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**Visit our web site**

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

September 17, 2008

## Moving along down the PTA road....

Into the school year we go, and PTAs are hard at work supporting their school communities. Membership drives are in full swing. PTA meetings are happening and calendars are becoming full with PTA sponsored activities. As we begin this school year, please remember to reach out to all parents on many different levels. Emails and listservs are fast easy ways to communicate, but we must not lose sight of the fact that information needs to reach all.

Local PTAs need to reach out and be creative to make sure that all families are included and receive information. Please consider how you can use your parent resources within your school to reach out to families that may feel excluded. PTAs always need informational items translated and language barriers crossed using translators. Can your PTAs help to address this in your schools and plan to make it happen? Your PTA membership and leadership should reflect the diversity in your school community. Please remember to review the MCCPTA Website and join the MCCPTA Listservs to keep up to date about MCCPTA happenings and important information to share with your school communities on a regular basis.

Maryland PTA also maintains a website that can help your PTAs assist your school communities. There are

levels in which parents, guardians or community members may choose to volunteer within a PTA. It is up to your PTA leadership to be creative and draw members in while letting everyone know they are welcome in your PTA community. PTA is not an exclusive club and membership is open to all year round.

From the Maryland PTA website:

**Level 1-** This member may not be able to volunteer in school but is willing to support the PTA as a member and in attending the programs that your PTA will offer this year. These members are also willing to do activities from home such as:

- Collate materials for events
- Assist with the newsletter or website
- Participate in fund raisers
- Develop flyers to send home to members about events

**Level 2-** These parents may be available to volunteer a few times a year in school. They will assist with at least one PTA program. They will participate in the programs and fundraising programs.

**Level 3-** This member is more likely to be an active volunteer in the school. They are more willing to chair a committee for the PTA and assist in developing and implementing PTA programs.

It is up to the local PTAs to actively reach out and include everyone in the activities of your PTA. Every member is a valued member. PTAs should be

actively sharing what the benefits of PTA memberships are. Show your members and potential members what your local PTA does to benefit your school community. Toot your own horn. Many locals are doing wonderful things on a consistent basis and your school community should be aware of this. Communication is key.

We had over 125 local PTA members attend our training on the very wet and soggy September 6th training day at Rockville High School. We offered 19 different sessions. We enjoyed getting to know our local PTA leadership and valued your participation in our various sessions. Thank you all for attending and thanks to our session leaders. All guidebooks used in the training are located on our MCCPTA website under our resource tab. Copies of all guidebooks were also ponied to your schools this past spring.

**Please note the day of our September 24<sup>th</sup> Delegates Assembly which is on a Wednesday. This is a change from our usual Tuesday meeting night.**

Our first Delegates Assembly will be held on Wednesday, September 24th at 7:30 pm in the auditorium at Carver located at 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland. On that same night, beginning at 7 PM, we will hold our MCCPTA committee fair. Our committee chairs will be on hand to discuss what their committees do and their plans for the upcoming year. Our MCCPTA committees need volunteers. Please think about volunteering for any committee you are interested in. As a reminder, you can join more than one committee. Please share our committee information with your school PTA, as anyone may join.

Our MCCPTA Board of Directors will be introduced and we will explain how the Delegates Assembly functions. This information will help you participate as representatives for your school PTAs. Each school has 3 voting representatives that attend the Delegates Assemblies.

Outside the auditorium, in the hallway, there will be tables set up that have sign-in sheets arranged by cluster, as well as crates that contain folder items for each school PTA. The folders contain one set per PTA of information sheets that should be taken back and shared with your PTAs and school communities. MCPS and MCCPTA will put

information documents in your folder each month. As a reminder, take out the papers in the folders, but please leave the folders in the crates. We reuse the folders to put documents in for future Delegates Assemblies. The folders are arranged alphabetically by school level, thus all high school folders are together, etc. If you find your school does not have a folder in the various crates, please let us know immediately. MCCPTA Board of Directors members will also have folders of information in separate crates. These folders are arranged alphabetically by name. Those crates will be located on the tables directly outside the auditorium door along with sign in sheets for the Board of Directors members.

Documents that contain action items for the business meeting will be on the table just inside the auditorium where the meeting is held. Your attendance at the business meetings is very important. We want your school communities represented in overall MCCPTA business decisions. The way to do that is to make sure your school's 3 voting members attend. Each month, at your local school PTA meetings, there should be a Delegate's report given to your PTA members about what happened at the monthly MCCPTA Delegates Assembly. Information presented at business meetings is meant to be shared among our PTA communities.

Once the Delegates Assembly is over the remaining documents are ponied over to schools that did not have representatives at the meeting.

Our upcoming Delegates Assembly meeting dates and schedule:

**September 24, 2008 (Fourth Wednesday)**

Committee Fair 7:00PM – 7:30 PM

Delegates Assembly 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**October 28, 2008 (Fourth Tuesday)**

Why are we here?

Multi-cultural Parent Outreach & the Purposes of PTA 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Delegates Assembly Business Meeting  
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**November 25, 2008 (Fourth Tuesday)**

CyberSafety

MCPS/MoCo Police/ MD Attorney General

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Delegates Assembly Business Meeting

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**December [No Delegates Assembly]**

**January 27, 2009 (Fourth Tuesday)**

Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Delegates Assembly Business Meeting

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**February 24, 2009 (Fourth Tuesday)**

Special Education

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Delegates Assembly Business Meeting

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**March 24, 2009 (Fourth Tuesday)**

Curriculum in MCPS

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Delegates Assembly Business Meeting

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**April 28, 2009 (Fourth Tuesday)**

No program: Elections

Delegates Assembly Business Meeting

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**May [date not set as it currently conflicts with the MCCPTA Principals & Presidents' Dinner]**

The 2008 - 2009 Maryland PTA Membership Theme is "Let's Get Growing!" Maryland PTA is challenging all local units to increase their membership by "5" members over last year's membership - a campaign referred to as "HIGH 5!" Please take advantage of your school open houses, school picnics, and back to school nights to encourage family and community members to join your school PTA. Remember, that anyone can join. They do not need to have children in the school. Please contact April Keyes at (301) 515-8249 or [keyesa@sec.gov](mailto:keyesa@sec.gov), if you would like someone from the MCCPTA

Membership Committee to assist your PTA with increasing your membership.

Cluster coordinators should be setting up their meeting schedules for the 08-09 school year with PTA leadership in their clusters. Area vice presidents and cluster coordinators need to set up regular meeting schedules with their respective community superintendents and school performance directors. Please let them know you want them to attend your cluster meetings. MCCPTA's roles include support of local PTAs and will not dictate to locals.

Remember to submit your Blue Book information to the MCCPTA office as soon as possible. PTAs rely upon this resource to contact other PTAs as well as access important community information. You can fill out the form online at: <http://www.mccpta.com/bluebook.html> or print out a hard copy to mail to our MCCPTA office. The form is located on our website under the link for Blue Book. Please take the time to submit this information to our office as soon as possible. Contact our MCCPTA office manager, Kelly Jonas at 301-208-0111 for assistance or contact any MCCPTA officer.

At the September Delegates Assembly the proposed Budget Priorities Resolution for FY 2010 will be shared. Delegates will be asked to take this back to their school communities and seek feedback. A vote on this proposed resolution will occur at the October Delegates Assembly. We will also begin work on our MCCPTA Operating Budget Compact. MCCPTA has been invited again to participate in the MCPS budget planning process with the employee unions and various MCPS staff, as MCPS puts together its capital improvement and operating budgets. The meetings begin in September and run through the next few months.

In the coming months, we as PTA members need to work together and move forward while focusing on every child. We as an organization speak for children. The message for all PTAs is *everychild. onevoice.*



## **Are you familiar with our various MCCPTA Listservs?**

From the Listservs Moderator:

Are you subscribed to any of the MCCPTA listservs? Are you getting the messages? If not, they may be blocked. Four of the listservs have people listed as "bouncing." I have sent a reactivation request for all these addresses, more than once, and many continue to bounce. People with service from AOL, MSN and HOTMAIL seem to be particularly vulnerable to messages being filtered as spam. Some bounce back, some end up in your junk mail folder, and some just disappear. Another issue is people that use their work email addresses. Some employers are now using more stringent spam filters, and the messages are either getting rejected or put in your junk folder.

I am not able to reactivate you if your account is bouncing, all I am able to do is send a "reactivation request" message. The rest is up to you. Putting the group address,

[MCCPTA\\_Bulletin@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCCPTA_Bulletin@yahoogroups.com)

[MCCPTA\\_Delegates@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCCPTA_Delegates@yahoogroups.com)

[MCCPTA\\_Presidents@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCCPTA_Presidents@yahoogroups.com)

[MCCPTA\\_Treasurer@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCCPTA_Treasurer@yahoogroups.com)

into your "permitted" list goes a long way to getting your mail delivered smoothly. So, if you think you should be receiving messages, and are not, please let me know and I will do my best to help figure out what the problem is.

Patti Twigg, Listservs moderator- [listservsmod@mccpta.com](mailto:listservsmod@mccpta.com)

## **Committee Reports for September 2008**

### **Communications Committee Report**

**Chair:** Patti Twigg

#### **1) Website:**

Website Coordinators : Sharon Goodall ([webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com))  
& Lin-Lin Mao ([webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com))

As the new school year begins the Website subcommittee is working on updating the MCCPTA website with new information such as calendar of 2008-2009 MCCPTA events and meetings, updating committee website pages and adding names of new officers, cluster reps, and committee and work group chairs.

Added/Updated the following items:

- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on Bridge Plan Eligibility, August 22, 2008.
- Memo from MCPS to All Principals on Student Curricular Fees, August 19, 2008.
- Upcoming Workshops (Aug. 2008 - May 2009) 08/14/08 Update.
- 2008 Maryland PTA Treasurers Training on August 23, 2008.
- MCCPTA Fall Training flyer.
- August 2008 President's Newsletter.
- YMCA YFS Parenting Programs (English flyer).
- YMCA YFS Parenting Programs (Spanish flyer).
- MD PTA Insurance Invoice.
- Dues website page.
- Dues Payment Voucher.

- MCCPTA Insurance Information website page.
- Current insurance info page (until Oct. 2008).
- Letter from MCPS to MCCPTA regarding Graduation Venues, August 21, 2008.
- Updated homepage.
- Updated calendar.

**2) Listservs:**

Listsers Moderator: Patti Twigg [listservsmod@mccpta.com](mailto:listservsmod@mccpta.com)

- As of August 31, 2008 membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listsers	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA Board	76	+0
MCCPTA Bulletin	562	+1
MCCPTA Delegates	425	-3
MCCPTA Presidents	290	-1
MCCPTA Treasurers	213	+2

- The new school year transition continues as new members are added and old members removed from all five listsers.

**3) 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](mailto:office@mccpta.com) and/or [webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com)).

**Capital Improvement Program Committee**

Steve Augustino (Chair)

The CIP Committee is preparing for the annual capital budget cycle, which begins in earnest this month. The Division of Construction prepared summaries and recommendations in response to the CIP Cluster Comments on August 20, 2008. Attached to this report is the CIP Committee’s “Summary of the Summary.”

In August and September, quad-clusters will meet with the Department of Long Range Facilities Planning to discuss cluster CIP comments, proposed capital projects and non-capital actions, such as boundary studies. The CIP Committee will solicit feedback from each quad cluster to identify advocacy issues relating to the FY 2010 and Amended 2009-14 CIP budget.

In addition, in September, the MCCPTA President and the CIP Chair will attend MCPS worksessions to develop recommendations to the Superintendent for his proposed FY 2010 and Amended FY 2009-14 CIP. We understand that three worksessions are planned prior to the Superintendent’s release of his proposed CIP.

Finally, the CIP Committee is coordinating with the VP Legislation to develop CIP advocacy points for the legislative session in Annapolis in January. We will seek an increase in the state’s share of the funding for the county’s CIP needs.

## Safety Committee Report

**Chair:** Laurie Halverson ([Lauriehalverson@verizon.net](mailto:Lauriehalverson@verizon.net))

We will hold our Safety Committee meetings on these dates/times at Carver at 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville:

- September 22 at 7:00 pm (room 127)
- October 20 at 7:00 pm (room 223)
- November 17 at 7:00 pm (room 223)
- December 18 at 12:30 pm (room 127)
- January 7 at 7:00 pm (room 127)
- February 9 at 7:00 pm (room 223)
- March 23 at 7:00 pm (room 127)
- April 20 at 7:00 pm (room 223)
- May 11 at 7:00 pm (room 127)

Here is a summary of activity during the past month:

Laurie Halverson attended a meeting with the non-profit group “**Drawing the Line**” (DTL) to discuss the year’s strategies. MCCPTA partners with DTL to help promote alcohol awareness and work to prevent underage drinking. The winners of commercials from the middle and high school contest were shown and were very impressive! The video contest will be underway in the fall and there will be a dinner in March to honor them. For more information, see [www.drawingtheline.org](http://www.drawingtheline.org).

Laurie also met with the “**Coalition for the Prevention of Bullying**” to learn about their goals. Since the bill, HB 199 passed which requires schools to have a prevention program in place, they are working with stakeholders to make sure MCPS implements the new law in a proactive way. They want to promote a research-based whole school program on bullying. They want a program that works on prevention and intervention. Currently, while MCPS has bullying programs, they are not implemented the same way across all schools and some counselors do not even know what curriculum information is available to them. The role of the MCCPTA would be to promote awareness of their campaign. At our next committee meeting, we will discuss our role in this process.

MCPS hopes to add **visitor management systems** to 39 schools during this school year beginning sometime in the fall. This is not a system to track parents who are in our country illegally, but it is a system that will now be able to know immediately if a sex offender tries to enter the building (a note will appear to the office staff member to get an administrator.) It is also a system that will have immediate accountability-if there is an emergency, MCPS (the local school and the Central Office) will know right away who is in and out of the building. And, of course, no one can pick up a student who has not been authorized by the parent to do so. This is a new online screening system to keep track of everyone in the building and prevent sexual predators and criminals from entering our schools.

An email went out to PTA Presidents on August 28 to give guidance on recess volunteers and playground equipment purchases.

Any PTA member is welcome to attend our Safety Committee meetings. Committee Chairs are encouraged to participate. In these budget-crunch times, it is very important that we continue to advocate for the safety of our children. Our committee will discuss priorities for advocacy, work on ways to make parents aware of safety needs, and work to accomplish goals for the year. Pressures will be there this year to sacrifice our children’s safety, so PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN! If you can’t come to meetings but would like to participate in another way, please contact me.

## Legislative Committee Report

The Legislative Committee has been working on several efforts. We have been tracking the RSVP's to the November 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative Dinner. At this point, we have received 14 out of 32 RSVP's – a reasonable response since it's before Labor Day and many of our legislators were in Denver prior to the Labor Day holiday. As each legislator responds to the invitation, they're invited to meet for a one-on-one coffee. To date, 6 of these have been scheduled. Now that we're past the Labor Day holiday, we hope to be able to begin scheduling coffee's with every member of the delegation.

Additionally, we have been working with the MD PTA Legislative Committee to set up their Cap Wiz site. This tool will help all PTA's in the state know when it's important to contact our legislators. Finally, we have been working with the Committee for Montgomery to develop their platform for the 2008-2009 year.

## **High School Committee Report**

**Chair:** Sharon St.Pierre

Patti Twigg has set up our listserv with all the current high school PTSA presidents included. This listserv is a valuable tool for presidents to use to discuss issues and help each other with ideas and resources. A Fall High School PTSA Presidents Interactive Forum is currently being developed (date/place to be determined).

## **MCCPTA Health Committee Report**

**Chair:** Susan Young

I am delighted to begin my work as the Chair of the MCCPTA Health Committee and am actively seeking names of people who would like to stay abreast of MCPS health issues via our email list serve. If you would like to be included, please send your email address to me at [susan@youngspa.com](mailto:susan@youngspa.com).

### **Update on MCPS School Wellness Committee**

MCPS has reconvened a Wellness Policy Work Group, on which I will represent MCCPTA, along with two other parents. The group's charge is to:

- Review the language in JPG-RA (the MCPS Regulation on Wellness: Physical and Nutritional Health) to draft recommendations on ways to increase physical activity opportunities for our students. The JPG-RA document is available on the MCCPTA Health Committee web page.
- Review the recommendations in the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) marketing report. The report is available on the MCCPTA Health Committee web page.
- Review the language in JPG-RA pertaining to the nutritional standards for foods and beverages available for sale to students from midnight until the end of the instructional day. Make recommendations to the current standards if appropriate.

### **Maryland General Assembly**

Legislation (HB 503) has been introduced in the General Assembly <http://mlis.state.md.us/2008rs/billfile/HB0503.htm> related to physical education and physical activity. The interest of the Bill centered on the strong connection between obesity, lack of physical activity and disease states impacting children's health. The bill language wanted to increase the time in physical education but there was no funding attached. There will be a state-wide advisory group convened to review programs and make recommendation.

Legislation was also introduced, and passed into law, establishing a Committee on Childhood Obesity to provide specified recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

<http://mlis.state.md.us/2008rs/billfile/HB1176.htm>

**Other information:**

Action for Healthy Kids has issued a report entitled: *Progress or Promises? What's Working For and Against Healthy Schools*. A copy of the report is available at [www.actionforhealthykids.org](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org).

I will also represent MCCPTA on the Montgomery County School Health Council and the MCPS Citizen's Advisory Committee for Family Life and Human Development.

**Presidents and Principals Dinner Report**

Work has begun on planning for the Presidents and Principals Dinner for May 27, 2009. Over the summer, various venues were researched and considered. North Bethesda Marriott currently remains the most viable option for next year. The venue is amply able to accommodate the size of our event and cost is comparable to other locations in Montgomery County. MCCPTA has signed the contract with North Bethesda Marriott to hold our dinner on May 27th. Our next project is working on getting sponsorship letters out in the new few weeks.

**Insurance Information**

The enrollment form and the loss control guidebook 2008 Maryland are located on the Maryland PTA website under the insurance link:

[http://www.mdpta.org/bridge\\_insurance.html](http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_insurance.html)

Each PTA should complete the enrollment form, and send their check for \$166 to the address on the form. This was due August 15. Checks should be made payable to BB&T. Some PTAs may need higher bonding limits, and some may need riders. For this you need to contact the insurance agent from BB&T directly. Current coverage expires on 10/1/08 for locals. At the last MCCPTA Board of Directors meeting a list was shared with AVPs and Cluster Coordinators of PTAs who have not paid their insurance dues. This same information was shared on the MCCPTA Treasurer's Listserv. If you have not paid your insurance dues to BB&T please do so immediately. If you have any coverage about the insurance your PTAs need to contact Kathy Meagher at BB&T. **Kathy Meagher, UnionBanc Insurance Services, Inc. 818-662-4202 or [pta@unionbancins.com](mailto:pta@unionbancins.com). Toll free: 866-611-9400.**

We have received conflicting information about what exactly is required for the new insurance coverage. The form we were provided by the insurance company was just one page, but Maryland PTA's version has a second page, that asks for contact information for your Board of Directors.

Since the new insurance includes Directors and Officers coverage, it is reasonable that they need to know who your officers are.

With that in mind, please go to this link on the Maryland PTA website:

<http://www.mdpta.org/documents/EnrollmentForm.May2008pdf.pdf>

and send the requested contact info on page 2 only to:

Maryland PTA  
5 Central Avenue  
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

NOTE: This is totally separate from the invoice on the MCCPTA website for paying the insurance premium. Thanks for your cooperation on this. Contact Teresa Willis, Office Administrator, at [officeadministrator@mdpta.org](mailto:officeadministrator@mdpta.org) or 410-760-6221 with questions regarding premium payments.



## The FLES Program 2008- 2009

**French ♦ Spanish ♦ Chinese**

**Classes for K - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

*Introductory Program*

- Open to all Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> graders
- Classes meet once a week for 45 minutes before or after the school day (after school classes include 15 additional minutes for snack)
- 20 classes beginning in October
- Fee: \$210.00 per year

### ***Regular Program – Levels I, II, III and III advanced***

- Sequential program open to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders (Introductory Program not a prerequisite for participation)
- Classes meet once a week for an hour before or after the school day
- 26 classes from October through May
- Fee: \$210.00 per year

### ***Middle School Program***

- Open to 6<sup>th</sup> graders who have participated in FLES in elementary school
- Classes meet once a week for an hour after the school day
- Classes run from October through May
- Fee: \$215.00 per year

Contact your PTA FLES Coordinator:

or

The FLES Program Office

7210 Hidden Creek Road

Bethesda, MD 20817

Tel - 301-229-3419 Email - [classes@fles.org](mailto:classes@fles.org)

Website - [www.fles.org](http://www.fles.org)

**Foreign language classes  
at your own school!**

### ***The FLES Mission***

The Montgomery County Council of PTA's - Educational Programs Incorporated, Foreign Language in Elementary School Program (FLES) provides quality instruction in French, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish before and after school to children in Montgomery County public elementary and middle schools. Classes are coordinated through the local PTAs with the cooperation of the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) System.

### **The FLES Program**

**Provides** a firm foundation for the continued study of languages in middle and high school- **Generates** an interest in other cultures- **Imparts** enthusiasm for participating in our increasingly global community

### **Highlights of the Program**

1. No English is spoken in FLES classes! FLES teachers use visual aids and non-verbal cues to aid in comprehension.
2. FLES Classes are fast-paced. They incorporate dialogues, songs, games and other fun activities.
3. The FLES curriculum is standardized across the county.
4. Workbooks are used to reinforce classroom activity.
5. FLES teachers undergo extensive training on the use of our curriculum.
6. Fluent in the language they teach, most instructors are native speakers.
7. Teachers expose the children to cultural aspects of the language.
8. Teachers incorporate holiday festivities, a “typical” French, Chinese or Spanish breakfast and an “Open House” for parents.

Exciting embassy sponsored writing projects for upper level students

### **Hands On Science (HOS)**

HOS sparks children's interest in science with hands-on, inquiry-based science enrichment programs for elementary age children. Classes meet for one hour a week for eight weeks before or after school. All children participate in every activity and take home their materials for further investigation. Children explore different science topics each fall, winter and spring. Classes at the K-1, 2-3 and 4-6 grade levels are limited to 11 children.

**Director: Barbara Griner**

Telephone: 301-460-5323

Email: [BGrinerHOS@aol.com](mailto:BGrinerHOS@aol.com)

### **2008 MONTGOMERY COUNTY CULTURAL ARTS SHOWCASES**

**When:** Oct. 1, Oct. 2, Oct. 6, & Oct. 7

**Where:** Carver Educational Center Auditorium, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville, Maryland 20850

**Time:** 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

» Showcase flyer

» October 2 schedule

» October 1 schedule

» October 6 schedule

More information, including fliers you can print out, is located on the MCCPTA website:

<http://www.mccpta.com/index.html>

**Draft Minutes of the Delegate Assembly on April 22, 2008**  
**Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)**  
**in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center**

**Program**

The program featured a panel discussion on Nutrition and Physical Activity

**Business Meeting**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

**Call to Order:** MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 8:10

**Mission:** Vice President for Programs April Keyes read the mission of the PTA.

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed but no changes were made.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the March Delegates Assembly were distributed and reviewed. Two spelling errors were corrected. Kay Romero made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

**Treasure's Report:** Dale Ryan reviewed the Treasurer's Report. We paid our taxes this month. There was a net minus because we haven't added many members at this time of the year. About 8 PTAs still owe insurance payments. We have about 5000 fewer members than we had hoped. Sponsors for Presidents and Principals dinner contributed about \$11,000 toward dinner. We are still expecting expenses from the Special Education Recognition Ceremony & Reflections Ceremonies. Others who need to turn in expenses should get them in soon.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Elections**

The Nominating Committee put forth the following list of nominees for officers:

- **President:** Kay Romero
- **Treasurer:** Dale Ryan
- **Recording Secretary for Delegate Assembly:** open
- **Recording Secretary for Board of Directors:** open
- **Vice President for Educational Issues:** Ted Willard
- **Vice President for Administration:** Liz Wheeler
- **Vice President for Programs:** Karen Smith
- **Vice President for Legislation:** Merry Eisner

A call was made for nominations from the floor for each of the positions. Sally Taber nominated Andrea Bernardo for Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors. Sally Taber nominated Patti Twigg for Recording Secretary for the Delegates Assembly. There were no other nominations from the floor. Since there were no contested elections, there was unanimous consent to vote in block. The block was elected by a show of hands.

The Nominating Committee put forth a following list of nominees for Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators. For each position, a call was made for nominations from the floor. In every case, there were no contested positions. A vote was then taken of the delegates eligible to vote for each position and the listed individuals were elected to their position by a voice vote. (Names in the following printed in *italic* were nominated from the floor. All others were brought forth by the nominating committee.)

<p><b>Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, &amp; Watkins Mill Clusters</b> Area VP: Allyson Morrison</p>		<p><b>Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Wheaton, &amp; Whitman Clusters</b> Area VP: Terry Salus</p>		<p><b>Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, and Wooton Clusters</b> Area VP: Andrea Q. Bernardo</p>	
<p><b><u>Clarksburg</u></b> Jaimie Jacobson Sonya Leaman Donna Pfeiffer</p>	<p><b><u>Gaithersburg</u></b> Steve Augustino Valerie Rivers</p>	<p><b><u>Bethesda-Chevy Chase</u></b> Jack Hayes Joy White Craig Brown</p>	<p><b><u>Wheaton</u></b> <i>Grace Barnes</i> <i>Chris Zawlocki</i></p>	<p><b><u>Churchill</u></b> Laurie Halverson Janette Gilman Laura Siegel</p>	<p><b><u>Rockville</u></b> <i>Amy Hartley</i></p>
<p><b><u>Watkins Mill</u></b> Brenda Szczesny Susan Young Lon Hamann</p>	<p><b><u>Magruder</u></b> Dawn Trahern Ted Willard Annie Ahmed</p>	<p><b><u>Walter Johnson</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Whitman</u></b> Deborah Goldman Paula Robinson</p>	<p><b><u>Richard Montgomery</u></b> Lori Merrill Kate Savage</p>	<p><b><u>Wootton</u></b> Carol Falk Jen Pories Richard Edelman</p>

<p><b>Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, &amp; Northwood Clusters</b> Area VP: Sally Taber</p>		<p><b>Blake, Paint Branch, Springbrook, &amp; Clusters</b> Area VP (NEC): Patti Twigg Area VP Sherwood Cluster:</p>		<p><b>Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, &amp; Seneca Valley Clusters</b> Area VP: Juan Johnson</p>	
<p><b><u>Blair</u></b> <i>Pete Lafen</i> <i>Bladimir Duenas</i> <i>Susan Fleck</i></p>	<p><b><u>Kennedy</u></b> <i>Ricky Ford</i></p>	<p><b><u>Blake</u></b> <i>Lee Ann Doerflinger</i> <i>Dawn Dolan</i></p>	<p><b><u>Springbrook</u></b> <i>Naghma Husain</i> <i>Pamela Johnson</i></p>	<p><b><u>Quince Orchard</u></b> Paul Morrison Kevin Farragher Jim Keenan</p>	<p><b><u>Poolesville</u></b> Open</p>
<p><b><u>Einstein</u></b> Open</p>	<p><b><u>Northwood</u></b> <i>Jennifer Chambers</i> <i>Mary Abe</i></p>	<p><b><u>Paint Branch</u></b> Patti Twigg</p>	<p><b><u>Sherwood</u></b> Fran Simons</p>	<p><b><u>Northwest</u></b> Susan Burkinshaw Bob Murphy</p>	<p><b><u>Seneca Valley</u></b> <i>Brenda Martin</i> <i>Julie Lucas</i> <i>Kevin David</i></p>

**Curriculum Committee**

Ted Willard, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, presented a resolution

Whereas an examination of the MCPS language arts curriculum by the College Board has noted an inadequate emphasis on writing, and

Whereas many parents in the school system are concerned that students are not learning as much grammar as they should, and

Whereas Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is currently engaged in Middle School Reform, and

Whereas the state of Maryland has minimum expectations for how many books students in middle school should read each year and could in the same way set minimum expectations for the amount of writing that students in middle school should be expected to complete each year, therefore be it

Resolved that the MCPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction, in consultation with MCCPTA and other stakeholders, set a minimum number of substantive writing assignments, with the expectation of the use of proper grammar and organization, that students be expected to do each year, and be it

Resolved that these expectations may be met in classes such as Social Studies and Science in addition to Language Arts.

Since the motion has been brought forward by a committee, it did not require a second.

A motion was made to amend the resolution to say the second Whereas to say:

Whereas many parents in the school system are concerned that students are not learning as much grammar as they should and are insufficiently skilled in English composition, and to delete the fourth Whereas, and modify the Resolved sections to say:

Resolved that the MCPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction, in consultation with MCCPTA and other stakeholders, should work immediately to provide a middle school language arts curriculum meeting the College Board expectations for writing

Resolved that this alignment should include more opportunities for substantive writing by students with the focus on the proper use of grammar and organization and that such opportunities should be available through other classes such as social studies and science in addition to language arts

Resolved that this alignment should include more in school support for writing and should be applied immediately across all MCPS middle schools, not just those selected for phases one and two of middle school reform.

The motion to amend was seconded.

David Lechner made a motion to consider each of the five proposed changes separately. The motion to sever them was seconded, but failed by a voice vote.

The motion to amend the motion then failed by a standing vote of 31 in favor and 32 opposed.

A motion was made to Call the Question and passed by a voice vote.

The Resolution failed by a voice vote.

### **Bylaws Committee**

Linna Barnes, chair of the Bylaws Committee presented a proposed change to the bylaws. The proposed changes are as follows:

Article VIII, 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.

Since the recommendation comes from a committee, it does not need a second. Until recently, our Board of Directors had had a quorum of 15. During the most recent revision of the bylaws, Maryland PTA added the requirement that council bylaws require that the quorum for the Board of Directors be one half of the membership. Since there are over 80 people on the Board of Directors, it has been extremely difficult for us to have a quorum at our meetings. The proposal is to have the quorum be 25, rather than half of the total membership of the Board of the Directors. MCCPTA has sent the state PTA a recommendation to amend the Maryland State template for action at the fall convention.

The proposal passed by voice vote.

### **Presidents and Principals Dinner**

April Keyes noted that invitations for the Dinner were sent on Monday. April will be out of town on business and so will not be able to attend. Sharon St. Pierre will take on coordinating the night of the event. A number has to be given to the Hotel very soon so everyone is asked to RSVP as soon as possible.

### **Operating Budget Committee**

Pam Moomau noted that the County Executive's budget is 55 million less than the Board of Education requested. The County Council may pull back even farther than that. She recommended that local PTAs should try to meet with their County Council members or email them.

### **Capital Improvement Program**

Steve Augustino noted that money is short and the county is still waiting for state funding. About \$40 million has been committed, but we are hoping for \$55 million. The County Council Education committee is proposing to delay High School modernizations. Other possible cuts could be elementary school gyms and

PLAR. Cluster comments are due June 1<sup>st</sup>. The forms for cluster comments will be available on the MCCPTA Website on the CIP committee page.

### **Spring Training**

Liz Wheeler noted that Spring PTA Training will be at Blake High School on Wednesday June 4. Registration will begin at 6:30 pm with the program starting at 7:00. There will be sessions for New Presidents, Returning Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Delegates, Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators, Reflections, Bylaws, FLES, and Hands-On Science. Please RSVP by May 30th if you are planning to come so we know how much food to get.

The Maryland PTA summer conference will be on Saturday, July 26th at Anne Arundel Community College.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Juan Johnson and Jane de Winter presented a Maryland PTA lifetime Membership award for April Keyes. This would have been presented at the Presidents and Principals dinner, but since April will not be present, we are giving it to her tonight.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

***PRESIDENT'S LETTER***

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

**PONY MAIL to PTA  
Presidents to be shared  
with School PTA**

**September 2008**

**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:**

**September**

- 18**      **BOE Community Forum - Operating Budget – Watkins Mill HS  
7pm-9:30 pm**
- 24**      **Committee Fair 7-7:30pm  
Delegates Assembly in Auditorium 7:30pm-10pm**

**October**

- 1**      **Cultural Arts Showcase 9am-2: 30pm**
- 2**      **Cultural Arts Showcase 9am-2: 30pm  
MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm-10pm**
- 4**      **Maryland PTA Regional Training in Kent County 8-4 PM**
- 6**      **Cultural Arts Showcase 9am- 2:30pm  
Grading and Reporting Committee Meeting 7pm-9pm  
Special Education Committee meeting 7pm**
- 8**      **International Walk to School Day for 2008**
- 7**      **Cultural Arts Showcase 9am-2:30pm**
- 15**      **MCPS BOE Boundary Recommendations Released**
- 16**      **BOE Community Forum - Operating Budget – Albert Einstein HS  
7pm-9: 30 pm**
- 20**      **MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm- 9pm**
- 28**      **Delegates Assembly 7:30pm-10pm**
- 29**      **MCPS CIP Released  
MCPS BOE meets with MCCPTA BOD 7pm**