

MCCPTA

December, 2010 Committee Reports

Cultural Arts Committee

Priscilla Peterson: PrisFP@verizon.net

EPI Board members have recently been in touch with me about the videotapes that were made at the October Showcases. They are still working on editing them and hope to have them available to be viewed on their website in the near future. I will keep MCCPTA members and the PTArts e-list informed as to when they are ready and how to see them.

I am still working on putting together the annual budget survey that I do for the county's cultural arts chairs. I gave everyone a deadline of the end of November to let me know of any changes in their budgets either since last year, or in some cases, since they gave me their budget numbers at the Showcases in October. So far I have only heard from a total of 29 schools, so unfortunately the survey will not give a complete picture of what is going on the county, but at least it will give information to some cultural arts chairpersons who are hoping to raise their budgets and can give this updated information to their PTA's to show much other schools are spending.

At the Maryland State PTA Convention in Linthicum, MD on Saturday, Nov. 13th, I spoke on Cultural Arts along with three other people – the Program Director of the Maryland State Arts Council, the Anne Arundel County Arts Council director, and a Reflections Chairperson from Baltimore. Our panel discussion was one of several “break out sessions” offered that afternoon and attracted about 20 participants from all over the state. There was a lively question and answer session afterwards, led by Liz Wheeler (V-P for Leadership Development of MD PTA, and former MCCPTA V-P.)

The PTArts e-list has been very busy this month, with numerous “conversations” on various performers that schools are hiring, thinking of hiring, or are recommending to others. Anyone interested in joining the e-list is welcome to contact me at: PrisFP@verizon.net. I need to have the person's name, the school they are associated with, and position at the school.

EList Committee

Jodi Bielair: jj.bielair@gmail.com

As of December 1, 2010, membership on the various lists is as follows:

Elist	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA_Board	80	+2
MCCPTA_Bulletin	665	+11
MCCPTA_Delegates	487	+12
MCCPTA_HS_Presidents	30	0
MCCPTA_Presidents	243	0
MCCPTA_Presidents_Discussion	76	+2
MCCPTA_Treasurers	201	+1

There has been an ongoing “purge” of non-functioning email addresses.

At the end of June (or otherwise if special circumstances exist), outgoing presidents and treasurers will be removed from their respective eLists, and posting permission for outgoing delegates will be removed for the MCCPTA_Delegates eList.

Ongoing additions and modifications have been made for newly sworn in Cluster Coordinators and AVPs. Committee Chairs have been updated as necessary.

The auto-reminder calendars for the Bulletin and BOD eLists has been updated as meetings and events are scheduled or changed. Calendar updates have been forwarded to the Webmaster for the MCCPTA website calendar.

Subscription and moderation issues and assistance for the various eLists have been addressed. Assistance has been given to MCCPTA committee and locals eList moderators as requested.

Gifted and Talented Committee

Michelle Gluck: gluck.michelle@yahoo.com

The Gifted Child Subcommittee is monitoring developments in the Math Work Group recommendations as they apply to math students who need to work above grade level, and also to proposed legislation that would allow magnet bus fees in Montgomery County. Parents interested in the bus fee issue are invited to attend a public hearing before the Montgomery County delegation on the proposed bill at 7 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Stella Werner Council Office Building at 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville. Instructions on how to sign up to testify before the hearing can be found at <http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2010/testify.html>

Guidance and Counseling Committee

Jeannie Dillingham: jjeannie_616@msn.com

Meeting Notes from October 28, 2010

Our meeting started at 7:30 p.m. with everyone introducing themselves.

The first order of business was to review the mission of the Guidance and Counseling committee, which was sent to each member prior to the meeting. The MCPS staff were pleased that the committee requested a meeting with them to discuss how we can work together.

Most of the meeting was spent with Dr. Newton and Mrs. Wilks explaining the vision and mission of the MCPS Department of Student Services Guidance and Counseling services, as well as the role of the counselors and student services staff at the school level. The committee was also given detailed information on the **Collaborative Problem Solving** or **CPS** approach to students in need of interventions based on failing grades. It was explained that the CPS approach was rolled out in the last school year; and training was made available to all MCPS counseling staff so that full implementation could take place during the current school year. It was felt by the committee that this approach will be very effective when fully implemented. Parents of the committee expressed an appreciation in better understanding the role of the counselors in the school as it relates to the children, as well as the parents.

Because the overall feeling of the committee is that the parents, and consequently the students, do not understand the role of the school guidance counselors, the committee came up with some potential activities that will be scheduled throughout the year designed to support the guidance and counseling area of the school system. These activities will need some time and thought put to them by the committee in how they will be carried out, but the main goal of these activities is to give better exposure of the counselors to the parents. One idea that seemed to be a popular one is to encourage the schools to host a **"Meet the Counselors"** event at the schools, much like the "Meet the Principal" events that many schools are currently hosting. This will allow the counselors to share with the parents their specific responsibilities within the school and how those responsibilities relate to their children as students, as well as to the parents. It is felt that because the role of the counselor is not always clearly defined, that the parents, and possibly the students, do not always see the counselors as a student advocate. The majority of the committee feels being a student advocate is the most important role of the school guidance counselors.

Another activity that was discussed and will be refined and rolled out to the schools before the end of the calendar year is information on **School Counselor's Week**, which is slated for February 2011. The committee will put together information on potential activities suggested to be held on the school level. It is hoped that this information can be disseminated to the individual schools by the end of the year.

The student services team also shared information on the **K-16 Project** that is being rolled out. This project relates to assisting every child in the Montgomery County public school system in setting and reaching their secondary

education goals. This will be done by providing the families with much needed information on financial assistance early on; as well as early as elementary school, guiding the student in realizing their goals beyond high school graduation. Many of the committee requested information on supporting this project.

Robyn Krugman, of **Jewish Social Services Agency** of JSSA gave the committee a presentation on the many services offered to children and families. Robyn explained that JSSA has a desire to reach all families in Montgomery County and would like to get information out to the individual school PTAs. The MCPS team shared with Robyn information regarding the Linkages program and the Montgomery County Collaboration Council as other avenues to ensure that information on JSSA services will get to those who need it most.

Next Steps: It was decided that an email group of the committee would be developed and that a next meeting date could be decided by polling the group. It was felt that the committee may need to meet more often than originally expected to ensure that the goals are met. Much of the work can be done via email, but it was felt that meeting only a couple of times a year may not be as effective in meeting the current goals.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

High School Committee

Dave Lechner: dave@lechneronline.com

Achievements:

- Developed details of "Prom Night Safety Video Contest" - nearly ready to distribute rules and flyers
- Worked to ensure that all HS PTSA Presidents were on the MCCPTA HS Pres. email listing.
- Contacted MCPS about scheduling a workshop later this year on safe access to high schools and their parking lots.

Legislative Committee

Patrick Dunn: patrickdunn65@yahoo.com

The Legislative Committee is touching base with folks from our membership who expressed an interest in helping on this committee.. We're also evaluating how to improve the communication of legislation activities at BOE, County Council and the General Assembly to the BOD and others. On December 6th, the MontCo delegation is holding public hearings on proposed General Assembly legislation that include repealing a certain provision of law that prohibits the charging of a fee in Montgomery County for transportation of public school students.

The link to information on legislation of the transportation bill can be found at this link:

<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/MC10-11.html>

"For the purpose of repealing a certain provision of law that prohibits the charging of a fee in Montgomery County for transportation of public school students to school from certain locations or from school to certain locations; and generally relating to the transportation of public school students in Montgomery County."

12/6/10 - Public Hearing - 7:00 p.m. 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville. If you would like to testify, you can sign up at the above link.

Membership Committee

Janette Gilman: jjanettegilman@verizon.net

The MCCPTA Membership Committee continues to work with local PTA/PTSA leaders to grow membership, answer inquiries, and problem-solve to increase our collective voice for the children of Montgomery County and the resources available to our local public schools. We are waiting for the initial membership numbers from MD PTA to see how we are doing in 2010-2011.

As a reminder, this year MCCPTA will be presenting MCCPTA Membership Awards at the May Principal-Presidents Dinner. These awards compliment the Maryland PTA membership awards program. MCCPTA membership awards will be given for a) percentage growth in local PTAs by 5% increments (up to 5%, 10%, etc.); b) absolute numbers—the largest—PTA/PTSA by category of school (elementary, middle, high, or special school); and c) greatest parent involvement calculated by the ratio of the total number of students to total membership. Locals must be in good standing, and membership numbers used will be those on record at Maryland PTA as of March 31, 2011.

Operating Budget Committee

Pam Moomau: Pammoomau@gmail.com

As we are starting to feel the effects of the cuts made to the operating budget for the current school year (fiscal year 2011), all signs continue to point to fiscal year 2012 being another tough year for school operating budget funding. Tax receipts continue to be lower than in the boom years, while federal stimulus funding will be mostly unavailable. The County Council has already signaled an inclination not to meet state-required "maintenance of effort" funding for fiscal year 2012, which could jeopardize some state funding for the school system. In addition, the state legislature has indicated it may be considering throwing more funding responsibility for teacher pensions back to the county level.

Thanks to all who worked on refining our operating budget priorities. We will now need to engage in vigorous advocacy to obtain funding at the county and state levels. **Here are some key dates to remember:**

December 15, 2010: MCPS Superintendent Jerry Weast plans to release his proposed Operating Budget for fiscal year 2012 on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Richard Montgomery High School at 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, in Rockville. All parents are welcome. Child care will be provided for children ages 4-12.

January 3, 2011: MCCPTA will host an Operating Budget Forum for all interested parents on Monday, January 3, 2011 from 7:30 to 9:30 in the Carver Auditorium, 850 Hungerford Drive. All Board of Education members and County Council members are invited to give a brief synopsis of their thoughts on the school and county budgets, and then to answer questions from parents. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A LARGE TURNOUT FOR THIS EVENT**, in order to communicate to our elected officials that we care about their budget decisions.

January 8, 2011: The MCCPTA Operating Budget Committee will host an operating budget testimony workshop for cluster coordinators and other interested parents to provide budget information and develop strategy for operating budget testimony before the Board of Education and the County Council. The workshop will be on Saturday, January 8, 2011, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Kensington Parkwood ES media center, 4710 Saul Rd, Kensington 20895.

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 12, 2011: Operating budget testimony before the Board of Education for the following clusters:

7:27 Northwest Cluster
7:32 Poolesville Cluster
7:37 Quince Orchard Cluster
7:42 Seneca Valley Cluster
7:47 BOARD QUESTIONS

7:52 Blake Cluster
7:57 Paint Branch Cluster
8:02 Springbrook Cluster
8:07 Sherwood Cluster
8:12 BOARD QUESTIONS

8:17 Clarksburg Cluster
8:22 Damascus Cluster
8:27 Gaithersburg Cluster
8:32 Magruder Cluster
8:37 Watkins Mill Cluster

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 19, 2011: Operating Budget testimony before the Board of Education for the following clusters:

8:17 Churchill Cluster
8:22 Richard Montgomery Cluster
8:27 Rockville Cluster
8:32 Wootton Cluster

8:42 Blair Cluster
8:47 Einstein Cluster
9:02 Kennedy Cluster

9:07 Northwood Cluster

9:17 Wheaton Cluster

9:22 Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster

9:27 Walter Johnson Cluster

9:32 Whitman Cluster

Parent Involvement Committee

Elisia George: ekjgsha@gmail.com

Our next meeting for the Parent Involvement Committee is December 16th at 7pm at Carver Auditorium. I was asked to represent Montgomery County on MSDE's Parent Advisory Council. The first meeting was held on November 29th at MSDE. The purpose of this council is to advise the State Superintendent and her staff on various aspects of Family Involvement and finding more effective ways to engage more families. The current focus will be on family engagement for "Race To The Top." Although this does not benefit Montgomery County directly, I am very excited that the knowledge I gain can be used to benefit family engagement in Montgomery County.

Safety & Health Committee

Donna Pfeiffer, co-chair: donnafeiffer@gmail.com 301-370-3200

Susan Burkinshaw, co-chair: susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net 301-758-6995

Carroll Lovelace, sub committee chair: clovelace3@comcast.net 240-461-8313

- Held our first committee meeting where we created the emergency resolution regarding the **School Resource Officers (SRO)** program and it was passed unanimously by the Delegates Assembly.
- Representatives attended the Dept of Health and Human Services School Health Council meeting where the focus was on **childhood obesity** and included speakers from the Commission on Health, Collaboration Council and the Obesity Planning Strategy Group.
- **Meeting with Chief Manger and Asst. Chief Jerman** scheduled for December 2 to discuss the SRO program.
- Jodee Blanco- **Bullying presentation** in the Northwest Cluster on Tuesday, December 7 at NWHS Auditorium (open to the public ages 10+).
- Planned a meeting with **Roger Berliner** from the County Council (to discuss the SRO program) on Dec. 16th.
- Received contact information for the new employee from the county's **Safe Routes to School program**. The County's Safe Routes to School Program is an effort to use a variety of education, engineering, and enforcement strategies that help make routes safer for children to walk and bicycle to school. The program involves the whole community....parents, children, neighborhood groups, schools, law enforcement officers, community leaders, and transportation and public health professionals to help identify issues and work together on solutions. The program primarily focuses on elementary and middle schools. If your PTA is interested in learning how this grant program can benefit your school contact:

Nadji T. Kirby
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Department of Transportation
Office of the Director
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-7169
nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov

If you'd like to join our Safety & Health e-list (we encourage at least one person from every school) - just send an email to DonnaPfeiffer@gmail.com and you'll be signed up!

Special Education Committee

Jeanne Taylor: frtjmt@aol.com

On Monday, October 4, 2010 beginning at 7:30 p.m. we held our annual kick off meeting. Gwen Mason and Judy Pattik, MCPS Special Education Directors, introduced themselves to the group. About a dozen advocacy group members and committee members met to discuss areas of need and the challenges facing families.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2010 where members will discuss their special needs "expertise" and/or areas of interest to fellow chairs. If the equipment is available we may also watch the video, "Misunderstood Minds from Dr. Mel Levine." We tried to show this last year but there was a glitch with the VCR machine.

The CUPF form has been completed and approved for the May 9 2011 annual recognition ceremony, which will be held at Rockville high school. A copy of the form will be placed in the files section of the workgroup eList.

Training Committee

DeBora King: dkndc@msn.com

Champions for Children Award

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) is looking to recognize and celebrate an outstanding local PTA/PTSA program or individual volunteer who is a role model for parent involvement. The \$1,000 prize money and award plaque are provided by the **Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE)** and presented at the Champions for Children Awards on April 27 2011.

Entry forms are available online (and I have hardcopies tonight). Please complete the form and submit via mail or fax by **January 21st** to:

Champions for Children Award
c/o MCCPTA Office
2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850
Fax: (301) 208-2003

Questions: Contact DeBora King, MCCPTA Vice President for Programs at vpprograms@mccpta.com or (301) 208-0111. For more information about **MCBRE**, go to their website at www.mcbre.org.

The next DA program is January 25th at 6:30PM, and the topic will be on the Superintendent Search.