

MCCPTA

April, 2012 Committee Reports

E-List Committee

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As of April 18, 2012, membership on the various lists is as follows:

E-List	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA_Board	96	-1
MCCPTA_Bulletin	748	-3
MCCPTA_Delegates	623	-5
MCCPTA_HS_Presidents	32	-1
MCCPTA_Presidents	315	+/- 0
MCCPTA_Presidents_Discussion	94	+/- 0
MCCPTA_Treasurers	189	-1
MCCPTA_Health and Safety	125	+/- 0

There has been an ongoing “purge” of non-functioning email addresses, as well as recommendations for e-list membership based on position. The decrease is due to the end of the current school year and membership will go up towards the beginning of the next school year.

A spreadsheet has been created to allow for easier comparison of e-list memberships and has been maintained as members subscribe/unsubscribe.

All local PTA members have been added to the spreadsheet and instructional emails were sent out as to how to join the MCCPTA e-lists.

ESOL Committee

Antonio Hernandez-Cardoso: hercarant@gmail.com

Meetings with key people are still in process in order to help in shaping the best path forward to better support ESOL parents. The ultimate goal is to reduce the academic achievement gap of ESOL students and to involve/engage more ESOL parents into scholastic activities and their local PTA and/or PTSA. Guidance and information is a priority for this purpose.

Since there are several groups working on similar issues, a number of proposals have been made and are ongoing.

The MCPS ESOL Bilingual Committee (EBAC) currently sponsored by the MCPS ESOL Program has been invited to merge with the MCCPTA ESOL Subcommittee. A preliminary positive answer was received from the leader. A meeting for discussion was held on March 7, 2012. The commonalities between EBAC and the ESOL subcommittee of the MCCPTA were explored. Some advantages identified: Stronger, MCCPTA support (they have a budget and access to all PTAs.) Some PTAs are asking for support. MCCPTA should be supporting all ESOL students, not just

Latino students. Eliminate duplication of efforts. Some disadvantages: Dues are a requirement for PTA membership, while an EBAC member does not pay dues. Discussion will continue in the next meeting to be held on April 11, 2012.

The Latino Civic Association sponsored by the Councilmember Nancy Navarro (D-4) has been created. I am paying close attention, as a member of the Steering Executive Committee to the development of the project to be sure that there is no conflict of interests and that the mission and vision are devoted to the Latino Parents exclusively. If this initiative works, it could be a great source of resources and promotion for MCCPTA activities close related. The last general retreat of the Latino Civic Association was held on March 17, 2012 in the Carver Auditorium of the BoE. The proposed name, vision and mission were accepted. Working groups were formed to analyze the following issues for Latinos: Education, Housing, Employment, Immigration, and Health. Proposals of solutions were made by them. The next meeting of the Steering Executive Committee will be performed on April 13, 2012.

Finally, there have been meetings with PALA (Padres y Alumnos Latinos en Acción-Latino Parents and Students in Action) leaders from several schools. There is a general agreement in the need to work together since now there are isolated and independent groups. After identifying leaders of active groups, a meeting has been called for March 13, 2012 at Gaithersburg HS. Unfortunately it was canceled and rescheduled for April 15, 2012 during a GHS event. The objective is to formalize the creation of a County-wide organization of Latino parents, organized with a structure and a common objective. This organization would support the activities and goals of the original workplan of the MCCPTA ESOL Subcommittee.

A leadership group managed by Gloria Bonilla, Latino Outreach Advisor of the Montgomery College, speaker at the radio program "Mi Escuela es tu Escuela" in 1540 AM two Mondays per month, is planning a supportive group for Latino Senior Students. The next meeting of information about opportunities of high education in MC for High School seniors is scheduled to happen on April 14, 2012.

ESOL Multicultural Awareness Committee

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The group of Multicultural parents sponsored under the MCPS Department of Family & Community Partnerships (DFCP) has been invited to merge the MCCPTA Multicultural Awareness Committee. A first positive approach was made after a presentation and discussion on March 19, 2012. Continue of discussion is scheduled to occur on April 23, 2012. Participation on the Latino testimony at the Board meeting on April 12, 2012 may happen.

Gifted and Talented Committee

Michelle Gluck: gluck.michelle@yahoo.com

Michelle participated in a panel discussion at the March 22 Community Forum on GT Education with Dr. Starr that at Magruder High School. More than 400 interested parents, staff, and students attended the forum, and while many were frustrated by the format, we feel that the standing-room-only attendance sent a strong message to MCPS that this is an issue that a lot of parents take seriously. Many parents hoped to have the opportunity to directly address Dr. Starr, as was done at the Listen and Learn sessions in the fall, and many were also disappointed that so much of the discussion focused on elementary school issues and did not reach the issues facing advanced level learners in middle and high school. Nevertheless, Michelle commented at the time and in a follow-up exchange with Dr. Starr that it is hopeful change to be discussing gifted education in a public forum at all, and we hope the conversation will continue as parents and others continue to send him their thoughts and questions about his vision of the future. Michelle is also collecting feedback and questions and appreciates being cc'd on parent communications to MCPS on these subjects.

Video of the panel discussion, as well as the powerpoint slides and other documents distributed at the forum, can be found on the MCPS website at this URL:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/springforums/2012-03-22/>

(Future forums will also be held on Special Education on April 16 and Social and Emotional Development on May 10, and about 250 people attended the forum on English Language Learners on March 12. We hope all the forums are well attended and that Dr. Starr receives feedback that will encourage continued direct engagement between MCPS senior staff and parents on a variety of issues important to parents, teachers/staff, and students.)

The Committee continues to focus on the extensive parent feedback indicating inconsistent implementation of curriculum acceleration in Curriculum 2.0 classes in first and second grade, especially in Mathematics, and feedback indicating a lack of differentiated instruction in Middle School "Advanced" classes. In particular, Michelle has been talking to BOE members and MCPS staff about the need for MCPS to make and announce a decision about whether the Math Pathways will continue to exist in any form under C2.0. Michelle hopes to attend the BOE Special Populations Committee work session on April 16 to observe an update on this and other topics.

High School Committee

Dave Lechner: dave@lechnersonline.com

1. No other news on Prom Safety contest.
2. Still waiting to updated the Traffic Safety Report with 1 more school of traffic data before finalizing it -
3. Shakespeare Video contest - 1 school asked questions - no other entries so far.
4. Continuing report on long-term Strategic options for special High School programs (e.g. IB, Cambridge, etc) in MCPS.
5. Performing Arts Festivals: Have Permit for Rockville and Silver Spring - working payments and insurance certificates. Meeting with Silver Spring police April 13. Working on banners, press releases, invites to school performance groups and principals, insurance, trash, drinks, SSL Volunteers, etc. Event will be May 12 at Rockville Town Center and May 13 at Silver Spring plaza.
6. No action on E-Books.
7. MCCPTA Resolution on how MCPS manages choice in the consortium schools - Approved at the Feb. DA. meeting.
8. No action on web site updates.
9. Significant Email dialogue within MCCPTA on problems facing Middle Schools, and whether MCPS is providing adequate "grading" motivation to students that need extra work in order to succeed - Currently analyzing data we received from parents to assess how significant the problem is. Working on wording for query to MS Principals (that we will run by MCPS first) to ask them about their approach to the problem.

Presidents and Principals Dinner

Dale Ryan: dalejryan@yahoo.com

- The committee met a few weeks ago and are finalizing plans for the dinner.
- Springbrook and Wheaton High Schools will be providing entertainment.
- Sponsorships are over \$6,000, so we will now be able to use any additional sponsorship.
- Funds to supply appetizers.
- Thanks to Ink Pressions. There are no printing costs for the program.
- We have sent out time limits for Membership, PTA president of the year, and for other Awards to the appropriate chairs/coordinators.
- There have been a few companies interested in supplying favors... so we may be able to have some Take-aways on the tables.
- Need to get Photos and very short bio... of new/returning officers ASAP (So we are ready to go with the program as soon as we can after the elections)

- Please get your reservations in ASAP.... It will make it easier on the committee for seating arrangements.
- Thanks to the committee members, MCCPTA officers, and Pam's support.