

Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly  
October 28, 2008  
Carver Educational Service Center

**6:30 -7:30 PM Program: *Not Your Mom's PTA: Building a Multi-cultural School Community***

**Henry Pittman, Youth Advisor, & Randolph Carter, Chairman, NAACP Youth Leadership Council**

**Ray Moreno, Impact Silver Spring**

**Tam Nguyen, Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association**

**Alex Calinas, Spanish Language Outreach Committee, Einstein PTSA**

**Preston Rico, Asian American Parents Advocacy Council (AAPAC)**

**Eric Davis MCPS' Family & Community Partnerships**

**Call to Order:**

Kay Romero, President, brought the meeting to order at 7:40 PM

Merry Eisner, Interim VP for Educational Issues, read the PTA mission.

**Approval of Agenda and September 24, 2008 Minutes:**

The agenda was amended to include "Voting for Nominating Committee" under the Resolutions/Motions section, and was approved as amended.

The minutes from the Sept. 24, 2008 DA were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Dale Ryan, Treasurer, reviewed the Profit and Loss and Budget vs. Actuals statements provided to Delegates. She then reported on YTD amounts. There was one question about membership numbers, and Dale replied that she did not have numbers yet. She also stated that local treasurers would be receiving monthly invoices from MCCPTA as well as separate monthly invoices from MD PTA for dues.

Because the Operating Budget Chair had not yet arrived, we proceeded with other items on the agenda.

**Resolution/Motion:**

**Voting for Nominating Committee**

Liz Wheeler, VP for Administration, presented the names of the people running for the Nominating Committee, along with a reading of the bylaws as they pertained to the formation of the Nominating Committee. People running that were present were introduced to the Assembly, and a call for nominations from the floor was made. Since there were none, the election was done by voice vote of the entire slate, and passed.

The Nominating Committee members and the Areas they are from for 2008-2009 are:

Jack Goble Blake HS PTSA President Blake cluster  
Northeast Consortium (Blake/Paint Branch/Springbrook) and Sherwood

Martha Crews Whetstone ES PTA President Watkins Mill cluster  
Clarksburg/Damascus/Gaithersburg/Magruder/Watkins Mill

Carol Salsbury Delegate Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS B-CC cluster  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson/Wheaton/Whitman

Rochelle Hodes Fallsmead ES & Wootton HS Delegate Wootton cluster  
Churchill/Richard Montgomery/Rockville/Wootton

Mary Abe Northwood Cluster Coordinator Northwood cluster  
Down County Consortium (Blair/Einstein/Kennedy/Northwood)

James Hampton Seneca Valley HS Delegate Seneca Valley cluster  
Northwest/Poolesville/Quince Orchard/Seneca Valley

Jim Keenan Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator Quince Orchard cluster  
At-Large

### **Reports:**

#### Legislative Update:

Merry Eisner, Interim VP for Ed Issues gave the Legislative Update. The following events are upcoming:

Nov. 10 – Legislative Dinner – MCCPTA BOD meets with Montgomery County State House Legislators. Because this is a critical year due to budget constraints, it is important that PTA members talk to their Cluster Coordinators about what issues are important to them.

Oct. 29 – CIP is released by MCPS; Boundary studies were released 2 weeks ago. MCCPTA Cluster Coordinators will be offering testimony on these items in November.

Nov. 3 – MCPS will give a presentation to MCCPTA on the CIP.

Nov. 8 – Workshop conducted by CIP committee on writing testimony.

Nov. 12 and 13 – CIP testimony before the BOE, all clusters need to get the names of those testifying into Liz Wheeler.

There was discussion of whether or not the BOD would be provided with talking points for the Legislative Dinner and the answer was yes.

President's Report:

Kay provided an update on the school calendar for next school year. She stated that the current plan is to have the school year would start on the Monday before Labor Day next year, eliminating the Tuesday start from this year that parents preferred. There will also be a professional day the Tuesday after Easter Monday. There are parts of the calendar that are yet to be determined, and Kay stated we are doing our best to advocate for priorities stated by our members.

Questions involved why the Monday for open houses was taken away, and how the Jewish holidays interact with the dates.

Kay and Merry have been attending budget meetings with MCPS. On December 11, 2008, Dr. Weast will give a presentation on the budget. Because of the tight budgetary times, initiatives are off the table. They are doing their best to advocate for our priorities, but this will be a very difficult year and we are trying very hard to hang onto what we already have and not lose ground.

**Resolution/Motion:**

Resolution on FY2010 Operating Budget Priorities:

Pam Moomau, Operating Budget Committee Chair, presented the Draft Resolution on FY2010 Operating Budget Priorities. She reminded everyone that this will be a difficult budget year and that we are looking at what we want to protect in what will likely be a year of cuts.

The Operating Budget Committee introduced a friendly amendment to replace the second priority with "safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities." A friendly amendment to the amendment, to retain the word "health," was suggested from the floor, and was accepted without objection.

The final wording of the second priority was: "Safe, secure, well-maintained, healthy, school facilities." The motion passed on voice vote.

Discussion then began on the full resolution.

Camilla Smith, Delegate from College Gardens ES, moved that the word "remediation" be removed from the final priority.

During discussion, Paul Morrison, Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator, introduced a motion to substitute "intervention" for "remediation". Discussion included that the word

intervention was too broad and sweeping. Alternative wording was suggested but not moved. A voice vote on this motion failed.

Clarification was then requested on what exactly remediation meant. A discussion of the meaning of the word and possible substitutions ensued. Beth Kennington, Lakelands Park MS Delegate, introduced a motion to substitute reteaching and reassessment for remediation. Discussion of other alternatives in wording proceeded. A voice vote on this motion failed.

Laura Siegel, Churchill Cluster Coordinator, introduced a motion to reword the final priority to read “Tailored support and extra assistance and enriched and innovative programs for all students.” Discussion of this motion included the difference between tailored support and extra assistance, whether or not it was now too long and wordy, and concerns that we make sure all students are covered so that none fall through the cracks. Discussion also included other possible wording and a definition of remediation. A Point of Order question was raised. It was clarified that the word remediation had not yet been removed. The current amendment under debate was on the overhead screen for delegates to see. Debate continued, and the motion failed on a voice vote.

Paul Scott, Delegate from Richard Montgomery High School, moved to word the last priority as “Tailored support and enrichment programs for all students.” This motion passed on a voice vote.

Laura Siegel made a motion to change the first priority to read “Maintain or reduce teacher/student ratios at all schools.” Pam reminded her that our goal is to protect what we have this year, and that asking for reduced may be unreasonable. Laura revised her motion to read, “Current or improved teacher/student ratios at all schools.” Discussion of this motion included the fact that since this is a maintain budget, we needed to realize something was going to have to give, but that we needed to clearly state what is important to us. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Ted Willard, Magruder Cluster Coordinator moved that we add to the end of the final priority, “especially for those who are performing below grade level.” Discussion of this motion included that we want to make sure those who need to graduate do, that MCPS does not support enrichment for high achievers, concern for kids that are slipping through the cracks, concern for the need for enrichment programs for kids that want to get into special programs, whether or not the original intent of this line has been changed by the earlier rewording, opposition to the words below grade level, reminder of concerns that were brought up at the summer area meetings and that we needed to keep our focus broad. At this point Jim Roberts, Delegate from Takoma Park Middle School, offered a friendly amendment, to move Ted’s clause to after “tailored support.” Ted agreed and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Pam reminded the assembly that we wanted to keep the Resolution on Priorities short and to the point and did not want to make it a long list.

Jim Roberts, Delegate from Takoma Park Middle School, offered a motion to remove “roll-out” and substitute “implementation” to the third Priority. It was approved on a voice vote.

Jinhee Wilde, Delegate from Churchill HS, offered a motion to add a priority: “Review to streamline and downsize MCPS Administrative offices and staff in order to focus expenditures on classrooms.” Discussion of this motion included concerns about PTAs being asked to purchase books and concerns about safety issues that might be exacerbated by downsizing. This motion failed on a voice vote.

At this point, the entire amended Resolution was presented for vote. It passed on a voice vote.

### ***Resolution on FY2010 Operating Budget Priorities***

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

*Current or improved teacher/student ratios at all schools,*

*Safe, secure, well-maintained, healthy, school facilities,*

*Sensible, developmentally appropriate, fully supported curriculum implementation,*

*School-based community outreach,*

*and*

*Tailored support, especially for those who are performing below grade level, and enrichment programs for all students.*

### ***Back Ground on Operating Budget Priorities:***

*MCCPTA officers visited PTA leadership in each area of the county in June and July, 2008. The list of priorities represents the most frequently mentioned concerns. Below are further details on each item.*

***Current or improved teacher/student ratios at all schools-*** *MCPS has made progress toward reducing class sizes in recent years. In a period of tight budgets it is important to protect this progress. It is especially important to target staff resources in subject areas and classrooms of highest need. This would include strategies such as:*

- Preserving current staffing ratios*
- Hours-based staffing for special education students*

- *Caps on class-sizes in pivotal courses such as Algebra I*

***Safe, secure, well-maintained, healthy school facilities-*** Devoting resources to the classroom includes devoting resources to ensuring a classroom environment that facilitates learning. Components of a good learning environment include:

- *well-maintained classrooms free of mold, vectors, and other contaminants*
- *freedom from bullying and gang activities*
- *reasonably limited access to school facilities*

***Sensible, fully-supported curriculum implementation-*** Parents around the County continue to have concerns about the way major curriculum reforms are implemented, especially the accelerated math curriculum. Adequate supports would include:

- *more assistance to students in filling in gaps in their background*
- *more teacher training BEFORE introducing the changes*
- *adequate instructional materials*

***School-based community outreach-*** Parent involvement needs to be more of a two-way communication process. Unmet needs include:

- *school based interpretation services for parents who have limited English skills*
- *ongoing feedback to parents on their expressed concerns*

***Tailored support, especially for those who are performing below grade level, and enrichment programs for all students -*** The high stakes nature of HSAs emphasizes the need to make sure every student has help in filling in the gaps in his education. Enhanced supports include:

- *in-school tutoring opportunities*
- *after school programs*
- *summer programs*

*In addition, the diversity of interests and goals in the MCPS student body requires that enrichment support be provided for students who are working toward accelerating their learning.*

#### MCCPTA FY2010 Operating Budget Compact:

Next the Compact was introduced. Juan Johnson, AVP for Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, and Seneca Valley Clusters, moved that we limit discussion of the Compact to 15 minutes. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Pam Moomau offered two friendly amendments, one in Goal 1, to remove the word “additional” from before reduction at the beginning of the third bulleted point under the category of “In addition the budget should provide the following.” The second friendly amendment was to remove the last bullet under Goal 5, since it was already established at the last DA that MCPS does maintain background checks. The friendly amendments were accepted without objection.

Goal 1 and Goal 2 had no amendments suggested.

Goal 3:

Len Newman, Delegate from Paint Branch HS, moved to add: "Implement a comprehensive County-wide plan to grow the school volunteer base." Discussion of this motion included that with tight budgetary times, and considering the level of expertise offered by the citizens of our county, that we should look for ways to get more from volunteers. This motion passed on a standing vote, 58 ayes, and 30 nays.

Paul Scott, Delegate from Richard Montgomery HS, offered a motion for an amendment to Goal 1 but withdrew it after it was pointed out his motion was already included in the text of Goal 2.

Goal 4: Jinhee Wilde, Delegate from Churchill HS, wanted to add text, but Pam Moomau pointed out it belonged in Goal 5. Jinhee agreed to move that it be included in Goal 5: "Review to streamline and downsize MCPS Administrative offices and staff in order to focus expenditures on classrooms and health and safety operations." Discussion of this motion included a suggestion that instead of cutting staff, we should be looking at cutting expenditures by staff, concerns that cutting staff would not be a good thing because the central office staff already seems overworked, the fact that we possibly did not really have enough knowledge of where the money was being spent, and that the public needed more info on administrative expenditures, and that there was always waste that could be cut. The question was called, and failed on a voice vote.

A motion to extend the discussion by 5 minutes was approved on a voice vote.

Laurie Halverson, Safety chair, offered a motion for Goal 5: "BMPs (Building Maintenance Plans) for all new schools and increased implementation of BMPs for all other aging MCPS schools." Discussion of this motion included the fact that schools that did not have plans could not rely on that school using the suggested schedule for changing air filters or other maintenance, a question about which schools had plans, and where the info on which school had plans could be found. This motion passed on a voice vote.

At this point, the question was called, and passed on a voice vote.

The entire Compact, as amended was brought up for vote, and passed on a voice vote.

#### ***MCCPTA FY2010 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 and the County Council and in other forums concerning the MCPS Operating Budget for FY 2010. 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.*

**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. There is a need for uniformly high expectations that all students, including Special Education, ESOL, and Gifted/Talented students, will succeed and will have their needs met. 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*
- *Move toward hours based staffing for special education students in order to ensure the success of a move toward promoting education in the least restrictive environment*

*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*
- *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 needs of the students throughout the County, not limited to Title I schools*
- *Phase-in of additional assistant principals*

**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.*
- *Expansion of accelerated and enriched 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*

- *Increased support for high school literacy*
- *More emphasis on providing a well-rounded curriculum including a rich science, social studies, and arts curriculum*
- *Increased academic intervention/support resources, including:*
  - *Specific action/intervention plans for students not meeting standards under the 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*
- *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 on-line achievement and reporting systems 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 increased translation services*
- *Additional guidance counselors, pupil personnel workers, and other staff to address social/emotional/developmental needs at all levels*
- *Comprehensive countywide plan to grow the school volunteer base*

***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*
- *Focus on providing timely teacher training BEFORE the roll-out of new curricula*
- *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.***

*MCCPTA recognizes that the supporting services, including curriculum development, maintenance, plant operations, transportation, and other central office functions play a key role in student achievement. Effective use of resources should be increased by examining the inventory of all MCPS programs to reduce duplications and overlaps. Outcome measurement should be used to rigorously evaluate programs for effectiveness and efficiency. It is imperative that the business model for delivering all MCPS services include accountability to parents. We support the following initiatives in prior and current plans:*

- *Budget document that is more clearly accessible to the public, including clear demarcation of new initiatives and increases or decreases in funding levels for existing services*
- *Adequate staffing for the Ride by the Rules program, to improve communication between bus drivers and principals*

*We urge attention to the following:*

- *Assessment of new programs and curricula before and after implementation, to ensure that sufficient course materials, guidebooks, and implementation documents are available*
- *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*
- *Improved nutritional value for school lunch and a la carte menu selections*

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

- *Increased recess supervision*
- *More attention to addressing discipline problems, especially at the middle school level, including the problem of gangs, bullying and risk to student safety*
- *Adoption by MCPS of objective standards for portable conditions and installation, routine building systems maintenance, and prompt response to unanticipated repair and maintenance needs*
- *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*
- *Increased staffing of building services*
- *Adequate security personnel and other resources necessary for securing school buildings and portables*
- *Reassessment and adjustment of traffic patterns around schools to promote pedestrian safety*
- *Reassessment of bus stop placement to promote safety*
- *More activity buses to promote participation in after school programming as well as a safe return home from after-school programs*
- *BMPs (Building Maintenance Plans) for all new schools and increased implementation of BMPs for all other aging MCPS schools*

*The 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.*

### **Reports:**

CIP Committee:

Steve Augustino, CIP Chair, provided the Assembly with a CIP update. He stated that this is an amendment year, so there will not be any major changes made to the budget. He said there would be no accelerations; there will not be much change at all. The boundary studies were released Oct. 15, Oct 29 the CIP will be released, there will be a CIP forum Nov. 3 in the cafeteria, Nov. 8 there will be a MCCPTA CIP workshop, and Nov. 12 and 13 will be the BOE Hearings – clusters need to let Liz know who is testifying.

Paul Morrison, Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator, asked when and where the CIP books would be sent. Kay said she would find out and get the info out to everyone. Steve will be producing talking points for Cluster Coordinators to help with testimony.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patti Twigg, Secretary for Delegates Assembly