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Hello.....

I would like to thank all our cluster coordinators and school community representatives who testified at the County Council Hearings on April 15th and April 16th about the needs of your school communities for the FY 2010 Operating Budget. In these trying budget times, it is more important than ever for school communities to speak out about their continuing school budget needs. Visit council members, invite them to your school, have your PTA members and students send letters and emails. Nothing is final related to the budget until the end of May, so keep speaking out.

MCCPTA representatives spent a lot of time making regular trips to Annapolis during this budget cycle to meet with our Maryland Delegation. Cluster/Area PTA representatives advocated during these trips to make sure school communities received attention for their funding needs. MCCPTA representatives spoke one on one with our delegation members to help them understand our school funding needs. Our children and schools are worth every penny!

It is Election Time

The MCCPTA election will be held on April 28th at the Delegates Assembly. Voting members (delegates, presidents and BOD members) must have their delegate card and membership card with them in order to vote. You should have received a membership card from your local PTA when you joined.

Each PTA received three delegate cards upon receipt of their MCCPTA dues by our office. These cards were sent via pony to the PTA president who was asked to keep one and pass the other two cards along to the delegates. Board members' cards were distributed at Board meetings. If delegates are missing cards, please go to your local president first before contacting MCCPTA. If your PTA has not paid dues by the night of the election, you will not be allowed to vote. We will accept MCCPTA dues from local PTAs the night of the election.

All voting members of MCCPTA vote for the officers. Area vice presidents are elected by voting members from their area and cluster coordinators from voting members from their cluster only. Nominations for all positions will be taken from the floor. If your cluster turned in the names of their cluster coordinator nominees after the March 15th deadline, they will need to be nominated from the floor. It is important to attend the election.

Local PTA Elections

Most local PTAs will be holding elections in May and June. All PTA/PTSA members are eligible to vote. Since PTA membership is open at all times, every PTA should be prepared to accept dues the night of their election for people who might want to join their PTA in order to vote.

Part of the PTA secretary's job is to maintain a roll of PTA members. This information comes from the membership chair for the

PTA. This roll should be present at all meetings to verify if people are members and should certainly be available at the election to check members in. The secretary is also always supposed to have the bylaws on hand if questions arise.

On the MCCPTA web site, under PTA resources: nominating committee guidelines, has information for nominating committees and also a script for how to conduct an election. Unless your bylaws specifically prohibit nominations from the floor the night of the election, any member can make a nomination from the floor for any position. You should look over your bylaws to verify whether you should elect delegates/alternates too. Some PTAs appoint delegates or their alternates, some elect them. Delegates and alternates (who would serve as delegates) have to be elected or appointed in accordance with your local PTA bylaws. You should also verify when terms of office begin.

In general, PTAs conduct elections by voice vote unless there are two or more candidates for an office. They may use paper ballots even when there is one nominee for office if they choose to do so. According to Robert's Rules: "In elections, "for" and "against" spaces or boxes should not be used. They are applicable only with respect to votes on motions. An election, in effect, is a vote on filling a blank, and a voter can vote against one candidate only by voting for another who has been nominated or by writing in the name of another candidate." All PTA executive committees should be prepared for ballot voting (with paper, an idea of whom should be appointed as tellers, etc.) even if it is unlikely to be necessary.

MCCPTA will make an effort to have a Board member present at local elections if requested by the local PTA. If you are just unsure how to run an election, review the online resources and then call a cluster coordinator to confirm your understanding of how an election should be run. We would like to be able to be available for locals who predict there will be serious issues at their elections.

Our spring training will be held on Wednesday, June 1st, at Blake HS. Registration will begin at 6:30pm. All PTA presidents will receive a packet of information regarding the training before their May PTA meeting. We are asking the presidents to make sure that all incoming officers and Board members are given this information and invited/encouraged to attend the training. It is valuable to attend training and share what you know.

MDPTA Training July 18, 2009 – MDPTA Summer Leadership Conference- The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute - Linthicum Heights, Maryland.

Please make sure this date gets circulated to all local board members.

Celebrations

Reflections Awards will be held April 29th, at the Black Rock Art Center. Many thanks to all local reflections chairs for their work in publicizing this program, arranging for the judging at the local level, delivering entries to our office, as well as their help with the ceremony. A huge thank you goes to Melissa McDonald, MCCPTA Reflections Committee Chair, for all her hard work on her committee's behalf for this special event.

On Monday, May 4, the MCCPTA Special Education Committee will host its **21st Special Needs Recognition Ceremony**, at Rockville HS. Many parents, children, programs and educators will be honored for their commitment to special education. Thanks go out to all local PTA special education liaisons and to the MCCPTA Special Education Committee members and especially the MCCPTA Special Education Chair, Jeanne Taylor. More information on both of these events is available on our website.

MCPS Volunteer Champion of the Year -

Congratulations to the Arcola ES PTA on winning the MCPS Volunteer Champion of the Year award for their innovative Bilingual Buddies program! Arcola's program pairs bilingual parents with parents who don't speak English in a simple, straightforward process that has dramatically increased parent participation in school events and doubled the membership of their PTA! The Arcola ES PTA will be honored at the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education's annual Champions for Children Gala, which will take place April 21, 2009, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

On Wednesday, May 27th, MCCPTA will host its annual **Presidents/Principals Dinner** at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center. This will begin at 6:00pm with a cocktail reception followed by dinner at 7:00pm. Mr. Leon Harris of WJLA news and Ms. Shirley Brandman, President of the Montgomery County Board of Education will be our Masters of Ceremony. Chuck Saylor, President Elect of National PTA, will be our keynote speaker for the dinner. A flyer is attached.

Invitations to the dinner will go out to all PTA presidents, delegates, and principals soon. We encourage PTAs to host their school principal. We like to encourage all outgoing and incoming PTA presidents to attend as well as delegates and any other interested officers. The dinner is a legitimate PTA expense, but

each PTA has to make a decision as to how much it can afford to spend on it. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Kay Romero

Draft Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
March 24, 2009
Carver Educational Service Center

From 6:30-7:30, Terry Cepaitis, Director of Curriculum Development and Marty Creel, Director of Enriched & Innovative Programs presented a program on Curriculum in MCPS: Development History and Process.

The Business meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm. A quorum was present.

Kay Romero, MCCPTA President, introduced Vicki Rafel as the parliamentarian. Ms. Rafel reviewed parliamentary procedure for the delegates, giving a brief overview of procedure, goals, purpose, etc. She also explained the use of the Delegate voting cards, and the use of their bylaws to establish the selection of delegates and their alternates.

The Delegate from Richard Montgomery HS raised the question of the use of voting cards and requested that we suspend the use for one night. He did not have his voting card. A delegate made the following motion:

Move to suspend the rules to not have to have a card to vote tonight.

It was seconded. It failed on a counted vote of 43 against, 37 for.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to move Unfinished Business to after the treasurer report and all other reports to after the New Business. It was approved as amended.

Andrea Bernardo, MCCPTA Secretary for the BOD, read the Mission of the PTA.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the Feb. 24, 2009 Delegates Assembly were approved as presented.

Treasurer Report:

Dale Ryan, MCCPTA Treasurer, presented the budget and balance sheet. She reviewed income and expenses. The report will be filed as presented.

Unfinished Business:

Resolutions:

Susan Thomas, MCCPTA Gifted Child Chair, presented the Gifted Child Committee Proposed Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction:

Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction

Whereas:

MCPS Strategic Plan states that "A high-quality education is the fundamental right of every child."

MCCPTA believes that, to ensure that right, every child should be appropriately challenged in accordance with his or her academic ability, motivation and interests.

MCCPTA passed a Resolution on Mathematics on April 24, 2001, a Resolution on Wider Use of the Methodologies Used in Magnet Programs on January 24, 2006, and a Resolution on Gifted and Talented Curriculum in Middle Schools on April 25, 2006.

The MCPS Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction is working on recommended changes to Policy IOA: Gifted and Talented Education for the MCPS Board of Education's consideration in 2009.

Therefore be it Resolved:

MCPS must identify students who need additional academic challenge beyond that which is provided to similar aged peers.

MCPS must continue to provide global screening for all students in grade 2 to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must provide additional screenings throughout elementary school, middle school and high school to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must inform parents when their children need additional academic challenge and must inform parents how MCPS will ensure that those needs are met.

MCPS must provide students who need additional academic challenge with instruction that is accelerated and enriched.

MCPS must ensure that accelerated and enriched instruction is delivered consistently and with fidelity in every school across the county.

MCPS must ensure that students are given the opportunity to work in groups of students with similar academic abilities, motivation, and interests.

MCPS must provide curriculum resources and professional development to teachers and administrators to ensure that students are provided with accelerated and enriched instruction in accordance with research-based best practices.

MCPS must monitor the implementation and effectiveness of accelerated and enriched instruction by collecting, analyzing, monitoring and publishing key data measuring student participation and performance in grades K-12 in all core subject areas.

She provided background information, as well as information on what the BOE will be revising in the fall of 2009, Policy IOA and Regulation IOA-RA. She explained that the resolution is not a re-write of BOE policy, but a tool for MCCPTA to use when we advocate to MCPS and BOE. She also reminded the delegates that MCCPTA operated by precedence, which means we incorporate previous related resolutions by reference. Finally, she added that her committee feels that GT education has not been consistently implemented throughout the county. There are magnet programs, but students that remain in their neighborhood schools need access to an advanced curriculum.

Since the resolution was from committee, it did not need to be seconded. Before Debate began, Kay Romero reminded the Delegates about the motion approved by Delegates in November 2008 limiting debate on motions to 10 minutes which could be extended at the will of the body.

Carol Falk, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, presented a motion from Frost MS to strike the second resolved:

MCPS must continue to provide global screening for all students in grade 2 to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

Richard Edelman, Delegate from Frost MS, added a clarification.

The motion was seconded.

Susan Thomas, MCCPTA GCC Chair, spoke against the motion, and in favor of retaining global screening. Howard Yang, Frost MS Delegate, stated that Carol was incorrect in the resolved that Frost MS wanted deleted.

The question was called, and it failed on a standing vote.

Carol Falk, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, presented a motion from Frost MS to strike the third resolved:

MCPS must provide additional screenings throughout elementary school, middle school and high school to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

The reason for this motion was because Frost MS PTSA felt there was too much testing already. The motion was seconded.

Susan Thomas, MCCPTA GCC Chair spoke out against the motion, and clarified that this testing is not repeating entire batteries of tests, but rather used to identify children that might have not been identified in second grade or moved to the County after second grade.

Aruntha Nathan, Bradley Hills ES Delegate, Robert Ostlund, Twinbrook ES Delegate and Paul Scott, Richard Montgomery HS Delegate all spoke against the motion.

The question was called, and the motion failed on a voice vote.

Rochelle Hodes, Frost MS and Fallsmead ES Delegate moved that the third resolved be amended by removing “elementary school” to read:

MCPS must provide additional screenings throughout middle school and high school to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

There was no second so the motion failed.

A motion was made to extend time by 10 minutes. It was seconded and passed with 51 for and 46 against.

Carol Falk, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, presented a motion from Frost MS to amend the 7th resolved to read:

MCPS must ensure that students are given the opportunity to work in groups of students with varied and similar academic abilities, motivation, and interests to achieve balance in their education.

It was seconded.

Carol Falk said they felt it would be better to eliminate too much homogeneity.

Trish Powell, Bells Mills ES Delegate spoke in favor of the amendment and Karen Smith, Westland MS Delegate spoke against the amendment.

Time was called and a motion was made to extend time for 10 minutes. The motion was seconded and the vote was 49 against and 37 for, so the motion failed.

At this point, a vote was called on the motion on the floor, and it failed on a counted vote.

Then the entire original, unamended resolution was voted upon, and it passed with a counted vote of 67 for and 21 against.

Laura Siegel, Churchill Cluster Coordinator brought forward the following motion:

MOTION REGARDING CURRICULAR FEES

Students are entitled to a free public education. As MCPS and the Board of Education review changes to the policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees, MCCPTA wants to ensure that these changes do not result in any reduction in the level of services as it relates to any of the following:

- 1- the quality of instruction,*
- 2- the quality of the curriculum,*
- 3- the assortment of course offerings,*
- 4- the level of student achievement.*

MCCPTA, parents and students should be notified of any proposed changes to policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees. These stakeholders should have an opportunity to provide public comment before any new procedures are put into place.

The motion was seconded and Laura spoke to her motion by explaining that she is concerned that lab classes have expensive equipment, and what about foreign language workbooks and even concerns about crayons and other disposable items.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Ted Willard, Magruder Co-Cluster Coordinator, brought forward a resolution from the Magruder HS PTSA:

Proposed Resolution on the Duties of MCCPTA Delegates

Whereas, when the MCCPTA Delegates are aware of the desired will of the PTA on a particular matter scheduled for consideration before the MCCPTA, the Delegates are required (by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition—Duties of Delegates, page 586) to represent the will of the PTA with their votes, even if it is different from their personal position on the matter.

Be it resolved, that in cases where the will of the PTA is not clear, or if revisions are proposed that alter the particular matter being considered, the Delegates are expected to use their best judgment to vote in a manner that is consistent with the will of the PTA as established at a PTA meeting.

The motion was seconded.

Joe Stewart, Magruder PTSA President, then spoke to the resolution. He clarified that this was not a change to Robert's Rules, but a reinforcement of what is stated there.

Rochelle Hodes, Wootton HS and Fallsmead ES Delegate, Betsy Dirk, Farquhar MS Delegate, Jim Roberts, Takoma Park MS Delegate and Carol Falk, Wootton Cluster Coordinator all spoke in opposition; the prevailing sentiment being that this was a local PTA matter and should not be addressed by a County-wide resolution.

The motion failed on a voice vote.

New Business:

Joe Stewart, MCCPTA Bylaws Chair, presented proposed revision to the MCCPTA Bylaws:

**(THE PROPOSED REVISIONS ARE UNDERLINED)*

***Proposed Revisions to the MCCPTA Bylaws
From the MCCPTA Bylaws Committee***

1. Temporary Appointments

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 6. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice-president for educational issues shall become acting president until a replacement has been elected at a Delegate Assembly. A vacancy in any office other than president may be filled by a temporary appointment made by the president and approved by the Board of Directors until such vacancy can be filled pursuant to the process set forth in this Article.

Section 7. The seated nominating committee will identify a nominee to fill a vacancy in any office within two (2) weeks of notification of said vacancy. Notification of the election to fill the vacancy will be made prior to the delegate assembly at which the election will occur.

*Section 6. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice-president for educational issues shall become acting president until a replacement has been elected at a Delegate Assembly. A vacancy in any office other than president may be filled by a temporary appointment made by the president **to take effect immediately and to be ratified by** the Board of Directors **at the next meeting. This appointment remains in effect** until such vacancy can be filled pursuant to the process set forth in this Article.*

*Section 7. The seated nominating committee will identify a nominee to fill a vacancy in any office within **four (4)** weeks of notification of said vacancy. Notification of the election to fill the vacancy will be made prior to the delegate assembly at which the election will occur.*

Rationale:

This change would add flexibility for the president to immediately fill a position so that important work of the council will not be interrupted by a vacancy in the executive committee. The Bylaws committee also believes that extending the time the nominating committee has to find a permanent replacement will allow for a more thorough process.

2. Recording Secretary for Board of Directors Meetings duties

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 3. Secretaries

b. The recording secretary for board of directors meetings shall record and maintain the minutes of all board of directors meetings, shall act as recording secretary for delegate assemblies in the absence of the recording secretary for delegate assemblies, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

*b. The recording secretary for board of directors meetings shall record and maintain the minutes of all board of directors meetings, **and** shall act as recording secretary for delegate assemblies in the absence of the recording secretary for delegate assemblies. **The recording secretary for board of directors meetings shall also hold and preserve the essential documents of the association such as the Charter of MCCPTA, the Articles of Incorporation, Certification of Non-profit Status and current Bylaws** and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.*

Rationale:

The Bylaws committee believes that the bylaws need to clearly state what the essential documents of the council are and who is responsible for maintaining and retaining such documents.

3. Quorum

ARTICLE X: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 8. At all meetings of the board of directors, a majority of twenty-five (25) members of the board of directors, including a majority of the elected officers in the 25, shall constitute a quorum of business.

This amendment was passed by the MCCPTA Delegates on April 22, 2008.

#Section 8. At all meetings of the board of directors, a majority of the members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Rationale:

Pounded articles in the Bylaws template cannot be altered or amended in any way.

This is presented for introduction only, with no discussion, only clarifying questions. We will vote on this next month.

Laurie Halverson, MCCPTA Safety committee Chair brought forward a draft resolution from her committee on Indoor Air Quality:

WHEREAS *The National PTA has urged local units to work with school administrators and boards of education to ensure that school heating, ventilation, and air conditioning operation and maintenance plans comply with the highest current standards supplied by accepted experts.*

WHEREAS *Children may be especially susceptible to air pollution because the same concentration of pollutants will result in a higher body burden in children than adults because children breathe a greater volume of air relative to their body weight.*

WHEREAS *Portables are a particular concern because most are stand alone units that are subject to unique challenges. They are vulnerable to weather conditions, water infiltration, security issues, pest infestation, and building pressurization problems that compromise the safety and health of our children.*

WHEREAS *The poor quality of existing MCPS portables in combination with the limited staff resources at MCPS in completing proactive maintenance goals result in continuous problems with water infiltration, mold growth, pest infestation, and CO2 levels higher than the recommended level (1000 ppm.)*

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED *that MCCPTA requests the following actions be taken by MCPS to move forward in efforts toward providing a safe and healthy environment for our children, staff and administrators. These actions include but are not limited to:*

- 1. A two-year carpet removal plan for portables beginning this summer, replacing with tile or other mold resistant material. (Carpets remaining are likely to be infested with mites and may contain mold.)*
- 2. For any portable HVACs with a history of being serviced for moisture issues, replacement of any fiberglass lining with Rubberflex or other insulation that can be cleaned. (Some portables include HVACs with fiberglass lining that cannot be cleaned properly when mold spores attach.)*
- 3. Annual "walk-through" inspections of all school buildings and portables, as recommended by EPAs "Tools for Schools Program."*
- 4. HVAC staff and/or other staff to help Indoor Air Quality meet demands and increase the number of Building Maintenance Plans (BMPs).*
- 5. Disclosure to parents whenever there is an Indoor Air Quality Complaint at their school (in buildings or in portables.) MCPS and school communities need to collaborate and communicate with each other on air quality concerns.*
- 6. Maintenance logs must be easily accessible for all parents, staff and administrators.*

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED *that the Board of Education create a policy on MCPS' commitment to "air quality" in all classrooms with measurable performance objectives and recognize "air quality" as a health concern for all children.*

She explained that portables have poor indoor air quality, HVAC problems, carpets with mold, etc. and her committee wants more transparency when portables are moved, and access to maintenance records. She said there is no current policy for IAQ. There is an office of IAQ, however, and there is a building maintenance program, but insufficient HVAC workers. The new portables coming this year are of better quality.

Delegates asked two questions: 1. When you say no IAQ policy, do you mean a BOE policy? 2. Does the Division of Construction go by guidelines and it is just for portables and do they adhere to national standards?

Yes, she was talking about there being no BOE policy, and yes, there are standards, and they adhere to them for buildings but there are no standards for portables.

Links to the two draft resolutions will be sent out on the Bulletin listserv.

Reports:

Liz Wheeler, VP for Administration, thanked the Nominating Committee for their hard work and reminded the Delegates to thank their local Nominating committees.

We will be presenting testimony on the Operating Budget before the County Council on April 15 and 16, in the 3rd floor conference room, beginning at 7 pm. She does not as yet have individual times for each cluster and will not until much closer to the dates. She will put out the time as soon as she has them. She read a list of the clusters testifying each night.

She reminded the Delegates that it is important to stay on top of the bylaws of local units so they do not get out of date. If they do, it can put the unit in the “not in good standing” category, and that would exclude them from participation on certain PTA events.

She also reminded incoming PTA officers to check their mailboxes at the school during the summer, as that is when some mailings from State and National are sent.

MCCPTA Annual Spring Training will be held on June 1, at 6:30 pm, at Blake HS. There will be more info put out soon. There will also be packet pickup of materials for all PTAs at the training.

Rebecca Smondrowski, VP for Legislation, reported on MCCPTA lobbying efforts – she had recently been to Capital Hill with MD PTA. She also has been meeting with State Legislators, and had organized trips to Annapolis, as well as lobbying jointly with teacher, staff and administrator unions. She will be putting out info on legislation for local PTAs to follow. Peter Franchot, Maryland Comptroller, will be visiting Gaithersburg HS on April 22. The County council, County Executive, BOE, etc. will be invited.

Karen Smith, VP for Programs, reported on the Champions for Children Award winner for this year – Arcola ES’s Bilingual Buddies program. They have doubled their membership in one year. Their PTA has won \$1000 from MCBRE. She also announced that there would be no program at the next DA due to the annual elections.

Kay Romero, President, reviewed the contents of the Delegates packets. She recently spent 3 days at the Maryland PTA winter boards. During that time they discussed things such as restructuring committees, attended training sessions, and council presidents had to give a presentation on what their council does (which was new this year).

Also in the packet was a list of calendar items and the flyer for the Presidents and Principals Dinner.

Jane DeWinter, Presidents and Principals dinner committee, reported that the invitations would go out after spring break. She reminded the Delegates that the Principals of each school are invited to and paid for by the local PTA. The invitations will also go up on the website. Leon Harris will be hosting and they are trying to get a National PTA representative to be the keynote speaker. The event is May 27, with a reception from 6-7 pm, and the dinner at 7 pm, at the Bethesda Marriott.

Carol Salisbury, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced and thanked her committee members for their work, as well as Liz Wheeler who helped them. She read the names of the nominees for officers for 2009-2010. The vote for new officers will take place at the April DA.

NOMINATIONS FOR MCCPTA OFFICERS 2009 - 2010

President	Kay Romero
Vice President for Educational Issues	Kristin Tribble
Vice President for Administration	OPEN
Vice President for Programs	Carol Salisbury
Vice President for Legislation	Rebecca Smondrowski
Treasurer	Jaimie Jacobson
Recording Secretary, Board of Directors	DeBora King
Recording Secretary, Delegates Assembly	Patti Twigg

NOMINATIONS FOR AREA VICE PRESIDENTS & CLUSTER COORDINATORS 2009 - 2010

**Bethesda-Chevy Chase/
Walter Johnson/
Wheaton/Whitman**

Area Vice President: Terri Salus

**Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Cluster Coordinators:**

Craig Brown
Jack Hayes
Joy White

**Walter Johnson
Cluster Coordinators:**

Jen Cope
Deedee Jacobsohn

Wheaton Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Whitman Cluster Coordinators:

Deborah Goldman
Keith Parsky

**Clarksburg/Damascus/
Gaithersburg/Magruder/
Watkins Mill**

Area Vice President: Ted Willard

Clarksburg Cluster Coordinator:

Sonya Leaman
Donna Pfeiffer

Damascus Cluster Coordinator:

Dawn Lee

**Gaithersburg Cluster
Coordinators:**

Steve Augustino
Valerie Rivers

Magruder Cluster Coordinators:

Annie Ahmed

Watkins Mill Cluster Coordinator:

Martha Crews
Susan Young

**Down County Consortium:
Blair/Einstein/
Kennedy/Northwood**

Area Vice President: Sally Taber

**Montgomery Blair
Cluster Coordinator:**

OPEN

Einstein Cluster Coordinator:

Kelly Giblin

Kennedy Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

Northwood Cluster Coordinator:

Mary Abe
Jennifer Chambers,
Stephanie Helsing

**Sherwood and Northeast
Consortium: Blake/Paint
Branch/Springbrook**

Area Vice President (NEC): Patti Twigg
Area Vice President (Sherwood): OPEN

Blake Cluster Coordinator:

Leanne Doerflinger

**Paint Branch
Cluster Coordinator:**

Patti Twigg

Springbrook Cluster Coordinator:

Dawn Dolan

Sherwood Cluster Coordinator:
OPEN

**Churchill/
Richard Montgomery/
Rockville/Wootton**

Area Vice President: Andrea Bernardo

Churchill Cluster Coordinators:

Janette Gilman
Laurie Halverson
Laura Siegel

**Richard Montgomery
Cluster Coordinator:**

OPEN

Rockville Cluster Coordinator:

Roy Broussard
Amy Hartley

Wootton Cluster Coordinators:

Rich Edelman
Carol Falk
Jen Pories

**Northwest/Poolesville/
Quince Orchard/
Seneca Valley**

Area Vice President: Juan Johnson

Northwest Cluster Coordinators:

Susan Burkinshaw
Bob Murphy

Poolesville Cluster Coordinator:

Sarah Defnet

Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinators:

Jim Keenan
Paul Morrison
Kevin Farragher

Seneca Valley Cluster Coordinator:

Kevin David
Scott Bogren
Ed Vigezzi

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Patti Twigg, MCCPTA Secretary for Delegates Assembly

Communications Committee Report

April 2009

Patti Twigg, Committee Chair

listservsmod@mccpta.com

1) Website:

Website Coordinators:

Sharon Goodall webmaster@mccpta.com

Lin-Lin Mao webmaster@mccpta.com

The Website subcommittee updated the MCCPTA website with the following:

Webpages updated in March:

- MCCPTA Homepage
- MCCPTA Calendar
- MCCPTA Officers 2008-2009
- Testimonies, Press Releases, & Correspondence
- Resolutions and Motions
- Minutes from MCCPTA meetings
- Capital Improvement Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Grading and Reporting Committee
- Local PTA's Websites
- Archived MCCPTA President's Letters & Committee Reports

Other additions:

- March 2009 MCCPTA Presidents Letter
- Slides from February's DA Program: "Learning Disabilities 101", "Special Education Services in MCPS"
- MCCPTA Letter in support of the positions taken by National PTA and Maryland PTA related to underage drinking and drug abuse, March 29, 2009
- Letter to Eastern Middle School parents on optional 8th class, March 24, 2009
- Letter from Superintendent Jerry Weast on Eastern Middle School Schedule Decision, March 23, 2009
- Letter from Larry Bowers in answer to the following:
 - MCCPTA Letter to Superintendent Jerry Weast on correcting Gazette article statement that some MCPS high schools' modernizations have been "put on hold indefinitely", March 6, 2009
- MCCPTA Testimony to the Board of Education on Policy DBA, March 10, 2009
- MCCPTA Letter to Governor Martin O'Malley on Capital Improvement Program, March 9, 2009
- MCCPTA Letter to Montgomery County Council regarding Resolution on the FY 2010 Capital Improvement Program Budget, March 9, 2009
- MCCPTA Letter to Superintendent Jerry Weast on correcting Gazette article statement that some MCPS high schools' modernizations have been "put on hold indefinitely", March 6, 2009
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on Course-Related Fees Follow-Up, February 3, 2009
 - Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on Course-related Fees, January 7, 2009
- Information, links, and material on Restroom Renovation Assessments added to MCCPTA CIP committee's webpage

- Proposed MCCPTA Resolution on Indoor Air Quality at MCPS Schools From the MCCPTA Safety Committee
- Proposed Revisions to the MCCPTA Bylaws from the MCCPTA Bylaws Committee
- Approved Motion on Presidents and Principals Dinner Committee - Ticket Price
- Spotlight story on homepage
- Seneca Valley cluster testimonies for CIP before the county council and Operating Budget before the BOE
- New email address, secretaries@mccpta.com, to be shared by the MCCPTA Recording Secretary officers
- New email address, advocacy@mccpta.com, added
- Links to National PTA 2009 Public Policy Agenda
- Approved Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction, March 24, 2009
- Motion Regarding Curricular Fees, March 24, 2009
- 2009-2010 MCCPTA Leadership Nominations
- Qualifications of Nominees for MCCPTA Officers
- Maryland PTA Calendar of Events 2009

Updated committee chair listings and email addresses.

Committee chairs, please look at your committee's website page and let the Website subcommittee know of any changes you would like to make. All MCCPTA standing committees website pages can be accessed from the following link: <http://mccpta.net/committees.html>.

Officers, please take a look at the other MCCPTA website pages and let us know if there is information that is no longer relevant or needs to be updated. The MCCPTA website is at <http://mccpta.net>.

2) Listservs:

Listservs Moderator:

Patti Twigg listservsmod@mccpta.com

As of March 29, 2009 membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA Board	86	0
MCCPTA Bulletin	615	-2
MCCPTA Delegates	480	+2
MCCPTA Presidents	290	+1
MCCPTA Treasurers	219	+1

The auto-reminder calendar for the Bulletin and BOD listservs has been updated as meetings and events are scheduled or changed.

Members have been added to and removed from the various listservs as requested.

Assistance has been given to locals listserv moderators as requested.

3) Public Relations/Publicity:

Sub-committee Chair:

Lee Ann Doerflinger

For March, one press release was on the trips to visit legislators in Annapolis. The press advisory for March 13 was picked up by the *Examiner*.

A press release on March 16 regarding the residents' call-in to Ike Leggett was also sent out.

I am hoping that as we firm up procedures for sending these releases, we will be able to generate more news and thus more interest from the press.

4) Spotlight:

The MCCPTA website has a corner just for your school or PTA and its accomplishments! "Spotlight" is the place for your school or PTA to shine – for the whole county to see! Don't be shy - you know how great you are, here's your chance to let everyone else know it too! If you have news and/or achievements from your school or PTA, please notify MCCPTA (via email to office@mccpta.com and/or webmaster@mccpta.com).

Spotlight appears on our homepage, and is changed as new items come in. Be sure to check back to see what is happening!

The MCCPTA Special Education Committee is pleased to announce that the following will be honored at our May 2009 Recognition Ceremony. Also attached is an invitation to join us. Congratulations to all!

Outstanding Parents

Emily Sudbrink/Sligo Creek ES
Jean Eisenhaur/Thomas Wootton HS
Kimberly McDonald/Longview/ Matsunaga ES

Maggie Haslam/Maryvale ES
Tom Jones/Walter Johnson HS

Honorable Mention Parents

Jean Sommerville/ Redland MS
Judy Lantz/Learning Dis Assn of MC

Ruth Garcia/Burtonsville ES

Outstanding Educators

Bernice Rosenstein/DuFief ES
Betty Whitney/Infants and Toddlers
Candice Behrens/Walter Johnson HS
Christine Genua/Paint Branch HS
Jaime Ambrosio/John F. Kennedy HS
Jane Thompson/Infants and Toddlers DC
Janice Artino/Parkland MS
Kate Finn/Westbrook ES
Kate Vancavage/Stonegate ES
Kira Swann/Westover ES

Linda Nunn/Walter Johnson HS
Lisa Rudacil/E. Brooke Lee MS
Lisa Steven/Briggs Chaney MS
Madeleine Thompson/DuFief ES
Mary Morgan/Seneca Valley HS
Melissa Merz/William Tyler Page ES
Sandra Gonzalez/Cloverly ES
Stacey Rogovoy/College Gardens ES
Stacey Roy/E. Brooke Lee MS
Sue Hart/Stonegate ES

Honorable Mention Educators

Clarice Pimentel/Fallsmead ES
Jean Chang/Lake Seneca ES
Jennifer Finberg/Burning Tree ES
Jennifer Sindall/Rachel Carson ES

Joanne Bodnar/Flower Hill ES
Kim Bedell/Westbrook ES
Liz Smith/Sally Ride ES
Marni Levenstein/Burning Tree ES

Outstanding Programs

Bridge Program/Herbert Hoover MS
Culinary Arts Program/Rock Terrace School
Homeschool Model/Wood Acres ES
Learning Center Program/Galway ES

MPAC/Gaithersburg MPAC
Patrol Group/Rachel Carson ES
Vocational Team/Stephen Knolls School

Honorable Mention Programs

GTLD Program/Roberto Clemente MS
PEP, INC/Jackson Road ES

What's Special About Me/Montgomery Knolls ES

Outstanding Students

Billy Bridegum/Stonegate ES
Julia Skinner-Grant/ Westbrook ES

Lindsay Bridegum/Stonegate ES
Talia Migdal/Richard Montgomery HS

Maryland PTA News and Future Dates of Interest

SAVE THE TIME IN 2009!

July 18, 2009 - Summer Leadership Conference

The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute
Linthicum Heights, Maryland

November 13-14, 2009 94th Fall Convention

Holiday Inn & Conference Center
Frederick, Maryland

Maryland PTA Upcoming Dates for Training

Regional Trainings
August 22, 2009 - MDPTA Office
9am - 3 pm

Financial Training
August 15, 2009 - MDPTA Office 9am - 3pm
October 17, 2009 - MDPTA Office 9am - 3pm

National PTA News and Future Dates of Interest

2009 PTA National Convention

113th Annual PTA National Convention & Exhibition

Friday, June 26–Monday, June 29, 2009

Greater Ft. Lauderdale Broward County Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Registration and hotel information will be available March 2009. For more information to help you plan, please email nptameetings@pta.org.

PTA Family Expo

PTA Family Expo! Is a one-day extravaganza providing moms, dads, caregivers, and kids amazing opportunities for fun, education, and tools to help families in today's modern world. The first Family Expo will be Saturday, June 27, 2009, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. <http://www.pta.org/2534.asp>

MCCPTA Comments for Restroom Renovation Assessments

Background: In FY 2007, MCPS initiated a project to repair restrooms in schools throughout the county. When completed in the summer of 2009, this project will have renovated restrooms at 47 schools not otherwise scheduled for major construction such as a modernization. In connection with the six-year CIP to be proposed in October 2009, MCPS intends to propose a new phase of the restroom renovation project. 108 schools will be assessed in the coming months. The result will produce the order in which the schools will be renovated. The new project likely will spread these renovations over the next 8-10 years.

Comment deadline: The purpose of our comments will be to provide meaningful input to assist the inspectors in evaluating the next group of 108 schools. **Please provide comments as soon as possible but no later than June 1.** If your comments are available early, send them to your cluster coordinator. MCCPTA will submit comments periodically

to MCPS and will compile a full set of comments for review. Feel free to add additional comments about the scope of the project. We will use these comments to guide our advocacy with respect to the upcoming renovations.

Content and structure: MCPS will evaluate all facilities in each restroom according to the criteria summarized on the attached page. Consider your comments as a “punch list” for the inspector to consider. Your comments will be most helpful if they point out the features or issues most relevant to determining the condition of the restrooms at your school. Your comments may be as comprehensive as you wish, and may address the condition of toilets, urinals, sinks, privacy dividers, mirrors, paper towel dispensers, soap dispensers as well as entry doors, floor tiles, drainage and windows. Further, to the extent possible, ventilation, air quality and air flow may be included in the comments. Comments should use the MCPS assessment criteria as much as possible but also note any other factors relevant to setting the order of restrooms to be renovated. At a minimum, comments should contain the following sections:

1. Identify the restrooms that are the most heavily used by students, staff or visitors.
2. Identify specific areas of concern. This should include all facilities where a grade of “needs major work” or “needs replacing” is appropriate. In addition to the quality of the toilet facilities, please comment on ventilation or other health and safety factors. Identify the specific restrooms by location and fixtures if possible.
3. Identify other relevant considerations for scheduling the renovations. This should include possible or planned additions or other construction at the school. This also may include ADA access issues, energy use concerns or student safety and security.
4. Any other comments, if applicable. You may comment on any other action you would like MCPS to include in this project, even if it does not explicitly fit the criteria.

Restroom Assessment Criteria

The restroom renovation project provides repair and rehabilitation of restroom facilities in schools. The project restores restrooms to working condition, but generally does not address cosmetic appearances or install upgrades such as low-flow toilets or air dryers.

In order to assess each school, inspectors survey all facilities in the restrooms. All facilities are to be evaluated using the following numerical scale

4 = Good as new. Item is in good condition and needs no work. Facilities are operable, have no rust, no mold and are not leaking. Air quality is good; exhaust fans are working properly.

3 = Needs work. Item needs some work that can be repaired with minor efforts. Facilities are operable but may need minor work such as repairing leaks or tightening fixture mounts. No rust or mold is present.

2 = Needs major work. Item needs major work to restore appropriate operation. Facilities may demonstrate flaws such as significant leaks, cracks, mold, peeling paint, and peeling or cracked grout etc. In addition, facilities that need to be re-hung or re-installed can qualify in this category. A rating of 2 should be noted for any exhaust systems that are not adequately circulating air or if the air is stale.

1 = Needs replacing. Item needs to be replaced. The facility is either inoperable, has significant rust, or has deteriorated to the point where repair is not feasible. A rating of 1 should be assessed if exhaust systems are not present or are inoperable; air quality is poor.

MCCPTA Restroom Renovation Comment Form

School name: _____

Cluster: _____

Date: _____

Local PTA contact (for follow up questions):

Name: _____

1. Identify the restrooms that are the most heavily used by students, staff or visitors.

2. Identify specific areas of concern.

3. Identify other relevant considerations for scheduling the renovations.

4. Any other comments, if applicable.



March 29, 2009

To All PTAs and School Communities:

As we come upon the prom season, the Montgomery County Council of PTAs would like to remind all PTAs and school communities of the following position taken by the National PTA. The Montgomery County Council of PTAs fully supports the positions taken by National PTA and Maryland PTA related to underage drinking and drug abuse.

Please take time to review the informational materials provided below.

Sincerely,

Kay Romero, President
Montgomery County Council of PTAs

**Enforcement of Laws Regarding Alcohol, Drugs, and Driving
Under the Influence**
Adopted by National PTA Convention Delegates June 2008

Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent organizations will support law enforcement in their efforts to increase public awareness of, and advocate for the enforcement of local, state and federal ordinances which prohibit the purchase, possession, or consumption of alcohol and other drugs, or drug paraphernalia by underage persons; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent organizations will support strict enforcement of driving under the influence laws and the passage of more stringent laws that would remove from the road drivers under the influence of alcohol or other drugs; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent organizations will support Zero Tolerance laws that make it illegal for persons under the age of 21 to purchase or publicly possess alcoholic beverages and that make it illegal for persons under the age of 21 to drive with any measurable amount of alcohol in their blood; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent organizations will support the age of 21 as the minimum legal drinking age.



Teenage Drinking: A Preventable Problem

Proms and school dances are on the calendar, graduation parties may be in the works, pool parties are fast approaching— and underage drinking may be on the guest list. According to a 2002 report by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, underage drinkers account for 11 percent of all the alcohol consumed in the United States.

Among the influences on teen choices to drink is alcohol marketing through popular TV shows and in magazines. (See “Drinking It All In: Alcohol Advertising and Youth” for more information.) So are your teen’s peers. The article “Teens and Alcohol: Preventing that Lethal Combination” has information about peer pressure, provides tips to help kids say “no” to alcohol, and offers guidelines parents may wish to consider for parties and other social events.

A wealth of information about alcohol and other substance abuse can be found at the American Medical Association website. In addition, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) has made its booklet, *Make a Difference: Talk to your Child about Alcohol*, available online. Be sure to visit the Parent Resources area of National PTA’s website, www.pta.org for articles on drugs and alcohol and other topics to keep your family safe and healthy.

Reprinted with permission from Maryland PTA Bulletin (May/June 2006).”

Maryland PTA Legislative Platform 2009
http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_legislation.html

Powered By Me
<http://www.poweredbymemd.com/>

MCCPTA Safety Committee - Teen Safety
<http://www.mccpta.com/safety.html>
["Adults Who Host Lose the Most" brochure](#)
[Parent Liability and Teen Drinking](#)

Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program: *Federally funded program to reduce drug, alcohol and tobacco use and reduce violence through education, prevention and early identification in our nation's schools.*
<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/safe/>

Drawing The Line On Underage Alcohol Use
<http://www.drawingtheline.org/about.htm>

Underage Drinking in Maryland- *The Facts*
<http://www.udetc.org/factsheets/Maryland.pdf>



More Background Material:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FROM THE ACTING SURGEON GENERAL

Call to Action To Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking 2007

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/underagedrinking/calltoaction.pdf>

(Excerpt): Alcohol is the most widely used substance of abuse among America's youth. A higher percentage of young people between the ages of 12 and 20 use alcohol than use tobacco or illicit drugs. The physical consequences of underage alcohol use range from medical problems to death by alcohol poisoning, and alcohol plays a significant role in risky sexual behavior, physical and sexual assaults, various types of injuries, and suicide. Underage drinking also creates secondhand effects for others, drinkers and nondrinkers alike, including car crashes from drunk driving, that put every child at risk. Underage alcohol consumption is a major societal problem with enormous health and safety consequences and will demand the Nation's attention and committed efforts to solve.

For the most part, parents and other adults underestimate the number of adolescents who use alcohol. They underestimate how early drinking begins, the amount of alcohol adolescents consume, the many risks that alcohol consumption creates for adolescents, and the nature and extent of the consequences to both drinkers and nondrinkers. Too often, parents are inclined to believe, "Not my child." Yet, by age 15, approximately one half of America's boys and girls have had a whole drink of alcohol, not just a few sips, and the highest prevalence of alcohol dependence in any age group is among people ages 18 to 20.

A Guide to Action for Families

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/underagedrinking/FamilyGuide.pdf>

A Guide to Action for Communities

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/underagedrinking/CommunityGuide.pdf>

Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth

<http://camy.org/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Alcohol and Public Health

http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/quickstats/underage_drinking.htm

Quick Stats- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Alcohol and Public Health

<http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/quickstats/mlda.htm>

MCCPTA Spring Training

Monday, June 1, 2009

6:30 - 9:00 PM

J. H. Blake High School
300 Norwood Road
Silver Spring, MD 20905

SCHEDULE

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

New & Returning Presidents

Treasurers

Secretaries

MCCPTA Delegates

Area Vice Presidents/Cluster Coordinators

Reflections

Bylaws

Hands on Science and FLES

DIRECTIONS TO JAMES H. BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

From the South
495 to New Hampshire Ave.(Rte 650)
Exit North toward White Oak
Pass Randolph Rd. and Bonifant Rd.
Turn left onto Norwood Rd
School will be on the left

From the North
270 South to Shady Grove Rd. (East)
Right onto Route 355 South
Left onto East Gude Dr
Left onto MD-28E (Norbeck Rd.)
Right onto Norwood Rd

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MD PTA Summer Leadership Conference July 18, 2009 at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Maryland

QUESTIONS/RSVP

RSVP appreciated but not required by May 29, 2009

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

MCCPTA

Presidents and Principals Dinner

**Invitations have been mailed!
Check your school's PTA mailbox**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 6 pm
Marriott Bethesda North Hotel & Conference
Center
\$60 per person**

**Special Masters of Ceremonies:
Leon Harris, Anchor for Channel 7 WJLA News**

**Shirley Brandman, President Montgomery County
Board of Education**

**Keynote Speaker:
Chuck Saylor, President-Elect National PTA**

Principals are guests of their PTAs

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**MCCPTA
2096 Gaither Road
Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850**

**PONY MAIL to PTA
Presidents to be shared
with School PTA Delegates
and PTA members**

April 2009

MCCPTA Calendar 2008-2009

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

Upcoming Calendar Items:

April

- 20 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 22 Gifted Child Committee Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00 pm
- 23 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 28 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 6:30pm – 10:00pm
- 29 Reflections Award Ceremony at BlackRock Center for the Arts 6:30pm – 8:30pm

May

- 4 Special Education Recognition Ceremony at Rockville HS 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 4 Grading and Reporting Committee Meeting 8:00pm – 9:00pm
- 6 MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 6 Gifted Child Committee Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm
- 7 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm – 10:00pm
- 11 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 14 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 18 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 20 MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 21 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 27 MCCPTA Presidents and Principals Dinner at Marriott 6:00pm – 9:00pm

June

- 1 MCCPTA Spring Training 6:30pm – 9:00pm Blake High School
- 4 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm – 10:00pm