

**Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
May 23, 2006
Carver Educational Services Center**

Call to Order: President Cindy Kerr called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Pledge: Liz Wheeler, Recording Secretary

PTA Mission: Sharon St. Pierre, Vice President Educational Issues

Agenda: New business will include the Wootton Cluster's resolution on health technicians.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April 25, 2006 Delegate Assembly were reviewed. The minutes stand approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Juan Johnson presented the treasurer's report of April 26 through May 23, 2006, the profit and loss budget vs. actual July 1, 2005 through May 23, 2006, and the balance sheet as of May 23, 2006. Report copies were shown on the overhead transparencies and written copies were available. The presidents and principals dinner shows about \$13,000 cash now, and will probably go to close to \$15,000. All of this money will go back out for expenses for the dinner. The budget is fine. We have \$20,000 in money market to carry over for insurance for next year. Approximately \$2,000 is spent for leadership training to send two people to the National PTA convention. Spring training will cost about \$2,000. Audits are done and waiting for signatures. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Business Items: Presentations of Pending Resolutions/Motions

Proposed Amendments to MCCPTA Bylaws

The bylaws committee chair distributed the proposed amendments. At the February 28, 2006 Delegate Assembly a motion was adopted directing the bylaws committee to draft the following amendments to the MCCPTA Bylaws.

Article VI Officers and their Election: Insert a new Section 4e which reads, "Any officer of MCCPTA shall resign within a week of filing for candidacy for public office."

Article VIII Board of Directors: Insert a new Section 5 and renumber the following sections. "Section 5. If a member of the board of directors (other than an elected officer –See Article VI, Section 4e) files for candidacy for public office, he/she shall not speak publicly on behalf of MCCPTA. If elected to public office, a member of the board of directors shall resign immediately."

The bylaws committee is proposing as an additional amendment a section that had been left out of our recent revision of the bylaws because it was not included in the Maryland PTA's bylaws template. The suggestion has been made that without this language, members might be excluded in the future even though this has been our practice for many years.

Article VIII Board of Directors: Insert a new Section 11 to read, "Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be open to all members of local PTAs."

Thirty days notice of proposed bylaws amendments is required for voting.

Delegates voted on all three articles at once and all three passed unanimously by voice vote.

These articles will be sent to MD PTA.

Special Education Committee presentation on proposed comments to Board of Education policy IOB (Educating Students with Disabilities)

Policy IOB – Educating Students with Disabilities public comment period began March 27 and ends May 29. Because there is no delegate assembly during the summer, the Special Education Committee Chair asked that Delegates approve a letter to be written from the MCCPTA President requesting that representatives from this committee be placed as members of the regulation workgroup for Policy IOB. This will be a generic request letter asking that we be active participants informing new regulations as part of the regulation workgroup. This policy currently does not have a regulation attached on how global policy is to be implemented. Policy IOB will go back to the Board of Education Policy Committee in June with action very possibly taken in July.

The federal regulations are not done yet and will have no impact on global policy but will impact regulations which will be put together after federal regulations come out to include items under IDEA 2004. The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) will also have to be changed to incorporate the federal changes. These will probably be put out through area meetings. The committee would like to be on record now as wanting to be part of the workgroup whenever it is formed.

The Special Education Committee made a motion that we send a letter to the Board of Education requesting that a letter to be written from MCCPTA requesting that representatives from this committee be placed as members of the regulation workgroup for Policy IOB. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

The committee chair gave the current status of operating budget funding (\$1.38 million) for special education that had been removed. MCPS staff told the chair that as of today the \$1.38 million would be added back on Thursday. The other two initiatives for hour based staffing and teacher station models have not made it back in (unless the 1.38 million is added back). We've requested that these be added back in, too. The supplemental budget is taken up in June. A memo is being sent to the council requesting that everything be included as originally proposed. At the Special Education Awards Ceremony we were promised two more schools would be added to the pilot roll out, and they're not included either. We're advocating for the original two to be added back and if we get four we'll be happy. Clarification of the \$1.38 million stated that it covers the shortfall for IDEA from federal. The hours based special education staffing will impact middle and high school reforms, therefore, impacting all students. It is needs based and has implications for the future.

New Business Item:

Wootton Cluster Resolution on Health Technicians

Whereas most MCPS Schools have health technician services for only 5 ½ hours;

Whereas MCCPTA believes that 5 ½ hours of health technician coverage is insufficient to meet the needs of our children; it is

Resolved that MCCPTA supports and will advocate for increased nurse/health technician services so that a nurse or health technician will be on duty from ½ hour before the start of the school day to ½ hour after the end of the school day.

Background information on the above resolution, to be held over until September, was provided by the Wootton Cluster Coordinator, Rich Edelman. A delegate suggested that it should read, "...on duty in every school from ½ hour before the start of the school day to ½ hour after the end of the school day".

At a Wootton Cluster meeting an incident of a child falling at a cluster school prompted discussion resulting in the finding that schools only have 5 ½ hours of technician coverage, typically beginning ½ hour after the start of the school day, so that means

there's no health room coverage at the beginning and end of the school day. The concern is that many children require medication at the start of the day and other health concerns often arise at this time, too. The Wootton Cluster believes that accidents and other circumstances that require presence of a nurse or health technician can occur at anytime during the school day and that an arbitrary limitation of 5 ½ hours is inconsistent with the needs of our children and our schools; and that the benefits of increased coverage substantially exceed the marginal increase in costs for complete nurse/technician coverage. Funding for nurse health technicians does not come from MCPS but, from the State (public health department) so, advocacy would have to include and would benefit from coordination with other county PTAs and/or the State PTA.

Rich Edelman made a motion that the Wootton Cluster Resolution on Health Technicians be put on the floor and carried over until September. It was seconded.

Vicki Rafel made a motion to table this motion until September and that it be referred to the health and safety committee and the operating budget committee. It was seconded. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Action will be taken on this motion in September.

Military Recruiting in High Schools:

The Vice President of Administration gave an overview of the distributed memo from the MD PTA on the high school military recruiting resolution. This will be acted on at MD PTA's fall convention, so please take the resolution back to you locals for feedback. Questions can be e-mailed to Victor, who will forward them to the MD PTA Vice President for Legislation, and then he'll respond on list. MCCPTA would like to have a position on this resolution in September or October to give to the state at fall convention. Three separate issues are covered – opt in, military recruiters on campus and overall information protection. The move is toward information being guarded, so parents can opt in. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act slipped in military access, so there's been a nationwide backlash. National PTA stated that NCLB allows schools to do opt in. If parents opt out on the MCPS form, military recruiters can still get information, it's just not coming from the schools. Recruiters can still come to the career centers. A question was raised about determining the number of people opting out. A delegate mentioned time line issues for high schools taking up this issue since many high school PTAs don't meet in June. September high school PTA meetings focus on Back to School Night, so this issue probably wouldn't be discussed until October. The deadline for opting out is September, and it is on the bottom of the directory form.

President's Report:

Mailings for the Maryland PTA's summer conference to be held in mid-July at the BWI Marriott should arrive soon for local officers. The National PTA convention is at the end of June in Phoenix, Arizona.

Maryland PTA (MD PTA) has approved our bylaws with some minor changes for typographical errors. MD PTA is also working with National PTA and Maryland non-profits on the issues raised by Thomas Hearn, and their decisions will be brought back to the delegates.

The presidents and principals dinner has sold 450 tickets as of tonight. Tickets will be sold at the door at 6 PM and dinner begins at 7 PM. New officers are installed tomorrow night.

President Cindy Kerr said it's been her privilege to be the MCCPTA president. She will have more comments at the presidents and principals dinner. She reminded us of the goals of National PTA to be more inclusive, so that our local PTA executive boards look like the population of our students. It's best to look for people who represent all children. It's good for children to see people who look like them in leadership roles in schools. Work with principals and communities and with the NAACP parent council, Asian, Hispanic, Latino and African Immigrant groups to help. PTA membership is dropping because we're not inclusive, so please ask these groups to join to send a message about public education. MCPS has thousands of needy students. Every child deserves a voice and our most important job is to always make sure that every child has what they need.

Shirley Brandman offered an informal thank you and recognition to Cindy by reading a quote from, The Covenant and reading her original poem, "Ode to Cindy".

Committee Reports:

Training Committee:

The committee chair distributed a flyer and announced that spring training will be Wednesday, June 7 at Rockville High School. It's open to all PTA officers. Registration begins at 6:30 PM (pre-registration isn't necessary), followed by general PTA information and MCCPTA president comments from 7 to 7:30 PM and the individual training sessions from 7:45 to 9 PM. Sessions include: new and returning presidents; secretaries; treasurers; delegates; cluster coordinators and area vice presidents; newsletter editors; Building Successful Partnerships (state program on parent outreach) and Reflections. Contact information is listed for the committee chair on the bottom of the flyer.

CIP:

The committee chairs said that at reconciliation they hope there will be no surprises, other than what happened within one cluster with several schools. It's anticipated that the full CIP will be approved and move forward within the next several days. A caution was made for projects that may not have been bid yet to pay attention to funding, since it may not be enough to cover it. Questions about cluster comments can be sent to the CIP committee chairs. Information will be available at training, too.

Grading and Reporting:

There will be a committee meeting on May 31 at 7:30 PM at Carver in the auditorium. The elementary school report card will not be expanded to pilot the grade 1 and 2 report card beyond the current 17 pilot schools. MCPS through its research group has focus groups collecting feedback from parents and teachers, so they're tweaking and making adjustments. At the secondary level, MCPS is committed to offering an electronic grade book, Pinnacle, and software to allow students and parents to monitor progress, Edline. MCPS is still determining if these will be in every middle and high school next year, but that is the hope. MCPS is working with the schools that have been piloting Pinnacle and Edline to see if these programs can "talk" to each other. An advisory committee of teachers, principals and parents from pilot schools has been formed to give their input and suggestions. There's still time for parents to give input to this group. They can contact Deeva Garel at MCPS, or the grading and reporting committee chair. Issues include: will Edline generate paper reports to be sent home and what will be the required of every teacher for Edline. The balance of timely information and teacher burden is

being examined. Also, at the secondary level three MCPS procedures – re-teach/ reassess, homework, and grading procedure, are being revised for next year. The committee will look at a draft of this at the May 31 meeting. Training will be done with teachers through core team training. Pinnacle and Edline training is scheduled by teachers at their schools. MCPS is working out how to communicate the plan to parents.

Curriculum:

The curriculum committee will meet Tuesday, May 30 to discuss MCPS curriculum review. MCPS advisory committees for science, social studies, and other subject areas, need volunteers for next year, so contact the curriculum chair if you're interested in serving on a curriculum advisory board.

Adjournment:

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.