

Minutes MCCPTA Board Directors
Carver Educational Service Center
January 8, 2009

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, Delegates Assembly, Andrea Q. Bernardo, Recording Secretary, BOD.

AVPs, Cluster Coordinators and Committee Chairs

Lee Ann Doerflinger, Fran Simons, Susan Burkinshaw, Susan Joyce Thomas, Paul Morrison, Julie Lucas, Jim Keenan, Jennifer Chambers, Laurie Halverson, Janette Gilman, Laura Siegel, Jen Pories, Beth Kennington, Roy Broussard, Priscilla Peterson, Steve Augustino, Donna Pfeiffer, Jamie Jacobson, Sonya Leaman, Dawn Trahern, Elisia George, Keith Parsky, Carol Salisbury, Terry Salus, Aimee House, Deborah Goldman, Grace Barnes, Joe Stewart, Yvette Monroe, Ted Willard, Jennifer Cope

The Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. A quorum was present.

The Agenda was approved.

The December Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report. Dale Ryan presented the Budget and Profit and Loss Statement. Membership dues are coming in. In addition, Dale reported that the office photocopier may need replacement, as maintenance is getting costly. Kay Romero added that the office is endeavoring to engage in "green" policies as a cost-saving measure.

Kay Romero discussed MDPTA membership reports—she noted that some schools have not paid dues. She also reported that MDPTA was asking for feedback on the number of membership cards to be printed in Spanish. Some discussion ensued as to the merit of this and the possibility of bilingual cards was suggested.

Officer Reports

Karen Smith, VP Programs, reported on Champions for Children. The Announcement for Volunteer of the Year will be sent to the MCCPTA membership. Nominations can be made for individuals or programs.

Rebecca Smondrowski, VP Legislation, reported on efforts to get cluster representatives to Annapolis on a weekly basis to advocate for MCCPTA. She reported that Maryland was Number 1 in the nation on quality of education and that she attended the Bridge to Excellence Report meeting. She also relayed her conversation with Governor O'Malley with regard to his apparent dissatisfaction with Weast's quotes in the Washington Post on the \$24 Million mistakenly withheld from MCPS in 2007 and expressed concern that a letter should be sent to re-affirm MCCPTA's advocacy for the students of Montgomery County schools. The BOD approved a letter to be written by Kay Romero to Governor O'Malley. The letter will request that the governor meet with MCCPTA representatives to discuss school funding for Montgomery County.

Liz Wheeler, VP Administration, circulated a list of cluster coordinators and their times for the January 14 and 21 Operating Budget testimony. Each speaker is allotted 8 minutes.

Committee Reports

Operating Budget Committee. Merry Eisner reported for Pam Moomau. She thanked everyone who came to the budget Forum and reminded everyone to attend the workshop at Kensington-Parkwood ES January 10 from 9:00 am-noon.

Parent Involvement. Elisia George announced there would be a meeting on Wednesday January 14. The Committee is planning on conducting training in the spring.

Reflections—the written report was accepted.

Membership-no report

By-Laws Committee. Joe Stewart reported that more local PTA by-laws had been approved in recent weeks. The next bylaws committee meeting will be

held Wednesday January 14. MCCPTA bylaws are due to be renewed this year. The committee is working on suggested language.

New Business

Jennifer Cope was elected Walter Johnson Cluster Coordinator.

CIP Resolution. The Board voted to send a resolution entitled Resolution on the FY 2010 Capital Improvement Program Budget to the Delegates Assembly for a vote. Steve Augustino reported on MCPS responses to questions raised last month: Computers are supposed to be replaced every 4 years, financed over the life of the computers. MCPS has already committed \$19 million for Tech Mod. He is still waiting for answers on the Promethean Board questions. He is also still awaiting answers on the HVAC system questions. With regard to security systems, cameras go to schools slated for Tech Mod.

Gifted Child Resolution - The Board voted to send a resolution entitled Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction to the Delegates Assembly for a vote. The motion proposed by the Gifted Child Committee was amended by striking “special talents” and inserting “academic” in certain paragraphs.

Bus Radio - The Board voted to send a resolution entitled Resolution on School System Pilots to the Delegates Assembly for a vote. The motion was submitted in response to the MCPS announcement that it had run a pilot program promoting commercial radio on buses without consultation with parents. The motion was amended to eliminate some references to Bus Radio, to focus on school system pilot projects, and to request that MCPS seek input from all constituent groups, including non-English speaking constituencies.

Safety Committee - Safety Committee Chair, Laurie Halverson, sought feedback from BOD members about a future resolution for accountability systems with respect to portables. The Safety Committee members have also been reviewing and giving input.

Grace Barnes, Wheaton Cluster Coordinator, appealed for help from other PTA members for financial contributions to help a Wheaton cluster family

whose child had died (the family could not afford to bury him). Information will go out on the Bulletin Listserv.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.