Wednesday and Thursday is eight minutes per cluster. No schedule is out for boundary testimony on March 7. Spring training will be the first week in June. If you are interested in being the Training Chair, please contact the VP for Administration or the President.

Vice President for Legislation: Maryland Education Coalition in partnership with MD PTA is drafting legislation for the Governor to form a commission to study the effects of HSAs and their results in 2009.

PTA Night in Annapolis – February 12 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm is PTA Night in Annapolis. The Vice President will get more format details on Monday and will post it them on the bulletin. Past formats were discussed. The current schedule is: 6 to 6:30 pm - Registration in the Joint Hearing Room; 6:30 to 7 pm – Legislative Briefing; 7 to 8 pm – Meet with members of all delegations; and 8 to 9 pm – Optional attendance at a Legislative Session. Please tell locals about PTA Night.

Vice President for Programs: A draft of a letter to be sent seeking corporate and business sponsors for the presidents and principals dinner including sponsorship levels was distributed. A third page is to be completed and returned to the MCCPTA office. A brochure about MCCPTA will also be included with this mailing. Comments included sending letters to the Chamber of Commerce, Committee for Montgomery and adding the box to be checked off at the bottom. The budget for the printing and mailing is a pass through of the ticket sales for the dinner. Feedback on the letter needs to be to the Vice President by tomorrow morning.

President's Report:

The President distributed a list of her activities from December 11 to January 3. The correspondence file was circulated.

Middle School Music - She noted the copy of her follow up letter to Don Kress re: middle school music in response to a conversation during the November Board of Education meet and greet. The President had asked if it was possible for all middle school principals to offer at least choral and instrumental music classes during course registration to gauge interest. Principals weren't given written instruction to do so, but will be asked to include music in their course offerings. Please check for music course offerings at your middle schools, and contact your Community Superintendent if they aren't offered.

Health Curriculum and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) - Next Tuesday the Board of Education (BOE) is scheduled to discuss the Superintendent's recommendations for the new health curriculum. Tracy Fox, Chair of MCCPTA's Health Committee had prepared comments to be endorsed, but because of last night's vote by the CAC not to endorse the curriculum there was no discussion on her comments. CAC objected to some statements that MCPS had deleted. Tracy won't be able to attend Tuesday's BOE meeting.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast - Please contact the president if you want to fill one of the seats left at our table January 15 at 7 am for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast at the Bethesda North Conference Center.

Ike Leggett's Public Forums – No registration is needed for these public forums on the operating budget. The consensus was that the President could attend or comment on line (electronically) with what MCCPTA had submitted to the County Council in September. The forums are in January on the 16 (2), 23, 29 and 31 at various locations. This was been posted on the list serv January 3.

AGENDA ITEMS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: The Vice President for Administration gave the membership update. Dues were overall slightly down. We've met 69% of our goal from September, October and November reports. Clarksburg and Quince Orchard clusters were cited as meeting or exceeding their goals. The Northeast and DCC consortiums and Poolesville, Rockville, Richard Montgomery, Seneca Valley, and Watkins Mill clusters were noted to be at about 50% of their goals. Our goal is 60,000 members. We are 9,000 less than last year's total and about 18,000 under from our goal. Please continue to use letters to principals, notices of list servs, personal contacts (including family members), etc. to recruit more members. Statewide MCCPTA is in third place in meeting our membership goals.

Nominating Committee: The Vice President for Administration reported that this committee will meet twice. A letter and form have been put on the list serv. To date no forms have come in to the MCCPTA office.

Bylaws: The Vice President for Administration reported that MD PTA voted on November 10 to make some bylaws changes. These amendments will be automatically put into bylaws, so locals don't have to make these changes. The new template should be available in January. PTA presidents should have received a notice.

Operating Budget:

Workshop - A testimony writing workshop will be held at Einstein High School in the media center on Saturday, January 6 at 9:30 am in preparation for the operating budget testimony nights on Wednesday, January 10 and Thursday, January 11. There will be detailed information on changes in the budget and how it aligns with our budget compact. This will be shared electronically for those who cannot attend. PTA presidents should have gotten the large operating budget book through the pony and Cluster Coordinators should have had it mailed to their homes. The President was told that the books were sent out, but the majority of attendees had not received their books as of tonight. Some Operating Budget books were available tonight. The Operating Budget is on line.

Operating Budget Forum - This forum is Monday, January 6 at 7:30 pm in the Carver auditorium. Attendees will include: Dr. Weast, Marshall Spatz, Marilyn Praisner, Phil Andrews, Nancy Navarro and Shirley Brandman. The public is invited. Please let your locals know about the forum. Questions for the forum may be developed at Saturday's workshop, as well as a theme for testimony.

MCCPTA Testimony - Discussion centered on guidance on testimony for the Learning Centers issue. It included: how strong an endorsement of the budget to make; frustration with lack of ample time for locals to take a position; consensus of not moving ahead too quickly, but to phase it in or make it voluntary; no training and cuts to budget; principals not being aware of it; how to be prepared for the fall; general education teachers co-teaching with special educators; highly individualized services for low numbers of students; self-contained classrooms; IEPs; impact on general education students and other special needs students; scheduling; going on record with MCCPTA's April 2005 resolution on the continuum of services; stress on continuum and choices; potential court cases; private school placements; and parent advocacy. Maryland is behind other states, and Montgomery County has focused on the center model. Middle schools are being examined for AYP. Instruction is based on content areas, so will the AYP be raised? Special education teachers trained in content areas are the ideal situation.

OLD BUSINESS:

Curriculum Committee Resolution on Personal Finance Course:

The committee co-chair distributed background to the resolution which was passed by the curriculum committee in November and brought to the BOD on December 4, but tabled. Additional information on existing consumer math courses was presented as requested. MCPS central office staff said that the present consumer math course will not be changed or phased out, and it's designed for students on the regular math track, not higher level math students. It's a full year course with emphasis on business with some personal financial management that is offered at most, but not all high schools. This course doesn't satisfy a technical requirement. The Co-chair distributed two articles from USA Today that note 14 states require a similar kind of course. The committee proposal is for a one semester course suitable for 10th graders (although it could be taken any other year) which could be taken opposite the one semester health course.

Resolution on Course in Personal Financial Management

WHEREAS, one of the most critical skills needed by adults in our society is personal financial management; including but not limited to knowledge of: how to manage bank accounts and credit/debit cards and understand the interest on them, how to create and follow a budget, how to understand a contract and its legal ramifications, how to calculate the aggregate costs of a loan, how to understand the charges on a bill, how to determine the true value of discounts, why gambling is not recommended as a career choice, and how to guard against identity theft and scams; and

WHEREAS, intelligent, educated people regularly and increasingly are taken in by scams, outspend their incomes, declare bankruptcy, wind up in court, or simply waste their money because they lack these skills; and

WHEREAS, credit cards are now routinely available to teenagers and college students who can legally sign contracts when they are 18 years old, but who have no experience or instruction in money management; and

WHEREAS, personal financial competence is as critical to success and happiness as physical health or a successful career, but the needed skills cannot be picked up from the media or social activities and a large proportion of parents either do not or cannot teach these skills to their children; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Council on Economic Education, as stated in the mission statement, recommends that children leave high school equipped with the economic knowledge and decision-making skills they need to make informed, rational decisions as consumers, workers, citizens, savers, investors and participants in the global economy. An understanding of basic economic principles and our free enterprise system is vital to an individual's ability to be a responsible consumer, a productive worker, a prudent saver, an investor, and an informed voter, and

WHEREAS, a one semester course in Health is required by the State of Maryland for high school graduation on the assumption that this is critical knowledge, even though it does not fit into the course progression for other academic disciplines; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Montgomery County schools should develop a one semester course in personal finance that should cover these and related subjects and that this course should be made available at every county high school.

Sharon Schulman made a motion that the Board of Directors endorse the above resolution from the Curriculum Committee. It passed unanimously by a voice vote. It will go to the Delegates for action.

Discussion of the resolution included: endorsement of this resolution results in it going to the Delegate Assembly for a vote; test scores; it's an elective course that's different from consumer math; and promotion by guidance counselors.

Review of JFA Letter – The President distributed a draft copy of a letter to be sent to the BOE summarizing MCCPTA concerns as discussed at our November 28 Delegate Assembly. An additional list of comments from the November 28 Delegate Assembly

was also distributed. Comments included that it was great and hit the needed points. Additional suggestions can be sent to the President before the letter goes out on Monday. Discussion of IEB Testimony – The President distributed a copy of the letter summarizing MCCPTA’s comments on this middle school education policy. The BOE is scheduled to vote on this at their next meeting, however, some BOE members may support a delaying the vote for a month. Discussion included since there was not enough time to comment, we should support the month delay in our testimony.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comments on BOE Policy Committee’s expectations for public comment – A draft copy of Guidelines for Comment at Public Hearings was distributed. It included a resolution re: public hearings and three questions about testimony. Bolded items about groups were discussed. The discussion concluded that a letter should be written to the BOE President commenting on the rude and condescending tone. We reject these notions because we operate as our organization’s policies and guidelines dictate.

List Serv Protocols: A Cluster Coordinator expressed her concerns about the undercutting of MCCPTA members on the list serv. She suggested that if you’re not serving on the BOD or as a delegate that you shouldn’t be on the list serv.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.