

**Draft Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
October 24, 2006
Carver Educational Services Center**

MCCPTA Candidates Forum began at 7:03 PM and ended at 8:10 PM
Board of Education Candidates in attendance were: (District 5) Nancy Navarro, Phil Kauffman, (District 3) Patricia O'Neill (District 1) Michael Ibanez, Judy Docca, (At Large) Shirley Brandman, Tommy Le

MCCPTA Delegates Assembly Business Meeting

Call to Order: Jane de Winter, MCCPTA President called the meeting to order at 8:17 PM

Mission of the PTA: Sharon St.Pierre, MCCPTA VP for Education

Approval of Minutes: On motion made and seconded, the draft minutes of the September 26, 2006 Delegates Assembly were approved as written by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Juan Johnson, MCCPTA Treasurer presented copies of the MCCPTA approved budget for 2006-07, MCCPTA Balance Sheet as of October 24, 2006, MCCPTA Profit and Loss (P & L) Sheet - September 25-October 24, 2006, as well as Budget vs. Actuals: Approved Budget- FY07, P&L - July-October 2006. Next month Juan will submit a sheet showing which PTAs have paid dues and which PTAs have not. Treasurer report was filed.

Business Items: Proposed resolutions from September 26, 2006 Delegates Assembly were then reintroduced for discussion and vote.

Proposed Resolution on Students Service Learning Hours (SSL)

No motion for a second was needed as this resolution came from committee. Delegates voted to allow 5 minutes of discussion (with option to extend) with each speaker having 1 minute to speak for or against motion.

MCCPTA Delegate from Walter Johnson HS raised concerns that it unreasonable for upper class students to have this new requirement given they would also be first to pass HSAs and possibly meeting both requirements for graduation. Eighth grade was noted by speaker as more appropriate.

MCCPTA Delegate from Cabin John MS offered an amendment to the resolution. The amendment was offered on the last Resolve: *Resolves that the state mandated increase of SSL hours from 60 to 75 should begin no sooner than with the graduating class of 2011 (current 8th graders).*

Motion was offered and seconded on amendment to proposed resolution. The amended resolution passed by voice vote.

SSL Hours Resolution as Passed:

Student Service Learning Hours (SSL) Resolution

Presented by: Sharon St.Pierre, MCCPTA VP for Education

WHEREAS, Maryland State Dept of Education (MSDE) mandates 75 SSL hours for all students as a requirement for graduation under COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations);

WHEREAS, MCPS was granted an exemption to this requirement, and set a requirement of 60 SSL hours. On May 2006, MSDE wrote to MCPS requesting that MCPS raise its SSL requirement to the state standard of 75 hours and begin this requirement with the class of 2009 (current 10th grade class).

WHEREAS, students in their 8th grade year create their 4-year plan, and are notified of graduation requirements at that time.

MCCPTA RESOLVES, that the state mandated increase of SSL hours from 60 to 75 should begin no sooner than with the graduating class of 2011 (current 8th graders).

Proposed Resolution on Health Technicians

Rich Edelman, Co Cluster Coordinator for Wooten Cluster and Frost MS Delegate reintroduced his resolution concerning Health Technicians from the September Delegates Assembly.

Delegates voted to allow 5 minutes of discussion (with option to extend) with each speaker having 1 minute to speak for or against motion.

Pam Moomau (Safety Committee) noted items as brought forwarded by Health Committee related to this resolution.

1. School Nurses and Health Room Technicians re funded out of Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services budget and not MCPS.
2. 10 schools have nurse coverage throughout school day specifically for special needs population or have large special needs populations.
3. The rest of the schools have 5 to 6 hours of nurse or tech coverage.
 - a. Elementary school day is 6 hr-15 min: 5 hour techs (26) work 30 minutes less than full school day; 6 hour techs work 15 minutes less than the full day.
 - b. Secondary school day is 6 hours-45 min: 6 hour techs are assigned and work 45 minutes less than school day.
4. The number of paid hours allotted per health tech ranges from 15 minutes to 1 hour-15 minutes short of a school day. It would cost approximately \$715, 000 to extend health tech hours such that each health tech covers whole school day.
5. Many school staff are willing to fill in when a nurse or tech is not available. In order to dispense medication or provide CPR, these staff are supposed to get certification, and in most schools there are at least one or two non-health staff members on site who are certified. However at some schools MCPS staff are not willing to provide such services because of liability concerns.

Discussion continued with an additional 5 minutes for additional discussion approved by Delegates.

MCCPTA Delegate from Tilden Middle School offered an amendment to proposed resolution which was approved for discussion by motion and seconded. The amendment was offered on the last Resolve: *Resolved that MCCPTA supports and will advocate for increased Health Room Aide services so that a Nurse or Health Room Aide will be on duty at every school from the start of the school day to the end of the school day.* After discussion and debate Delegates opposed the amendment by voice vote.

The original proposed resolution was then approved by voice vote.

Health Technician Resolution as passed:

Resolution on Health Technicians

Presented by Richard Edelman, Wootton Cluster Co-Coordinator and Frost MS Delegate

Whereas most MCPS Schools have Health Room Aides for between 5 and 6 hours;

Whereas MCC PTA believes that 5 or 6 hours of Health Room Aide coverage is insufficient to meet the needs of our children; it is

Resolved that MCC PTA supports and will advocate for increased Health Room Aide services so that a Nurse or Health Room Aide will be on duty at every school from ½ hour before the start of the school day to ½ hour after the end of the school day.

Nominating Committee: Cassandra Abdelmeguid, VP for Administration introduced the proposed nominating committee that had been previously approved by MCCPTA Board of Directors. With no nominations from the floor the proposed nominating committee passed by voice vote.

Nominees for Nominating Committee

Magruder, Damascus/Gaithersburg/Watkins Mill/Clarksburg
Steve Augustino

Northwest/Poolesville/Quince Orchard/Seneca Valley
Paul Morrison

Churchill/Richard Montgomery/Rockville/Wootton
Livleen Gill

Blake/Paint Branch/Sherwood/Springbrook
Deborah Stevens-Panzer

Blair/Einstein/Kennedy/Northwood
Mark Rother

B-CC/Walter Johnson/Walt Whitman/Wheaton
Karen Smith

At-Large
Tom Kenton

Operating Budget (2 items): Steve Crowley Operating Budget Chair:

Proposed Resolution for FY 2008 Operating Budget Priorities was brought forward. Delegates were asked to take back to locals for discussion to gather input for vote in the November Delegates Assembly. This is aligned with MCPS Strategic Plan.

Proposed Resolution on FY2008 Operating Budget Priorities

Whereas, MCCPTA's mission is to speak for children and without question our highest budget priority is education;

Whereas, the Delegates have approved an "Operating Budget Compact" from which these priorities are taken;

Be it resolved that the MCCPTA Delegates approve the following operating budget priorities for the organization to concentrate on this budget year.

- Increase Secondary Literacy,
- Close the achievement gap,
- Expand after school programs and in school programs for prevention and intervention of bullying and gang activity,
- Expand the Special Education Hours Based Staffing model,
- Increase the number of Parent Community Outreach Coordinators, and
- Provide for safe, clean, healthy, modern school facilities.

DRAFT MCCPTA FY2008 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, the County Council and in other forums concerning the MCPS Operating Budget for FY 2008. 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. The new items are marked with an asterisk following them.

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, no matter where they reside in the county. There is a need for uniformly high expectations that all students will succeed and will have their needs met including Special Education, ESOL, and Gifted/Talented students. 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 staff initiatives from the past several years and encourages continued support for these initiatives:

- Reduced class sizes throughout the county
- Reduced class sizes for art, music, and physical education
- Improved staffing ratios for LAD* (Learning and Academic Disabilities)
- Move toward hours based staffing for special education students participating in order to ensure the success of a move toward promoting education in the least restrictive environment*
- Support of the rollout of all-day kindergarten in all schools
- Phase-in of additional assistant principals.

In addition, the budget should provide for the following:

- Math specialists to provide early intervention for students
- Certification in the appropriate content areas for middle school teachers teaching high school courses and specialty courses offered in signature programs
- Additional reduction in student/teacher staffing ratios for art, music, and physical education
- Reduction in the use of substitute teachers in the classroom during academic year for teacher training
- Academic intervention/support such as summer learning opportunities for all students based on need. Resource allocation should not be 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.
- Increased support for high school literacy*
- Expansion of gifted and talented programs into more secondary schools
- Improvements to technology and support for improved technology use.*

In addition, priority should be given to providing for the following academic and developmental supports for students:

- More emphasis on providing a well-rounded curriculum including a rich science, social studies, and arts curriculum
- Increased academic intervention/support resources to meet the demand based on need, including:
 - Specific action/intervention plans for students not meeting standards under the new grading and reporting policy
 - Specific action/intervention plans for students not meeting extracurricular activity eligibility requirements.
 - Consistent funding and implementation of special programs across the county
- Increased attention and resources to students who fail at the 9th grade level to anticipate and avoid risk of later drop outs
- 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*
- Implementation of Ed Line 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 increase translation services
- Additional guidance counselors and pupil personnel workers, and staff to address social/emotional/developmental needs at all levels*
- More attention to addressing discipline problems, especially at the middle school level, including the problem of gangs, bullying and risk to student safety.

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
- 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.

Consistent with the goal of promoting maximum performance by all students, there must be greater attention to the health and safety of MCPS students and staff. We applaud the creation of a new goal in the strategic plan that acknowledges the importance of supporting services and facilities in promoting academic success. In addition, MCPS accountability for effective use of resources should be increased by using an inventory of all MCPS programs to reduce duplications and overlaps, and through outcome measurement rigorously evaluate programs for effectiveness and efficiency. We support the following initiatives in prior and current plans:

- Increased staffing for the Ride by the Rules program, to improve communication between bus drivers and principals*
- Increased staffing of building services
- Key-card locking of ES doors to portables*
- Overhaul of the financial and budgeting information systems.

We urge that additional attention and resources be devoted to the following:

- Adequate assessment of new programs and curricula before and after implementation, including assurance that sufficient course materials are available, and teacher training completed before implementation
- Evaluation of the use of new technology to ensure that it is the most cost-effective way to increase student performance.
- More oversight of local schools by the Community Superintendents.
- Budget documents that are more comprehensible to the public and that will allow decision-makers and the community to assess the costs and benefits of particular programs and initiatives.

Finally, the setting in which education takes place should not be neglected. For optimal learning our schools must be a place where the children feel safe, and their health is protected. The following issues need to be addressed:

- 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
- Adequate security personnel and other resources necessary for securing school buildings and portables (*expanded)
- Reassessment and adjustment of traffic patterns around schools to promote pedestrian safety
- Reassessment of bus stop placement to promote safety*
- Improved nutritional value for school lunch and a la carte menu selections
- Improved coverage of school health rooms.*

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.

These are target areas but all things are important. These are items that guide testimony and were items gathered from area meetings. The lists are not ranked but Delegates can do that if they so desire. These items will be put out on listservs. Both items will be voted on separately in November Delegates Assembly. Delegates should take both items back to their local PTAs for discussion and comments.

Committee Reports: *Written Committee Reports for CIP Committee, Cultural Arts, Downcounty Consortium, Gifted Child, Grading and Reporting, Health, Legislative, Listserv, Parent Leadership, Safety were included on separate handouts for Delegates.*

CIP Committee- Marney Jacobs, CoChair--There will be a CIP Forum on November 1, 2006 in the cafeteria at Carver. MCPS staff Bruce Crispell, MCPS Long Range Planning and Facilities and Roy Higgins, Dept. of Facilities Management will be available for any questions. There will be discussion on the new CIP prior to cluster testimony, Board of Education work sessions and action. MCCPTA chairs will discuss coordinated testimony and strategies. Amendments to the FY 2008-2012 CIP will be released October 30, 2006 with public hearings scheduled for November 15 and 16 for testimony. Be sure to invite locals to budget testimony.

Membership- Cassandra Abdelmeguid, VP for Administration--Highlights: Get dues in, increase memberships, utilize National PTA Resources packets for PTA membership and make sure to highlight in local PTA newsletters the need for individuals and family members to join local PTAs. Students and teachers may also join PTAs. MCPS Family and Community Partnership note that there are MCPS employees who want to join local PTAs and would like school PTAs to send info on how they can join.

Safety Committee: Pam Moomau, Chair—Safety/Security issues are ongoing concerns. Concerns are raised about safety as related to doors on school building and which are to remain locked, etc. Portables and security item related to key card locks and well as safety of kids in portables were brought up. Security at schools is handled at local level such as for Code Blue. Concern noted about information coming from MCPS not only needs to be timely but accurate. Importance of improved communication between schools and parents is noted. Safety Committee will be putting together “points to advocate for.” Serious incident report/OLO report was discussed with MCCPTA having given input. All local PTAs need a Safety Committee. Contact Pam Moomau if you have any question or concerns.

President’s Report: Jane de Winter, MCCPTA President--A Delegates Assembly in May needs to be discussed and to see if Delegates want to hold May meeting. MCCPTA will reserve a space and Delegates can decide in March or April if they want to meet.

Public Access Television information and request item was highlighted. Due to change in board makeup for this there will be a vote to see who gets seats on private board. Ginny Hillhouse has represented MCCPTA for the last few years and would like to try to be voted in for an At Large seat. It has been researched that MCCPTA can endorse this seat since it is a private board. Delegates and PTAs are encouraged to fill out membership forms to receive Public Access TV Guides and to be able to vote. Submit forms to Ginny by November 1. The cost is nothing.

Policy for Middle School Education is out for public comment. It is available on MCPS website as well as on MCCPTA website. Take policy to locals to receive comments. Those comments need to be returned to MCPS. Middle School Reform will possibly be on BOE agenda in December with action in February. Nothing is written yet with things not decided. If anyone has any concerns or comments please share those with Juan Johnson who is on Middle School Reform Steering Committee.

New Business: Calendar discussion-- Sharon St. Pierre, MCCPTA VP for Education noted that she has taken all posted concerns and comments to share with committee and will continue to do that. More information will be coming next month. MCCPTA has 3 representatives on calendar committee.

Adjournment: The Delegates Assembly adjourned at 9:34 PM.