



April 19, 2007

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**Visit our web site**

[www.mccpta.net](http://www.mccpta.net)

Despite the welcome break, this has been a hectic month as the operating budget testimony stretched over 4 nights and we all ramped up planning for end of the year activities. Despite their first notice that only the five clusters which had a capital amendment would have a testimony slot at the May 1, County Council hearing on the MCPS CIP, all of our clusters have now been given a designated testimony slot for that night. Make sure PTAs touch base with their cluster coordinators to discuss the capital budget testimony. Local PTAs should also start thinking about their annual facilities letter which will be due on June 1, 2007. Every year, each PTA writes a letter to Dr. Weast outlining their facility needs. The cluster coordinators collect and compile these letters and they are forwarded to the MCPS facilities department to be used in the development of the next CIP. Since next year will be what is called a full year—all needs are considered—PTAs should make sure their letters are comprehensive and forward looking. CIP chairs Marney Jacobs and Jim Keenan will give you much more information on this process in May.

Maryland PTA—our Board of Directors was visited by the President Elect of Maryland PTA, Debbie Ritchie. Debbie has been visiting councils across the state to get to know the people and their concerns. As I mentioned at the last Delegate Assembly, the Board of MD PTA has voted to make AIM the insurance company of MD PTA. Until and unless MD PTA votes to make this mandatory (through a bylaws vote at the

convention in November) PTAs and councils have the option of switching companies. It is possible that our locals might save some money by the change, but the new company also had a number of restrictions that would affect the operations of local PTAs. We will be working on a presentation for either the May DA or September DA so the membership can see all the options and make some decisions on this issue. Your current coverage extends until fall, so no decision needs to be made yet.

Included in this letter is a report from the bylaws committee with five amendments. The first three amendments' purpose is to reduce the size of our board of directors by limiting each cluster to one vote (although each cluster may still have up to three cluster coordinators) while making it clear that all cluster coordinators participate in the business of the DAs. The last two amendments were items that MD PTA referred to us in January. They asked us to make these changes the next time we were amending our bylaws.

We know nominating committees at many locals are still working on securing a slate of officers for next year. I encourage you to make every effort to have your slate reflect the diversity in your school. MCCPTA will be hosting its annual spring training on the evening of Wednesday, May 30. Each PTA receives a packet with training guidebooks. There will be a general introductory session for all, and then we will break into sessions. This training is especially

important for newly elected officers, current presidents should make sure that the training is widely publicized within your own PTA.

At last week's BOE policy committee meeting we learned that MCPS is finally working on a regulation to accompany the new (relatively) grading and reporting policy. This will be regulation IKA-RA. There was a memo to the BOE released last week with an update on grading and reporting issues.

MCPS will also be writing new policies to replace the current *Site-Based Participatory Management* and *Quality Integrated Education*. These two policies will be completely rewritten and after adoption the old policies will be rescinded. Board member Sharon Cox noted during the discussion that *Site-Based Participatory Management* was quite out of date but had not been rescinded because there was nothing else which addressed parent involvement in local school management. This won't surprise many of you who have talked to me about the lack of guidelines for parent involvement in school improvement plans. This is a policy we will be following closely.

All delegates, presidents, and BOD members should be receiving their invitations to the Presidents/Principals dinner soon. The price of the ticket is \$60 this year due to the change in location. PTAs should invite their school principal to be the

guest of the PTA. There will be box to check on the invitation if your PTA would like to sponsor additional guests. We hope that if your PTA has funds you will consider underwriting a ticket for a PTA for which the price will be a hardship. Generally BOD members pay for their own tickets but it would be a very nice gesture if one of their cluster schools offered to purchase their ticket in thanks for all the work they do throughout the year. We will be working through the cluster coordinators to identify PTAs who need financial assistance in order to attend. Local PTAs should contact their cluster coordinator if this is the case.

I have written the CRC to once again protest their use of our school directories. We encourage local PTAs to guard against the use of their directories by and businesses or groups for solicitations or mass mailings. Towards the end of the summer, we will once again distribute language your PTA may want to use as its directory disclaimer. Many PTAs copyright their directories which can be done on line and costs only \$35.

*Thank you all for your dedication and service to our children.*

*Jane*

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***MCCPTA ELECTIONS: APRIL 24, 2007***  
***IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR UPCOMING MCCPTA ELECTION***  
***HELD DURING THE APRIL DELEGATES ASSEMBLY***

- ***Arrive EARLY – 6:45pm***
- ***Bring your MCCPTA Green Voting card. Upon payment of dues, each PTA President was sent 3 cards to be distributed to those attending the DA Meetings – If your card has been misplaced please:***
  - ***contact the MCCPTA office for replacement card***
- ***Proof of PTA membership is strongly encouraged:***
  - ***PTA membership card***
  - ***Cancelled check indicating membership payment***
- ***Payment of DUES and INSURANCE must have been made in order to Vote - (Payments will be accepted at the April DA Meeting)***



## 2007-2008 MCCPTA Nominating Committee Slate

Members of the nominating committee

Tom Kenton	At large
Mark Rother	Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood – Committee Chair
Steve Augustino	Clarksburg, Damascus, Magruder, Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill
Livleen Gill	Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Wootton
Deborah Stevens-Panzer	Northeast Consortium, Sherwood
Paul Morrison	Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley
Karen Smith	B-CC, Walter Johnson, Wheaton, Whitman

### Bylaws Qualifications: Article VI, Section 4

#a. Each officer shall be a member of a local PTA within the area of this PTA council.

**b. Only members of a local PTA whose National, state, and council PTA dues are paid shall be eligible to hold office. All officers shall have served at least one (1) full year as a local PTA officer or one (1) full year on the PTA council board of directors.**

### Nominees for 2007-2008 MCCPTA Officers are:

#### President

**Jane de Winter**

Qualifications: Current PTA member of Garrett Park ES and Tilden MS, Current MCCPTA President, Past Cluster Coordinator (Walter Johnson), Past Chair of Operating Budget Committee

#### Vice President: Educational Issues

**Kay Romero**

Qualifications: Current PTA member of Newport MS, Rock View ES and Einstein HS, Current Recording Secretary, Cluster Coordinator (Einstein HS), Past Chair Special Education Committee, Co-Chair, Gifted Child Committee

#### Vice President: Administration

**Liz Wheeler**

Qualifications: Current PTA member of Richard Montgomery HS, Current Recording Secretary, Cluster Coordinator (Richard Montgomery)

#### Vice President: Programs

**April Keys**

Qualifications: Current PTA member of Northwest HS, Current VP Programs, Past Cluster Coordinator (Seneca Valley), Past Corresponding Secretary

#### Vice President: Legislation

**Victor Salazar**

Qualifications: Current PTA member of Rock View ES, Current VP Legislation, Past VP Administration

#### Recording Secretary -BOD

**Susan Thomas**

Qualifications: Current PTA member of Montgomery Knolls/Pine Crest ES, Past Cluster Coordinator (Kennedy)

#### Recording Secretary - DA

**TBD**

#### Treasurer

**Dale Ryan**

Qualifications: Current PTA member of Richard Montgomery HS, Past Presidents/Principals Chair, Past Cluster Coordinator (Damascus)

NOMINATING SLATE OF AREA/CLUSTER COORDINATORS

**SHERWOOD,  
NORTHEAST  
CONSORTIUM**

**Area VP (Sherwood)**

Deborah Stevens-Panzer

**Area VP (Northeast  
Consortium)**

**Sherwood Cluster**

Deborah Stevens-Panzer

Fran Simon

**Paint Branch**

**Cluster/**

**Northeast Consortium**

Patti Twigg

**Blake**

**Cluster/Northeast**

**Consortium**

Dawn Dolan

**Springbrook Cluster/**

**Northeast**

**Consortium**

TBA

**CHURCHILL, RICHARD  
MONTGOMERY,  
WOOTTON, ROCKVILLE**

**Area VP**

Kate Savage

**Churchill Cluster**

Janette Gilman

Laurie Halverson

Brenda Willett

**Wootton Cluster**

Andrea Bernardo

Rich Edelman

**Rockville Cluster**

Amy Hartley

**Richard Montgomery**

Elizabeth Enders

John Hall

Lori Merrill

**BLAIR, EINSTEIN,  
KENNEDY**

**Area VP**

Sally Taber

**Einstein Cluster**

Diane Dickson

**Kennedy Cluster**

Ricky Ford

Dan Gaskill

Karen Sullivan

**Blair Cluster**

Bladimir Duenas

Pete Lafen

**Northwood**

Jennifer Chambers

Pam Megna

Stacey Menendez

**B-CC, WALTER  
JOHNSON, WHITMAN,  
WHEATON**

**Area VP**

TBA

**Bethesda/Chevy Chase**

**Cluster**

TBA

**Walter Johnson Cluster**

Pam Moomau

Joanne Vanderhorst

**Wheaton**

Karen Smith

**Whitman**

Paula Robinson

**CLARKSBURG,  
DAMASCUS,  
GAITHERSBURG,  
MAGRUDER, WATKINS  
MILL**

**Area VP**

Allyson Morrison

**Clarksburg**

Jamie Jacobson

Sonia Leaman

Donna Pfeiffer

**Damascus**

Leslie Cuneo

Kristin Tribble

**Gaithersburg**

Steve Augustino

Carroll Lovelace

**Magruder**

Linda Kuserk

Dawn Trahern

Ted Willard

**Watkins Mill**

Brenda Szczesny

Susan Young

**NORTHWEST,  
POOLESVILLE, QUINCE  
ORCHARD, SENECA  
VALLEY**

**Area VP**

Jim Keenan

**Northwest**

TBA

**Poolesville**

Roger Hayden

**Quince Orchard**

TBA

**Seneca Valley Cluster**

TBA

## MCCPTA Committee Updates – April 2007

**(Please note: Additional Committee updates are shared electronically on the MCCPTA Bulletin)**

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### **Cultural Arts Committee: Joan Wolf Chiaverini, Chair, [joanwolfjoanwolf@aol.com](mailto:joanwolfjoanwolf@aol.com)**

The dates for the 2007 MCPS Showcases are:

September 27, October 1, October 4, and October 9.

The Showcases are sponsored by MCCPTA/EPI and will be held at the Carver Educational Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. The Showcases will be in the auditorium from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm. A different performer is presented every 15 minutes. There is no lunch break. Every day has different performers. New performers will be presented on October 9th.

All performers have been approved by the Superintendent's Committee for Performances in MCPS.

For information, contact:

Seda Gelenian - Showcase Producer/Coordinator  
301-540-4180

**AND, we STILL do not have 100% participation in the Cultural Arts Listserv! Please contact [JoanWolfJoanWolf@aol.com](mailto:JoanWolfJoanWolf@aol.com) to join this list serve.**

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### **Gifted and Talented: Kay Romero, Chair, [kay2898@aol.com](mailto:kay2898@aol.com)**

Training Session held by MCCPTA GCC Committee and AEI on April 16, at Walter Johnson HS

**For: GT Parent Liaisons, Interested parents and MCPS staff**

**Program: Moderated panel discussion with 7 principals**

AEI made arrangements to have a Principal Panel discussion to answer GT questions at the training. Questions were asked and answered during this session. Breakout Sessions were held on the following topics: Math Differentiation, Global Screening, AEI Advisory Committee and BOE Policy Revision of IOA (Gifted and Talented Education), MCPS Assessments in Elementary and Middle School, Differentiating Instruction and Rigorous Instruction; Homework, Outreach to African American and Hispanic Families in Your Community, MCPS Writing Instruction in Elementary and Middle School, Gifted and Talented/Learning Disabled (GTLD)

Speakers are: Dr. Carl Baskerville – Rolling Terrace ES (former); Ms. Charlotte Boucher – Eastern MS; Dr. Kathy Brake – Washington Grove ES (former); Dr. Helen Chaset – Burning Tree ES; Ms. Janet Dunn – Sargent Shriver ES (formerly with Takoma Park ES); Ms. Gayle Mollet – Clearspring ES; Ms. Vicky Parcan, Silver Spring International MS

Please note: (AEI) Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (MCPS)

#### **AEI Advisory Committee Meetings**

AEI Advisory Committee Meetings are underway with Holly Gaut and Susan Thomas representing MCCPTA on this committee. The charge of the committee:

Statements of Purpose for AEI Advisory Committee:

The AEI Advisory Committee provides feedback and continuing guidance on MCPS programs and planning for implementation of MCPS Policy IOA *Gifted and Talented Education*.

The committee will continue the work of the Deputy Superintendent's Advisory Committee (DSAC) to ensure follow-through on recommendations from the *DSAC Report*.

The committee will increase communication among stakeholders and groups interested in providing accelerated and enriched instruction and a high level of academic rigor in Montgomery County Public Schools.

The committee will serve as a multi-stakeholder group to review and provide feedback on MCPS Policy IOA *Gifted and Talented Education*. The Committee meets once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

The comment deadline for the new Elementary Education policy is May 2007. The MCCPTA GCC committee will review the policy and work with MCCPTA to offer comments to the delegates regarding this policy.

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### **Grading and Reporting Committee:**

**Sharon St.Pierre, [stpierre619@comcast.net](mailto:stpierre619@comcast.net), Beth Kennington, [bkenn@starpower.net](mailto:bkenn@starpower.net) , Co-Chairs**

#### **Third Grade Report Cards**

Ann Bedford, Director, Curriculum Development and Program Intervention, and Terry Cepaitis, Director, Curriculum Development and Program Implementation presented a draft of the proposed Third Grade report card.

- *Grade 3 format: if works, will possibly look at it and revise Grades 1 & 2*

- *Accelerated courses:*

A. Child graded on grade level he/she is working at

B. Essential learning skills section will reflect the grade level that child is working at as well

C. Some grades would be four grade format: 4,3,2,1 and possibly math would be five grade format: A,B,C,D,E

- *Comments very important to parents:*

A. Possibly use a rubric or standard comments

B. Need to know behavior at school (attention span, focus, social skills)

C. Would make it possible for parents to better understand how their child learns and identify possible behavioral/special education issues.

- *On report card, Math shows Accelerated Math, but need differentiation for Reading/*

*Language Arts (above and below level)*

- *Comments on draft of proposed Third Grade report card requested of those Committee members in attendance (only) by March 29.*

#### **February 22 GRIT Meeting Follow Up**

- *Reteaching/Reassessing - Grades 1 and 2: No guidelines for R/R at elementary level*

1. Suggestion was made to separate the grades ½ guidelines from 3/4/5 (3/4/5 workgroup to form and align R/R opportunities with secondary schools)

2. Statement made as to R/R opportunities in grades ½: teachers assess students after instruction, practice and feedback.

3. Fair representation of student performance on a variety of measures over time; opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery through variety of methods; meaningful feedback on student achievement to students and parents; and consistency within and among schools.

- *Procedures for Answering Questions From Parents*

- *Final being sent to Jodi Leleck, Erick Lang and Dr. Lacey for approval. Janice Faden to notify G&R when approved and will distribute.*

- **OARS Update (the following was implemented over the past quarter (Q2):**

- *School visits/gather feedback*

- *End of Semester Processing - SUCCESS*

1. Tests conducted on server to verify capability

2. Many schools completed submission before deadline

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#### **Health Committee: Tracy Fox, Chair, [tracyfox@comcast.net](mailto:tracyfox@comcast.net)**

Pilot testing of the MCPS Sex Ed Curriculum has come to an end. Over 90% of students given the opportunity to participate did (the tested components of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum – Sexual Orientation and Condom Use – required parents to “Opt-In” and actively allow their student to participate). MCPS is reviewing the results of the pilot test and will provide results to the Superintendent and the Board of Education in the coming months.

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#### **Listserv Committee: Patti Twigg, Chair, [lptwigg@erols.com](mailto:lptwigg@erols.com)**

1) As of April 12, 2007, membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed
MCCPTA Board	98
MCCPTA Bulletin	472
MCCPTA Delegates	398
MCCPTA Presidents	275

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**Parent Involvement Committee: Elisa George, Chair, [dalisha3313@hotmail.com](mailto:dalisha3313@hotmail.com)**

Our last meeting was held on March 28th. Though the attendance was poor, the meeting was very productive. A gentleman who came to the meeting for the first time had many questions that I was not able to answer, however Ms. Stultz and Ms. Roberson from The Division of Family and Community Partnership were able to answer his questions concerning inconsistencies in education across the county and the issue of not being able to navigate the system, since it isn't parent friendly.

We were informed of a Parent Advisory Council being formed to address issues of parent involvement and ways to engage parents partially or fully in the system. This council will also be utilized to view products that are being made available to parents. The next meeting for our committee is scheduled for June 4th 2007 at 7:30 pm. On that evening we will have three members of MDPTA's Inclusion Committee sharing with us practices that have been successful in their communities.

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**Reflections Committee: Neal Myerson, Chair, [nealmbshs70@yahoo.com](mailto:nealmbshs70@yahoo.com)**

The MCCPTA Reflections committee will conclude a very successful year with its annual award ceremony at Northwest HS on Wednesday, April 25th. We will honor 121 students whose artistic creations were judged to be the best of over 1,800 entries submitted to 37 PTAs in Montgomery County.

Congratulations to all the students that participated in the Reflections program this year, and many thanks to the local Reflections chairs at each PTA who made it happen at their school.

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**Safety Committee: Pam Moommau, Chair, [Pammoomau@comcast.net](mailto:Pammoomau@comcast.net)**

Lead Mediation Update:

MCPS has finally updated its web information on lead-in-water remediation for each school. You can get to it at the following link:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/maintenance/leadinformation/>

or by typing "lead" in the MCPS web search engine.

Once at the site, notice the word "list" in blue at two points within the text. This will link you to lists of schools where no remediation was found necessary (first "list") and of schools where remediation has been completed (second "list"). If you click on the blue "available,"

it shows a graph with the status of each school, including those where more work is needed. Notice in the write-up that MCPS has instituted a permanent flushing protocol for all drinking fixtures first thing in the morning in all schools, including those that have been completed

remediated. This because when the water sits in a fixture for a prolonged time period (e.g., overnight), there is enough time for some lead and other minerals to leach into the water.

This status report on all schools may be a little difficult to decipher. You'll notice that most schools show a red bar that goes out to "Post Remediation and Passivation Testing." This means that they have done all the work that was called for in their remediation plan, but some of

the new fixtures are still showing lead levels above the action level (of 20 parts per billion). The environmental subcommittee of the MCCPTA Safety Committee has met with MCPS and Montgomery County officials about the process, including the post-testing and "passivation" procedures. We still need to get a little follow-up information on this, but the figures we were shown indicated that for the most part the readings are not very far above the action level, and the two-step testing procedure they use does seem to indicate that the lead is coming from the new fixtures, not the plumbing.

"Passivation" is the process by which new plumbing fixtures acquire a coating (from additives put in the water at the plant by WSSC for this purpose) to reduce leaching of lead and other minerals from the fixtures into the water. In order for

passivation to occur, enough water containing the additive has to flow through the fixture for a long-enough time period for the coating to build up. This requires "flushing" at the school level every day for every new fixture for prolonged time periods, and MCPS suspects this may not be happening in all cases. The MCCPTA Safety Committee follow-up includes additional research into whether the passivation flushing protocol is, in fact, adequate to the task.

Notice also at the end of the write-up a link to email Lynne Zarate, the MCPS environmental safety coordinator or in charge of this project, so that you can ask her questions directly.

#### Education Facilities Officers

In response to questions raised about the assignment of Education Facilities Officers, Robert Hellmuth, MCPS Director of Safety and Security provided the following information:

Education Facilities Officers are funded by a federal grant through the budget of the Montgomery County Police Department. While there are 32 funded positions, there are only 28 EFO's because it is difficult to find police officers interested in the position. Although the grant specifies that EFOs may be allocated to public or private schools, all of those in Montgomery County go to MCPS. Each MCPS high school is assigned one EFO, and two middle schools, Argyle and Clemente, also have them. The decision as to which middle schools receive and EFO is made jointly between MCPD and the MCPS Office of School Performance.

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#### **Student Service Learning Hours Committee: Karen Judson, Chair, [bszjudson@comcast.net](mailto:bszjudson@comcast.net)**

The next SSL Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday May 14 at 7:30 PM at CESC. Middle and high school PTSA SSL liaisons will be discussing their activities this year. These PTSA liaisons participated in a new initiative by working with their school's staff SSL coordinator to increase communication with students and parents regarding both the SSL requirement and opportunities to fulfill it. PTSA's that have not yet designated a SSL liaison and would like to learn more about this new initiative are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Karen Judson at 301-365-9342 or [bszjudson@comcast.net](mailto:bszjudson@comcast.net).

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#### **Technology Committee: Linda White, Chair, [lindabwhite1@aol.com](mailto:lindabwhite1@aol.com)**

The Technology Committee met with Melissa Woods and Kalani Smith Project Director and Project Manager of the Maryland Technology Literacy Standards for students that were recently accepted by the Maryland State Board of Education on February 27, 2007.

The six standards were reviewed with the team; Technology Systems, Digital Citizenship, Technology for Learning and Collaboration, Technology for Communication and Expression, Technology for Information Use and Management and Technology for Problem Solving and Decision Making.

The Maryland State Department of Education funded a grant to develop the student technology literacy standards for the state of Maryland. The consortium consists of all 24 school systems in MSDE.

Now that the standards have been approved MCPS will work on a strategy to integrate into the current curriculum as sections come up for re-writing over the next couple of years. This same team will start working on Phase II of this project which will be Technology Fluency for grades 9-12.

Of concern to our team was the length of time it was going to take to integrate these new requirements into the current curriculum and is that really the right approach?

We also discussed how to best push for Teacher certification and Professional Development given all the demands on teachers.

And then of course we have the issue of the technology funding coming out of capital and the needed lobbying with the Board of Education.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday April 23rd @ 7:30pm at Carver and will be our second meeting around our school website improvement taskforce,



## Bylaws Committee Report

On March 27, the MCCPTA delegates directed us to bring forward amendments to MCCPTA bylaws relating to the organization and operation of the board of directors. The rationale is as follows: Maryland PTA requires that the quorum for the MCCPTA board of directors be a majority. The board of directors currently number more than ninety people (officers, area vice presidents, cluster coordinators, committee chairs, and immediate past president) which sets the quorum at about forty-eight people. Reducing the number of people on the board would allow the quorum requirement to be achieved more easily.

Three of the proposed amendments address the quorum issue and the other two relate to changes from Maryland PTA.

- Article VIII, Section 8: Board of Directors – Insert a second sentence, “Each cluster and each committee is entitled to only one vote in meetings of the board of directors.
- Article X, Section 2b: Area Vice Presidents, Cluster Coordinators, and Their Election – Insert after “shall coordinate the work of the cluster coordinators,” the phrase, “shall participate in meetings of the board of directors and delegate assemblies;”
- Article X, Section 3b: Area Vice Presidents, Cluster Coordinators, and Their Election – Insert after “coordinate testimony of the cluster before the Board of Education and the County Council;” the phrase “attend delegate assemblies;”
- Article VI, Section 2: Officers and Their Election – Insert after “installation” the words “in May”.
- Article VIII, Section 9: Board of Directors: Removal from Office – Insert after “a two-thirds (2/3) vote” the phrase “of the members present and voting”.  
(Note that this amendment addresses an issue raised last year regarding inconsistencies between the articles of incorporation and the bylaws.)

Discussion and voting on these amendments will be placed on the agenda for the May delegate assembly. If you have questions about these amendments, you will be able to ask them at the April 24<sup>th</sup> delegate assembly.

# MCCPTA Spring Training

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

6:30 - 9:00PM

Rockville High School  
2100 Baltimore Road  
Rockville, MD 20851

## SCHEDULE

6:30 - 7:00PM ..... Registration and Refreshments  
7:00 - 7:30PM ..... Introduction to MCCPTA  
7:30 - 7:45PM ..... Move to sessions  
7:45-9:00PM ..... Training Sessions for Specific Positions

*New Presidents (Vice Presidents welcome)*

*Returning Presidents*

*Treasurers*

*Secretaries*

*MCCPTA Delegates*

*Board of Directors/Cluster Coordinators & AVPs*

*Reflections*

*MCCPTA-EPI FLES*

*Newsletter Editors*

*Bylaws*

*Officers Responsibilities (In Spanish)*

## DIRECTIONS TO ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

From 270, take MD-28 (West Montgomery Ave.) east toward Rockville/Town Center.  
After crossing Rt. 355, continue to follow Rt. 28, although it will now be called Veirs  
Mill Rd.

Turn left on First Street (still Rt. 28).

Turn right on Baltimore Road. School will be on the right.

## QUESTIONS

RSVP appreciated but not required by May 25, 2007

Contact: MCCPTA office at (301) 208-0111 or [office@mccpta.com](mailto:office@mccpta.com)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MD PTA Summer Leadership Conference July 21, 2007 at Anne Arundel Community College  
(Additional training sessions made available by the MD PTA)

# **PRESIDENTS and PRINCIPALS DINNER**

## **MCCPTA**

***Invites you to  
Celebrate another year of  
Advocacy for education on  
Wednesday, May 23, 2007  
At the Marriott Bethesda North  
Hotel and Conference Center  
Beginning at 6:00 pm.***

***Please be on the lookout for your  
invitations! Principals are guests  
of their PTSA's.***

***If you have any questions you may call  
Cathy Lilja, at the MCCPTA office(301-208-  
0111)or Paula Robinson, Presidents and  
Principals Dinner Chair  
(523-6102).***

**DRAFT Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly  
March 27, 2007  
Carver Education Service Center**

**Program:** Traffic and Pedestrian Safety around Schools

**Business Meeting**

**Call to Order:** Jane de Winter, MCCPTA President called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM

**Mission of the PTA:** Liz Wheeler, MCCPTA Secretary for Board of Directors

**Additions to Agenda:** Delegates Listserv Resolution introduced under New Business

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion made and seconded, the draft minutes of the February 27, 2007 Delegates Assembly was approved as amended by voice vote.

**Treasurer Report:** Juan Johnson, MCCPTA Treasurer presented Balance Sheet as of March 27, 2007, Budget vs. Actuals for the period of July 2006-March 2007 and Profit and Loss for period July 1, 2006-March 27, 2007. Past due notices for dues being sent to PTAs and cluster coordinators. No questions and treasurer report will be filed.

**Proposed Resolution:** Draft Resolution on Site Coordinators is presented by Kate Savage, Area VP and Liz Wheeler, Co-Cluster Coordinator, Richard Montgomery HS Cluster. Questions and answers were posted on Delegates listserv concerning this proposed resolution over the last month. This would create a new position to mirror the one currently financed by construction budget. This is discretionary and with negative consequences to principals needing one by their having to give up a position and money from construction budget in order to choose this.

Delegate from Walter Johnson supports this idea for elementary schools as high schools can use administrators. Elementary schools do not have as many staff to allocate and are most times offsite during construction. Do not want to delegate choices to others. High school budgetary concerns for schools that opt not to use site coordinators are raised. Could they add money to another part of budget?

Delegate from Blake HS proposed an amendment to add to last resolve the words "or staffing." Motion was seconded.

Amendment to add to last resolve passes by voice vote.

Delegate from Twinbrook ES spoke in favor of this amendment as a person is needed to supervise construction.

Vote to approve proposed resolution as amended passes by voice vote.

**Resolution on Site Coordinators**

Adopted by MCCPTA Delegates on March 27, 2007

**WHEREAS**, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) currently only funds site coordinators for secondary schools under the construction budget;

**WHEREAS**, a current Site Coordinator has alerted a school to issues arising with the replacement school construction, thereby resulting in savings for the school, MCPS and county citizens;

**WHEREAS**, the funding for the salary of this Site Coordinator is shared between the MCPS Division of Construction and the school's budget for furniture;

**WHEREAS**, the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) knows the benefits of a Site Coordinator and urges its extension to other MCPS schools scheduled for renovation;

**AND WHEREAS**, MCPS currently does not offer Site Coordinators to elementary schools;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the MCCPTA endorses and will advocate for Site Coordinators to be assigned to any MCPS school under construction or modernization;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that MCPS should revise the funding source for salaries for Site Coordinators such that implementation of the objectives of this resolution will not negatively affect the school's budget for construction or modernization or staffing.

**Bylaws Committee** - Vicki Rafel, MCCPTA Bylaws Chair presents a motion for a MCCPTA Bylaws revision. Attached are some items for rationale.

Coming from committee, no second is needed

PTA requires that the quorum for the MCCPTA board of directors be a majority. The board of directors currently numbers more than ninety people (officers, area vice presidents, cluster coordinators, and committee chairs) which sets the quorum at about forty-six people. Reducing the number of people on the board would allow the quorum requirement to be achieved more easily. This revision would give us the opportunity to look at how we function and perhaps to enhance the board's efficiency, accountability, and effectiveness.

Maryland PTA changed council template regarding majority for quorum. Our bylaws contain the number 15 as quorum. Due to the number we have on board we need 46 for quorum. We need to look at this to be able to do business as an organization. We are asking Maryland PTA to change this requirement. We still need investigate what we need to do as an organization.

If someone wanted to offer a simple amendment to bylaws then for this issue that would entail addressing multiple sections of our bylaws where the composition of the Board is addressed and would be a larger revision. We are not going to race into this issue. The positions involved do the work of the organization. We need to still have Board that can function and deliver support and services to locals, etc.

We need Delegates permission to start the process and discussions. Everything will come back to Board and Delegates to take back to locals and later be voted on by Delegates.

Delegate from Hoover MS asks about revision clarification and whether we need to ask for a revision or do we want to amend.

The wording is in our bylaws. To amend would be one amendment at a time or to ask for a revision.

Vote on motion for a MCCPTA Bylaws revision passes by voice vote.

#### **Motion from MCCPTA Bylaws Committee**

In accordance with the MCCPTA bylaws Article XVIII — Amendments, I move that the delegates vote for a revision of the MCCPTA bylaws relating to the organization and operations of the MCCPTA board of directors.

**Joint statement-** Jane de Winter brings forward a statement put together by MCCPTA, MCAASP, MCEA, and SEIU Local 500 regarding the Montgomery County Board of Education's FY 2008 Operating Budget Request. If delegates want to endorse, take out portions or add portions then that is what the discussion tonight is about.

Concerns are about the budget proposed by the County Executive. Saying it is fiscal responsible budget is not saying that every dollar in it is terrific. The statement is saying the percentage increase that they are asking for this year is consistent with revenue situation.

Delegate from Cashell ES has question about wording on fiscal responsible budget and pledge. Clarification needed for which budget cut. Need to clarify this as County Executive's proposal

Delegate from Potomac ES concerned about language in 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet as overstatement. Budget is increasing but rate of increase is decreasing. Rate of growth is not as fast.

Area VP for Blair, Einstein, Northwood and Kennedy has question about if all county agencies have a 1% cut.

Motion on floor to amend:

3<sup>rd</sup> bullet, line 2: *"The county executive's proposed budget cut is inconsistent with every pledge that they have made. If they cut the schools now when they have the money, what will they do when the fiscal situation changes?"*

Bullet 4, line 1: *"The Montgomery County Board of Education FY08 Operating Budget requests is a fiscally responsible budget that will work well with other county priorities. The county has the money to fully fund this budget as well as the other agencies' budgets without cuts."*

Safety Committee, Chair Pam Moomau states Bullet 4 has been made clearer. Bullet 3, more discussion needed.

Chair (Jane de Winter) divides the two amendments for individual vote.

Bullet 3, line 2 passes by voice vote.

Bullet 4, line 1 passes by voice vote.

Delegate from Potomac ES makes motion to delete 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet. Motion is seconded.

Delegate from Churchill Cluster states the Bullet 3 is controversial and not stating factual information and up for debate.

Delegate from Walter Johnson states that this is an advocacy document and Bullet 3 is a valuable portion. We are trying to advocate for our cause and hold elected officials accountable and strengthens document overall.

Delegate from Takoma Park ES speaks in favor to keep this in.

Delegate from Mill Creek Town raises concerns about the word cut in 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence in Bullet 3. We may need to modify the word cut with the word reduction.

Delegate from DuFief ES wants to strengthen Bullet 3 by adding a number to rate of increase for comparison.

Safety Committee Chair, Pam Moomau supports deleting Bullet 3 due to concerns on election language and precision of wording.

Delegate from Thurgood Marshall ES supports leaving it in to tell elected officials that represent us that they are accountable to us. We are trying to gain strength with this.

Delegate from Clarksburg HS supports leaving 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet in and proposes amending the amendment to *“The proposed budget 1% rate decrease seems inconsistent with the pledges they made.”* In addition strike last line, *“If they cut the schools now...”*

Delegate from Takoma Park ES Opposes amendment as it is not worth diverging from original and no need for this wordsmithing.

The proposed amendment to retain bullet 3 with these changes fails to pass by standing vote: (35 no) (25 yes)

Vote on proposed amendment to completely eliminate Bullet 3 fails to pass by standing vote: (40 no) (21 yes)

Bylaws chair, Vicki Rafel presents motion to amend Bullet 3 in first sentence, *“All of our public officials have committed to maintaining and improving educational programs.”*

Motion was seconded.

Safety Chair, Pam Moomau spoke in favor. Need to take election language out

Delegate from Takoma Park ES spoke against removing election language.

Wootton Cluster Coordinator, Andrea Bernardo spoke against removing election language

Vote to approve amendment passes by voice vote.

Delegate for Martin Luther King MS spoke against including special education wording in last bullet given what happen with Learning Centers and how budget was used for that.

Delegate from Churchill HS spoke to leave special education in as it needs to remain to remind them what money is for.

Vote to amend by taking special education out fails to pass on voice vote.

Vote to approve whole joint statement as amended passes by voice vote.

**Joint Statement from MCCPTA, MCAASP, MCEA, and SEIU Local 500 Regarding the Montgomery County Board of Education’s FY 2008 Operating Budget Request**

- This is a community that supports education; has traditionally supported education; has supported disadvantaged students and public education that is effective for all children.
- The current budget increases will allow the school system to attract and retain the best employees to give all children what they need and the resources to fund initiatives such as middle school reform, secondary school counselors, hours based staffing, and assistant principals.
- All of our public officials have committed to maintaining and improving educational programs. The County Executive’s proposed budget cut is inconsistent with every pledge that they have made. If they cut the schools now when they have the money, what will they do when the fiscal situation changes?
- The Montgomery County Board of Education’s requested FY 2008 operating budget is a fiscally responsible budget that will work well with other county priorities. The county has the money to fully fund this budget as well as the other agencies’ budgets without cuts.
- The school system’s percentage share of the total county budget has been decreasing over the past three years.
- The increases in the school budget over the past few years have gone to support equitable programs for children such as targeted class size reductions, special education, reducing maximum class sizes, and additional magnet programs.

**Unfinished business:** May Delegates Assembly - Do we want to have one? Last year was first year for May Delegates Assembly.

Question was asked if bylaws changes might be presented then. Bylaws chair said it could happen.

Delegate from Tilden, MS made a motion to not have a May Delegates Assembly. Motion was seconded.

Delegate from Walter Johnson HS made a motion to table until April's Delegate Assembly.

Bylaws chair, Vicki Rafel speaks against motion to not have May Delegates Assembly and thinks we may need the May Delegates Assembly for issue of bylaws revision.

Vote on motion to table until April the decision about May Delegates Assembly passes by voice vote.

**Nominating Committee:** Mark Rother, Chair presents nomination slate and explains how to nominate from floor, etc.

3 Delegate voting cards were sent to each school. Need cards to vote. PTAs need to pay dues and insurance payments. Money will be collected that night. All Board of Directors members received cards. Call Cathy Lilja at MCCPTA office if you need one.

**Outside Speakers Resolution:** Last month Delegates voted to refer this proposed resolution to Executive Committee. Handout in packets has information as to actions concerning this proposed resolution and why Executive Committee voted to not bring this forward.

**President and Principals Dinner:** April Keyes, VP for Program highlights the date for the dinner is May 23 at Bethesda Marriott. Tickets are \$60 and are much less than expected. We raised \$9,000 dollars from donations for dinner. Please remember that this is different venue this year. Two awards are given out MCCPTA Partners for Education Awards and MCCPTA Maryland Life Membership Award. Guidelines for nominations are in your packets. This event will be filmed by ITV for later viewing.

**Maryland PTA items:** Maryland PTA discussing having statewide insurance company for all PTAs instead of one we use. There will be an upcoming vote at Maryland PTA Convention.

Maryland PTA has an Extension Plan Committee that will now help open new PTAs.

**HB160** –Parents on Maryland State Board of Education- bill dead. Two people from Montgomery County are to be appointed by Governor O'Malley, Blair Ewing and Rosa Garcia.

This bill will probably be brought up again next year by Maryland PTA.

**MCCPTA Spring Training Flyer:** This flyer is included in packets. The date for training is May 30, 2007 at Rockville HS from 6:30- 9:00PM.

**BOE Policy Revision:** Early Childhood Education Policy is up for revision and is available on MCPS website. Please review.

**Grading and Reporting Committee, Beth Kennington, Cochair:** Proposed resolution presented to be voted on at April's Delegates Assembly. Please take back to your local schools for discussion. Additional informational documents are included with this resolution.

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR GRADING AND REPORTING**

The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) finds that the application used by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in computing secondary school final grades at the end of each two-quarter period (semester) results in compression of grades under its current application.

WHEREAS MCPS currently applies the grading methodology detailed in the Grade Configuration Table for Semester Grades (GCTSG method) when computing final grades in secondary schools; and

WHEREAS MCPS' use of the GCTSG method may result in grade compression when a final exam is given or in grade trending when no final exam is given, based on the 0-100 percent grade conversions to a letter grade; and

WHEREAS MCPS Policy IKA, Grading and Reporting, states that "[f]air representation of a student's performance on a variety of measures over time" and "[a]ccurate and precise records that support reported achievement" shall occur; and

WHEREAS the MCCPTA believes that in the interest of fairness to students and accuracy in the reporting of grades, MCPS should revise its Grading Procedures in Grades 6-12 to incorporate a procedure in which each semester/final grade is determined by weighting the grades on a 0-100 % scale (percentage scale), now be it, therefore,

RESOLVED that the MCCPTA requests that Montgomery County Public Schools

discontinue use of the Grade Configuration Table for Semester Grades when calculating a semester or final grade; and be it, further,

RESOLVED that the MCCPTA requests that Montgomery County Public Schools revise the Grading Procedures in Grades 6-12 to require that final grades for all secondary courses be determined by weighting the final grade on percentage scale for each of the two quarters and for the final exam grade, if one is given; and be it, further,

RESOLVED that MCCPTA requests that MCPS retain the percentage grade earned, when reporting a letter grade on the report card in order to later demonstrate the most precise measure of each student's letter grade earned.

Read through materials and if you have any questions please contact Sharon St. Pierre or Beth Kennington, Cochairs of Grading and Reporting Committee. All items will be posted to MCCPTA website.

**Proposed Resolution on Delegates Listserv: "Resolution to Revoke Previous Resolution Concerning the MCCPTA Delegates Listserv"**

**WHEREAS**, the resolution adopted on February 27, 2007 at the MCCPTA Delegates Assembly, entitled "Resolution on MCCPTA Delegates Listserv" was introduced and passed in an expedited manner without any demonstrated urgency, and

**WHEREAS**, said resolution affects members of the MCCPTA community who had no opportunity to discuss or debate the resolution, and

**WHEREAS**, the delegates listserv is a crucial venue for discussion and debate on issues relevant to MCCPTA business, and members of the broader MCCPTA community often make valuable contributions such discussion and debate, and

**WHEREAS**, other measures could be employed to better address the issue of excessive email traffic on the listserv which was the stated goal of the resolution, be it therefore

**Be it therefore RESOLVED**, that the resolution adopted on February 27, 2007 at the MCCPTA Delegates Assembly, entitled "Resolution on MCCPTA Delegates Listserv" shall be revoked and the previous policy concerning posting privileges to said listserv shall be effective immediately, unless and until such time as it is modified by another vote by the Delegates Assembly.

This proposed resolution brought forward by Keats Kirsch, Takoma Park ES Delegate.

Discussion: Point of order about motion vs. resolution. Motion made by Delegate to rescind. This is what happened last month in someone bringing motion from floor. If we want to holdover till next month that can be proposed. Body was asked last month if they wanted to vote on motion last month and they voted yes. Motions are normally voted on same evening. If someone makes motion to holdover then that can happen.

Second was made to proposed motion.

Vicki Rafel brings point of order on what Robert Rules states. One needs to ask to restore not revoke.

Area VP, Blair, Einstein, Kennedy and Northwood states that this new change has been an improvement

Voting on motion to restore privileges failed to pass on voice vote.

**Meeting was adjourned 9:49 PM**



**PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
MCCPTA  
2096 Gaither Road  
Suite 204  
Rockville, MD 20850**

**Pony Mailing**

**APRIL 2007**

**MCCPTA Calendar 2006-2007**

**Unless otherwise specified all meetings take place at the  
Carver Educational Services Center (850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850).**

<b>April</b>	11	7:30	BOD's Meeting
	13		Nominations due for the Life Membership and Partners for Education Awards
	24	7:30	Delegates Assembly
	25	7:00	Reflection Awards Ceremony: (Northwest HS)
<b>May</b>	3	7:30	BOD's Meeting
	7	7:30	Special Ed Recognition Ceremony: (Rockville HS)
	22	7:30	Delegates Assembly
	23	6:00	Presidents/ Principals Dinner: (Bethesda North Marriott)