

Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)

Minutes of the Delegate Assembly on October 23, 2007

in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center

Program

Mary Kendall, Program Director, Maryland International Corridor C-Safe moderated a panel discussion concerning gang intervention and prevention with guests

- Luis Cardona, Youth Violence and Gang Prevention Coordinator for the Department of Health and Human Services in Montgomery County;
- Luis Hurtado, Montgomery County Police Department, Division of Community Services
- Jeff Edgar, Assistant Principal, Eastern Middle School.

The discussion included the acknowledgement that gangs are active at high schools and middle schools in Montgomery County, and that students are frequently aware of it even if their parents are not. Parents were encouraged to be heavily engaged in their children's lives and aware of what was going on as that has proven to be the best way to prevent children from getting involved in gangs.

Business Meeting

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 8:08

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

Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from the September Delegates Assembly were distributed and reviewed. Several people's names were corrected. Lori Goodwin made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Treasure's Report: Dale Ryan thanked the local units that have sent in their dues and presented a report on income and expenses. Jane de Winter reminded the delegates that the first payment of Maryland PTA dues are due on November 1.

Operating Budget Priorities

MCCPTA President Jane presented the Resolution on Budget Priorities that had been introduced at last month's delegate assembly:

Whereas MCCPTA's mission is to speak for children and without question our highest 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.

- Staff Development and Teacher Improvement
- Local school-based Parent Community Outreach Coordinators
- School Guidance Counselors
- Transportation
- Gang Prevention and Intervention
- Remediation and Support for all students who need it.

Pam Moomau made a motion on behalf of the Safety Committee to add "Safe, Secure, Clean, Healthy School Facilities" as an additional priority. Since the motion was made on behalf of a committee, it did not require a second. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

James Hampton made a motion to delete "Staff development and teacher improvement" as one of the priorities. The motion was seconded, but failed by voice vote.

Betsy Sirk made a motion to add "Implementation of Middle School Reform" as an additional priority. The motion was seconded and passed by a standing vote, 54 in favor, 19 opposed.

Linda White made a motion on behalf of the Technology Committee to add "More support for improved local school web sites" as an additional priority. Since the motion was made on behalf of a committee, it did not require a second. The motion was defeated by a standing vote, 37 in favor to 51 opposed.

Diane Dickson made a motion to add "Closing the minority achievement gap" as an additional priority. The motion was seconded but failed by a voice vote. The discussion against was not to single certain populations out and that closing the achievement gap should apply to all student populations.

The overall Resolution passed by a voice vote. The final version read as follows:

Whereas MCCPTA's mission is to speak for children and without question our highest 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.

- Staff Development and Teacher Improvement
- Local school-based Parent Community Outreach Coordinators
- School Guidance Counselors
- Transportation
- Gang Prevention and Intervention
- Remediation and Support for all students who need it.
- Safe, Secure, Clean, Healthy School Facilities
- Implementation of Middle School Reform

Final Exam Workgroup

Beth Kennington presented the motion on behalf of the committee that had been introduced at last month's assembly.

MCCPTA does not support the draft recommendation of the High School Final Exam Workgroup, which would replace the second semester final exam in MCPS AP/IB/CIE classes with locally developed end-of-course culminating activity/assessment that would count as 25% of the semester grade.

Sharon Schulman moved to amend the motion by adding the statement: "Instead The MCCPTA supports retention of the existing exam requirement with no change." The amendment was seconded, but failed by voice vote.

Laura Siegel moved to amend the motion by adding the statement "Students enrolled in Semester B of any AP/IB/CIE Course, who took the external test related to the course, are exempt from, but may elect to take, a traditional 2 hour final examination or a locally-developed culminating activity/assessment that counts as 25% of the semester grade if offered by the course." The amendment was seconded, but failed by voice vote.

The overall motion passed by a voice vote.

Nominating Committee

Vice President for Administration Liz Wheeler presented the nominees to serve on this year's nominating committee. They were:

- Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, and Northwood Clusters
Sally Taber - AVP for the Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, and Northwood Clusters
- Blake, Paint Branch, Sherwood, and Springbrook Clusters
DeBora King – MCCPTA Training Committee Chair
- Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Walt Whitman, and Wheaton Clusters
Deborah Missal – Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster Coordinator
- Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, and Wootton Clusters
Andrea Bernardo – Wootton Cluster Coordinator
- Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, and Watkins Mill Clusters
Kristin Tribble – Damascus Cluster Coordinator
- Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, and Seneca Valley Clusters
David Lechner – PTA President of Roberto Clemente MS
- At-Large
Cleat Kennedy – PTA President Daly ES

There were no nominations from the floor. The group was voted for in-block and elected by voice vote.

Maryland State PTA Convention

Jane de Winter noted that the state PTA convention will be on November 16th and 17th. Several amendments to the Maryland PTA Bylaws will be on the agenda. One of the amendments would require local PTAs to purchase insurance through the State PTA. It is likely that the bylaws will be voted on on Friday, the 16th. All local PTAs are encouraged to send representatives. To vote during the sessions, local PTA representatives must have their membership card with the Local Unit ID number filled in and one of the credential cards that were sent to the local PTA president.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Calendar committee

Patti Twigg reported that Stacy Menendez, Kelly Giblin and she had met with MCPS about the school calendar. This month, the Board of Education will make some general decisions about the calendar. Some more specifics will be determined in the spring, and that the final decisions would be made in July. MCPS was also planning to meet with some other stakeholder groups. MCCPTA wrote a letter to the school system asking that all stakeholders meet with MCPS simultaneously so that they hear each other's issues and that the school system work on a multiyear calendar so that everyone be better able to plan their schedules.

CIP Committee

Jane de Winter announced that there would be a CIP would be released on Monday, October 29th and that MCCPTA and MCPS would be holding a CIP Forum on Tuesday, October 30th at 7:30 pm here at Carver.

Curriculum Committee

Sharon Schulman, Curriculum Committee Chair, announced that Erick Lange, the MCPS Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Programs would be presenting an overview about his office at the next Curriculum Committee, which would take place at 7:30 pm on November 12 in the Auditorium at Carver. Additional reports from the Curriculum Committee were posted on the Bulletin that evening.

NEW BUSINESS

The following resolutions were introduced at this meeting for local PTAs to discuss at their meetings in November. The motions will be voted on at the November Delegates Assembly.

Operating Budget Compact

Jane de Winter introduced the MCCPTA Operating Budget Compact. John Hall, Operating Budget Committee Chair, noted that the state fiscal situation is not good. The Governor has called for a special session of the legislature to address the state's structural deficit. MCPS could lose \$40 Million in state funding.

Resolution on Crossing Guards & Educational Facilities Officers

John Hall, Operating Budget Committee Chair introduced a Resolution on Educational Facilities Officers and Crossing Guards that read:

Whereas crossing guards and Educational Facilities Officers (EFOs) provide vital safety and security functions at MCPS schools; and *Whereas* crossing guards are provided only for most elementary schools and some middle schools, but not for high schools; and

Whereas there is a need for additional crossing guards or extended crossing guard services at MCPS schools, including high schools, as well as enhanced security and EFO services; and

Whereas MCPS schools lack adequate pedestrian protection and crossing guard staffing and services for special events at MCPS schools; and

Whereas EFOs currently are assigned to multiple schools, and some schools require enhanced EFO support;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that MCCPTA supports and will advocate for increased crossing guard support in order to provide safe access to schools; and

Be it further resolved that MCCPTA supports and will advocate for increased EFO support and coordination across MCPS schools, in order to provide the safe, secure learning environment to which Montgomery County schoolchildren and staff are entitled.

Resolution on Background Checks

Rich Edelman Introduced a Resolution on Background Checks that read:

During the last school year there were instances where certain MCPS employees engaged in conduct that resulted in criminal charges against them. In connection with those incidents it became apparent that while MCPS may require some criminal background checks when hiring employees, there is no periodic follow-up for persons who are already employed by MCPS; and there is no procedure for notifying school principals regarding employee convictions.

It is therefore resolved that:

1. MCPS should report to MCCPTA within one month of the date of this resolution regarding its current practices concerning criminal background checks for new hires and current employees.

2. MCPS should develop a system for criminal background checks (such as the National Crime Information Center background check) for all employees. Such a system should, at a minimum:
 - a. provide for criminal record background checks for all new hires;
 - b. provide for criminal record background checks for employees every three years;
 - c. provide that a principal will be notified of any criminal conviction of any person employed at the principal's school.
3. MCPS should report to MCCPTA by the end of March of 2008 with MCPS's recommendations for an employee criminal background check system for new applicants and employees.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.