



October 17, 2006

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Greetings,

It was great to see so many of you at our training on October 7th. There were over 150 participants, now we are counting on you to take what you learned back to your local PTAs. Many of the handbooks are available to download on our web site and we are working to get all the materials on line.

With the general election rapidly approaching, please remember that PTAs must follow strict guidelines to retain their non-profit status. If you have questions about what is allowed, please refer to the guidelines on our website or call our office for a copy of them.

We will hold a candidate's forum at our next Delegates Assembly which will begin at 7:00pm. All candidates for the Board of Education have accepted our invitation. Our vice-president for programs, April Keyes, has been collecting questions; if you would like to submit a question for this forum, please send it to April at abkeys@earthlink.net. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 8:00pm. We have two resolutions to consider, one on health technicians and one on Student Service Learning hours. The full text of each resolution can be found in this packet.

Several of us had occasion to talk with MCPS Budget Director Marshall Spatz at the strategic planning forum hearing last week. He informed us that MCPS has received hundreds of the blue cards. It is not too late to fill the card

out or respond online. Each principal and PTA has received a bundle of cards. Many schools are distributing these at PTA meetings and asking people to write comments. To submit comments online go to www.mcps.k12.md.us/community/forums/feedback/index.shtm and click on Submit Your Comments. This will take you to a feedback form.

The Board of Education has tentatively approved a new policy FFA Naming School Facilities. The new draft provides for a process whereby the BOE can name a school without community input when the BOE has already decided on a name. The draft policy can be found at www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/policy/pdfcomment/ffacomment.pdf. All comments on the proposed changes are due to the BOE by December 15, 2006.

The superintendent will release the FY2008 Capital Budget and amendments to the FY2007-2012 CIP on Monday, October 30. The complete budget book will be ponied to each school and is usually available online immediately after release. Make sure that you review the chapter pertaining to your school and cluster and check in with your cluster coordinator so that you will be aware of any changes that affect your school and have the chance to offer input to the cluster's testimony in mid-November. MCCPTA will hold a CIP forum on the evening of November 1.

Your first dues payments are due on November 1, 2006. Throughout the year, MD PTA bills local PTAs every

month for the dues owed to the state and national PTAs. The bill will ask for \$3.25 for each membership card that was sent to your PTA. PTAs only pay dues for the memberships they have sold so far that month—do not pay the full amount on the bill unless you have already enrolled that many members. Each subsequent month, pay for the members enrolled that month. Retain any unused membership cards to return to MD PTA in the spring; you will have to pay for all cards if you do not return the extras in the spring. Attached to this letter is the local dues payment form for MCCPTA. Council dues are \$1.00 per member and are due on November 1 also. Your PTA should pay MCCPTA for additional members enrolled throughout the year just as it does to MD PTA.

Please consider attending the MD PTA convention on November 10 and 11, in Ocean City. All PTAs have received the light blue registration packet and information is included in this packet.

Finally, attached to this message is an update on Policy CNA. This update was prepared in conjunction with our attorney, Paul Wolfson of WilmerHale. Mr. Wolfson is an appellate lawyer who specializes in first amendment issues. I am aware that the attached sheet may not answer every question your PTA has faced, but it is intended to give you further guidance. I have written to the National PTA and Mr. Wolfson asking them to look into other aspects of policy CNA. When I have more information, it will be shared with you.

Jane

**DELEGATES VOTE
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

On October 5, as required by Article VI, Section 5, of the MCCPTA BYLAWS, the Board of Directors selected seven nominees for the nominating committee. Delegates and presidents will vote by ballot on the following nominees for the nominating committee at the second delegate assembly of the school year which is October 24, 2006. "At that delegate assembly additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee(s). No member of the nominating committee may serve two (2) consecutive terms."

Nominees for the Nominating Committee

Magruder/Damascus/Gaithersburg/Watkins Mill/Clarksburg	Steve Augustino
Northwest/Poolesville/Quince Orchard/Seneca Valley	Paul Morrison
Churchill/Richard Montgomery/Rockville/Wootton	Livleen Gill
Blake/Paint Branch/Sherwood/Springbrook	Deborah Stevens-Panzer
Blair/Einstein/Kennedy/Northwood	Mark Rother
B-CC/Walter Johnson/Walt Whitman/Wheaton	Karen Smith
At Large	Tom Kenton

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****ATTENTION ALL TREASURERS****

Juan Johnson, MCCPTA Treasurer (treasurer@mccpta.net)

- Please forward a copy of your 2005-06 Audit Report along with a Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Statement with the Budget and check reconciliation to the MCCPTA office ASAP.
- If your PTA has over \$25,000 in income or has filed IRS Form 990 in the past, be sure to file before November 15th.
- Local MCCPTA membership dues are due on November 1, 2006 (see form attached)

The MCCPTA CIP Committee and the MCPS Department of Long Range Planning invite you to a CIP Forum
November 1, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Carver Education Center, Cafeteria

For all cluster coordinators, PTA presidents, and facilities chairs.

Come to a presentation by MCPS staff on the new CIP prior to cluster testimony and Board of Education worksessions and action. MCCPTA chairs will discuss coordinated testimony theme and strategies. Roy Higgins, Director of Maintenance, Department of Facilities Management, will present information on the processes for repairs.

Amendments to the FY 2008-2012 CIP will be released on October 30, 2006; public hearings are scheduled for November 15 and 16, 2006.

Questions, please call MCCPTA CIP Chairs, Marney Jacobs 301 493-5003, Jim Keenan 301 963-9174, or Bruce Crispell 240 314-4700

MD PTA FALL CONVENTION

Date: November 10 & 11, 2006

Location: Clarion FountainBleu Hotel
10100 Coastal Hwy Ocean City, MD 21842

Guest Speakers include:

Dr. Steven Constantino	<i>author of Engaging All Families & Founder of Family Friendly Schools</i>
Jan Harp Domene	National PTA President Elect
Kim Oliver	National Teacher of the Year 2006
Dr. Nancy Grasmick	Maryland State Superintendent of Schools

Is Convention different from Conference? Yes. At our Fall Convention we hold a General Membership Meeting to conduct the business of Maryland PTA. We will vote on any amendments to the state bylaws, proposed changes to the legislative platform and to elect a President-Elect.

Who can participate in the General Membership Meeting? Members from units in Good Standing (bylaws up-to-date; membership dues paid; bonding and liability insurance paid; and incorporation paperwork in place). If unsure of your status, contact our office.

We've never had a Convention section in our budget.

PTA is about learning and experience. We highly recommend your PTA allocates monies for training conferences and state and national convention. You will not only benefit from the workshops but also from the general meeting protocol.

Dates to note for Registration:

October 13 - Early Bird convention registration is DUE IN state office today.

November 3 - Advanced convention registration DUE IN state office today

http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_calendar.html

MCCPTA update on Policy CNA: October, 2006

What does Policy CNA cover?

Policy CNA is concerned only with printed informational material sent home with students, i.e. backpack mail, and displaying printed informational materials and announcements at schools. Policy CNA does not cover, or impose any restrictions on, PTAs' uses of their own listserves, websites, or mailings through U.S. mail.

Which groups are allowed to send home information under the new policy CNA?

Four groups have backpack privileges at any time during the school year. They are: 1. MCPS, 2. Federal, state, or local governmental entities, 3. Nationally affiliated PTAs operating within MCPS and MCCPTA and 4. Parent teacher organizations at special education schools and alternative centers that operate in lieu of nationally affiliated PTAs.

Other nonprofit community organizations shall be permitted to distribute materials through students 2-4 times per year.

Community organizations and businesses shall be permitted to display printed materials at schools.

My PTA uses backpack mail to distribute its newsletter. Can we attach flyers from other groups to it or send them home separately?

The Board of Education has not placed any restrictions on the materials PTAs send home via backpacks. MCCPTA recommends that you wait until it can issue a further clarification on any situation not covered below.

My PTA mails its newsletter home. Can it attach flyers or include information from other groups in it?

Policy CNA does not pertain to any materials your PTA chooses to mail to parents. Your PTA can include information in its mailed newsletter from other groups, including flyers.

The NAACP Parent Council Representative is a member of our PTA's Executive Board, as specified in our bylaws. Can our PTA distribute NAACP Parent Council materials through the backpacks?

If your PTA concludes that NAACP Parent Council materials are appropriate for PTA distribution, then the PTA may reasonably decide to distribute the material through backpacks. The fact that your PTA has chosen to include the NAACP Parent Council Representative on its executive board reflects a reasonable judgment that the organization's mission is related to and consistent with the PTA's mission, and that the information supplied by the NAACP Parent Council will also be useful to parents.

Our PTA provides financial support to an Asian Parent Group within our school; we have a line item in our budget for this. Can our PTA distribute information from this Asian Parent Group in the backpacks?

The fact that your PTA has chosen to provide financial support on regular basis, such as in a budget line item, to the Asian Parent Group at your school reflects a reasonable judgment by your PTA that this Asian Parent Group's mission is related to and consistent with the PTA's mission and is useful to parents. If your PTA concludes that Asian Parent Group materials are appropriate for PTA distribution, then your PTA may reasonably decide to distribute the materials through backpacks.

Can my PTA send out information from other groups on our list serve?

If your list serve is owned and maintained by your PTA (this could be true even if your school administrators use the list for announcements) then you have complete control over what you choose to send out via this list.

Can my PTA post information from other groups on our web site?

If your PTA owns the domain name it can post anything it likes on its web site including announcements, flyers, and links to other organizations.

What if our school site has a link to our web site, can we still post materials on our web site?

If your PTA owns the domain name it can post anything it likes on its web site including announcements, flyers, and links to other organizations. You may wish to recommend to the school that it post a notice on its own web site such as "you are now leaving the MCPS web site" when users click on the PTA link from the school web site. Your PTA may want to place a disclaimer on its web site stating "This is a web site of the PTA, not the school."

What if our web site is part of the MCPS site? Are there any restrictions?

MCPS has not placed any restrictions on materials PTAs post, although individual schools may have agreements with their PTAs about what materials the PTA posts. Policy CNA does not address MCPS web sites; the BOE stated that it intends to develop a policy on web sites and list serves in the near future. MCCPTA recommends that your PTA purchase its own domain name so that you can maintain complete control over your site. If you need advice on this, you may contact our web site committee at webmaster@mccpta.com.

MCCPTA Committee Updates – October 2006

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

Capital Improvement Program Committee:

Marney Jacobs (Co-Chair): mjdti@bellatlantic.net, Jim Keenan (Co-Chair): jim.keenan@fmcsa.dot.gov

There will be a CIP Forum on November 1st from 7:30 – 9 PM in the Carver Cafeteria. All cluster coordinators, PTA presidents and facilities chairs are encouraged to attend. Please see detailed information regarding the forum in the October President's Newsletter.

Cultural Arts Committee: Joan Wolfe, Chair, joanwolfjoanwolf@aol.com

The Cultural Arts Committee is proud to report on a successful and busy month! The four showcases were held on 9/29, 10/3, 10/12 and 10/13 with strong attendance from many MCPS schools. Additionally, a Cultural Arts Fall Training workshop was held on 10/7 and was comprised of new Cultural Arts chairs, who were able to glean valuable information for implementation within their schools.

The Cultural Arts Committee's plans for the future include maintaining the PTArts Listservice and assuring that all chairs have subscribed, serving as a resource and guide for local chairs, planning a Spring Training workshop and attending local PTA meetings (if requested) to assist new chairs.

Downcounty Consortium: Sally Taber, Chair, sataber@mindspring.com

The DCC office is holding a series of 5 meetings at each of the DCC high schools on the Consortium choice process.

Gifted Child Committee: Elizabeth Enders, Chair, eaenders@verizon.net

We are continuing to build our network of GT Liaisons at every elementary and middle school. If your school does not currently have a PTA GT Liaison, please find someone to fill this position and have him/her contact our committee.

This year's training for local PTA GT Liaisons occurred on Wednesday, October 11 and was attended by approximately 60 GT Liaisons and 100 interested parents. Speakers included Marty Creel, Director of the Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI) and Steven Bedford and Sherry Liebes of the Office of School Performance. GT Liaisons who attended picked up their information packets. Packets were also handed out to parents. Packets will be sent to the local schools to GT Liaisons who were unable to attend, or to the PTA president at schools which do not have a GT Liaison.

The Gifted Child Committee met on September 28, 2006. We discussed plans for the fall training and finalized our work plan, which was approved at the MCCPTA board meeting on October 5. We met with the Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI) to discuss the training and the role of the middle school AEIST (Accelerated and Enriched Instruction Support Teacher), which is a new 0.4 position developed by combining the old GT Coordinator and Success for Every Student positions. The two goals of the AEIST are to increase minority enrollment in GT/Honors classes and to support these new students (and underachieving students) as they make the transition from regular to honors classes. Along with the MCCPTA curriculum committee, our committee met with AEI and the MCPS Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, to discuss the resolution passed by the delegates last Spring, calling for a sequenced and systematic GT curriculum in middle school. Other meetings with these offices are planned for the coming month, including a meeting with Marisa Stemple, the MCPS gifted/learning disabled (GT/LD) instructional specialist. Our committee put together a short research paper describing to parents the potential uses of the RIT scores from the MAP-R tests, as well as how to understand their child's Lexile score and range. These assessments are currently being used primarily to aid teachers in understanding their students' progress in reading. These scores are not automatically mailed home to parents, but they are available to every parent upon request. Our committee is continuing our research into the potential use of these scores for instructional level/placement for GT students, as well as identification. The gifted child

committee is also currently comparing the Lexile levels of anchor books offered to GT students in the magnet programs with the anchor books offered to GT students at local schools, and we are finding a discrepancy (higher levels of texts are being offered in the magnet programs, even though the Lexile scores of GT students at local schools are comparable).

During the upcoming month, our committee will actively reach out to other educational advocacy groups, such as NAACP, Equity in Education Coalition, Latino parents and Special Education groups to find common ground, build understanding and work together in our advocacy for children’s educational needs.

Our listserv is for GT Liaisons to connect with one another and get regular information from the gifted child committee. To join our listserv, send an email to: GTLiaisons-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, or contact Christy Lyons at christylyons@verizon.net.

Grading and Reporting: Sharon St.Pierre, Chair, stpierre619@comcast.net

The Grading and Reporting Committee had its first meeting on October 4th. We reviewed the grading and reporting policy and procedures from last year, looked at any changes being implemented this year and looked ahead to what MCPS plans on implementing next year and beyond.

Elementary Schools: For this year, 2 additional schools were added to the 17 pilot schools utilizing standards based report cards in Grades 1 and 2. Next year, all schools grade 1 and 2 will be using this report card. Grade 3 teachers in field test schools were provided with standards-based documents in all subjects and will be piloting standards based report card for this grade next year.

Secondary Schools: “Homework for Completion” has been renamed “Homework for Practice” to avoid confusion as to whether a student must complete the homework in order to receive full credit. 22 high schools and 28 middle schools volunteered to implement OARS (Online Achievement and Reporting System – Pinnacle and Edline) this year. Next year, all secondary schools will be using this system. Pinnacle supports standards-based grading and reporting in elementary and secondary schools and interacts with Edline. It generates progress reports, interim reports and report cards. Edline communicates school and course information to parents and students; posts class assignments and student’s grades.

Health Committee: Tracy Fox, Chair, tracyfox@comcast.net

Please see attached article on “Snacking 101 and Healthy Halloween Tips” included in this month’s President’s Newsletter.

Legislative Committee: Sharon Barbee, Chair, sbarbee@verizon.net

I. Montgomery County Council:

A. Committee Sessions

1. 9/28/06, HHS/ED, Received briefing Youth Behavioral Risk Survey.
2. 9/28/06, HHS/ED, Received briefing on School Wellness.
3. 9/28/06, ED, Received briefing on Special Education.
4. 9/28/06, ED, **Recommended Approval**, Resolution to approve categorical transfer of \$7,050,000 for MCPS’ FY06 Operating Budget.

B. Council Session Summary

1. 10/3/06, **Adopted, R-15-1620**, Resolution to approve categorical transfer of \$7,050,000 for MCPS’ FY06 Operating Budget.
2. 10/3/06, Public Hearing - Supplemental appropriation to the County Government’s FY07 Operating Budget, Dept. of HHS, Children, Youth and Family Services-\$370,211 for Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center Demonstration Grant.
3. 10/3/06, Public Hearing - Special appropriation to the Montgomery County Public Schools’ FY07 Operating Budget - \$400,000 for Automated External Defibrillator Program.
4. 10/3/06, Public Hearing - Special appropriations to the County Government’s FY07 Operating Budget, Department of Recreation - \$206,270 for Paint Branch Sports Academy, \$206,270 for Springbrook Sports Academy, and \$169,230 for Wheaton Sports Academy.

5. 10/3/06, **Adopted, R-15-1631**, Supplemental appropriation to the Montgomery County Public Schools' FY07 Operating Budget - \$997,433 for Teaching American History Program.
 6. 10/10/06, Public Hearing/Action - Supplemental appropriation to MCPS FY'07 Operating Budget - \$360,171 for Aging School Program
- III. Maryland PTA Legislation
1. Adoption of 2006-2007 Legislative Platform at November convention.

IV. MCCPTA

1. Assisted in the development of Legislative Priorities for Committee for Montgomery.
2. Board of Education Reception, October 25, 2006
3. Montgomery County Delegation Reception, November 13, 2006

Listserv Committee: Patti Twigg, Chair, lptwigg@aol.com

1) All members of the MCCPTA Board of Directors have been subscribed to MCCPTA_Bulletin to eliminate the need for cross posting from MCCPTA_Bulletin to MCCPTA_Board.

2) As of Oct. 11, 2006, membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed
MCCPTA Board	97
MCCPTA Bulletin	462
MCCPTA Delegates	377
MCCPTA Presidents	266

Parent Leadership Committee: Elisia George, Chair, dalisha3313@hotmail.com

We held our first committee meeting on October 5th, 2006. there were eight of us present at this meeting. Committee members shared a number of strategies that are being used at their various schools. Two of the schools represented began the three4me program this year. Every one present was very eager to see the end result of it. The family Learning night at Viers Mil E.S. was also discussed and would be tried. We discussed the various hindrances that stand in the way of parent's participation in activities such as, having to prepare meals after a day at work, babysitting, transportation, language differences as well as cultural differences, intimidation and cliques.

We also discussed ways of having parents of middle school students be more involved. One suggestion was to meet them at the various dances and other activities that are organized for the students in the evenings. It was decided that each person would take something from the various strategies that was given that is appropriate for their community.

We realize that three months is not enough time to see results, but we all agreed that at their next meeting we would share what progress had been seen.

Safety Committee: Pam Momma, Chair, Pamela.Moomau@mail.house.gov

The safety committee holds its first in-person meeting for the 2006-2007 school years on October 19, 2006. Members of the safety committee have been working on advocacy in the areas of school violence prevention and security, bus safety, mold and indoor air quality, sex offender screening, and underage alcohol abuse. As we are in the thick of homecoming season, please remember that motor vehicles are the leading cause of death for U.S. teenagers. See the MCCPTA website for resources and responsibilities with respect to teen drinking and driving and other safety related issues.

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

We are interesting in hearing from parents about their safety concerns, general and specific. Please email Pammoomau@comcast.net or call me (Pam Momma) at 301-530-9691.

School security. With recent incidents of school violence across the country combined and threats of violence in Montgomery County schools, the safety committee recognizes that this issue is a top priority for parents. We have been researching and discussing possible areas for improvement and advocacy positions for MCCPTA. We are aware that

many parents were dissatisfied with the amount of communication from MCPS and their local schools during the widespread Code Blue events, and have been communicating concerns to MCPS officials.

Because the MCPS philosophy is that each school is in the best position to make many of the decisions affecting its own security, emergency response, and parental notification, it is important for each local PTA to familiarize itself with its own school plans and procedures, and to work with local principals to address community concerns. The safety committee works with MCPS safety and security officials to determine school policies and communicate them with local PTAs. We will try to assist with local advocacy strategies as we examine possible areas for change at the system level. See the report on school security procedures posted to the MCCPTA website, under “safety committee” for information about current security procedures and measures parents can take to promote security in their schools.

Bus safety. At the beginning of the school year, there were several incidents that raised parental concerns about bus safety. One incident raised questions about procedures for ensuring that students board the correct bus get off at the correct stop; the other led to concerns about the safety of bus stop locations.

Parents should know that each MCPS school bus is supposed to have at least a two-way radio as a means of communication with the bus depot, and bus driver training emphasizes the importance of ensuring each child gets off the bus in the right place. However, because on the way home students sometimes ride how with friends, or get off at alternate stops for a variety of reasons, MCPS officials stress with parents that they work with their kids and with school staff to make sure the kids and the school know which bus the kids should board and where they should get off. If there seems to be a delay, parents should first call their school; if the school has no information, call the bus depot; if the bus depot is not helpful, call the central bus depot and division of transportation. It will help considerably if you know your kid’s bus number. Information about bus policies and bus depots can be found at:
<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/transportation/policies.shtm>

According to the MCPS director of transportation, John Matthews, bus stop selection criteria follows the same safety guidelines as those used to determine whether there are safe pedestrian routes for students. The safety committee is planning to research whether we should advocate for changes to these guidelines. If parents have concerns about the safety of a bus stop location, you should start by communicating with your principal and bus depot. Also, please let us know about specific bus stops that you believe pose safety concerns.

Mold and indoor air quality. While MCPS was ahead of many school systems in creating a special environmental safety unit to address mold and other indoor air quality issues, the resources they have devoted to this problem have declined significantly in recent years. If you have concerns about these issues, be sure to mention this unit in your budget testimony. If you are concerned that your school has mold issues, have your school staff submit a request form, or you can submit one yourself. Forms can be found at: <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/forms/staff.shtm#facilities> Scroll down to the “health and safety” section and click on indoor air quality for the form. If your school has already been treated for mold, but you find there is still a problem, another request needs to be submitted. MCPS does not always follow up to make sure the problem has been solved.

Sex offender screening. In a special session last June, the MD legislature passed a bill to prohibit registered sex offenders from working as contractual employees at schools. Implementation of screening is up to the local school district. Safety committee members are continuing to monitor MIPS’s policies and regulations on this issue.

Special Education Committee:

Diane Dickson rvdianedickson@yahoo.com (Co-Chair);

Jennifer Zaranis jfr4806@juno.com (Co-Chair)

The Special Education Committee has been diligently working in getting ready for our two upcoming meetings. Our kickoff meeting was held on Wednesday, October 11 with special guest Mrs. Gwen Mason, Dr. Carey Wright and Mrs. Vickie Strange. They gave a presentation on Special Education new IEP going online and testing statistics. Our next meeting will be held on October 25th which will be our new and returning Chairpersons Training. Packets that have been created by our committee with new and revised materials will be distributed at the meeting. For those that are unable to attend, packets will be sent via pony to schools.

Snacking 101 and Healthy Halloween Tips

Article submitted by Susan Hippchen, RD, MCPS Food and Nutrition Services (Susan_Hippchen@mcpsmd.org) and Tracy Fox, MPH, RD, Health Committee Chair, MCCPTA (tracyfox@comcast.net)

Healthy snacks don't have to be hard to prepare or unhealthy. Try these fun and nutritious options.

- Fruits and veggies: the #1 choice for snacking. Make sure they are easy to get to, clean and cut up. Canned fruits in water, juice or light syrup are healthy and quick options.
- Ants on a log: a fun way to eat celery and carrot sticks - celery and carrot sticks topped with low fat peanut butter and raisins
- Popcorn faces: instead of store-bought cookies - rice cakes with low-fat cream cheese or peanut butter. Get creative with your toppings and let your child design faces out of raisins, nut, carrot sticks, apple slices, and granola.
- Apple Swirl: cheap, quick and low in sugar - buy a large jar of unsweetened applesauce and let your kids add their own cinnamon.
- Healthy trail mix: instead of chips & Doritos: add together unbuttered popcorn, small pretzels, shredded white bite or honey nut cheerios cereal, peanuts and raisins.
- Cheese roll-up: use any type of low-fat cheese slices and roll up your favorite fruit or vegetables such as apples, pears, green peppers or cucumbers.
- Monkey Dip: use low-fat pudding or yogurt and let your child dip a banana.
- A word about drinks: water is the preferred drink choice; other healthy options include low-fat or fat free milk and 100% fruit juice; try mixing juice with seltzer water for a fun "spritzer."
- Go for the golden wheat: whole wheat fig Newton's with a glass of cold low fat or fat free milk
- Chewy, gooier and crunchy: dried fruit and peanut mix.
- To control portion sizes and overeating, put snack items such as crackers into smaller baggies to prevent kids from eating directly out of the bag.

Trick or Treat Tips

Here are some tips to control the candy craze and provide a bit of fun along the way this Halloween.

- **Buy Wise:** it's OK to procrastinate at Halloween - buy your candy at the last minute to avoid temptation. Buy less than what you think you need so you aren't eating leftovers. Try non-candy or healthier food treats like stickers, pencils, crayons, raisins, granola bars, etc.
- **Eat Well:** feed yourself and family a good dinner. Try to have dinner ready earlier than usual to get ready for evening activities. After trick or treating, offer a cup of non-fat or 1% milk with the treats.
- **Walk:** take a long walk around your neighborhood and enjoy the decorations and your neighbors.
- **Sort:** when the candy comes home, sort through it to weed out anything looking suspicious. Kids can make a game of sorting the treats by color, size, or even fat or calorie content; see how the loot stacks up and play a few sorting games before the eating begins. Have the kids discard or give away what they don't like so there is no temptation to eat it.
- **Limit:** set limits on the treats consumed - perhaps kids can pick a few pieces from each sorted pile. Also limit the amount of time kids are out – or take a smaller container to hold the "loot" and when it is full, it's time to check the "goods."
- **Store:** out of sight, out of mind – store the treats in an "out of the way" place.

For more tips and ideas on healthy snacking and Halloween tips, visit the MCCPTA web site – Health Committee section (<http://www.mccpta.com/health.html>)

Proposed Resolution on Health Technicians

Presented by: Rich Edelman, Co-Cluster Coordinator for the Wootton Cluster and Frost MS Delegate

WHEREAS most MCPS Schools have Health Room Aides for between 5 and 6 hours;

WHEREAS MCC PTA believes that 5 or 6 hours of Health Room Aide coverage is insufficient to meet the needs of our children; it is

RESOLVED that MCC PTA supports and will advocate for increased Health Room Aide services so that a Nurse or Health Room Aide will be on duty at every school from ½ hour before the start of the school day to ½ hour after the end of the school day.

Proposed Resolution Student Service Learning Hours (SSL)

Presented by: Sharon St.Pierre, MCCPTA VP Educational Issues

WHEREAS, Maryland State Dept of Education (MSDE) mandates 75 SSL hours for all students as a requirement for graduation under COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations);

WHEREAS, MCPS was granted an exemption to this requirement, and set a requirement of 60 SSL hours. On May 2006, MSDE wrote to MCPS requesting that MCPS raise its SSL requirement to the state standard of 75 hours and begin this requirement with the class of 2009 (current 10th grade class).

WHEREAS, students in their 8th grade year create their 4- year plan, and are notified of graduation requirements at that time.

RESOLVES, that the state mandated increase of SSL hours from 60 to 75 should begin with the graduating class of 2011 (current 8th graders).

MCCPTA DUES PAYMENT VOUCHER FOR 2006-07

Return bottom portion to the MCCPTA office at: MCCPTA, 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204, Rockville, MD 20850 (or through the Pony mail system to MCCPTA, 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204). Keep the top portion for your records.

MCCPTA Dues - Initial Payment - Due November 1, 2006

Name of PTA: _____

Number of Member: Adults _____ Teachers _____ Students _____ Total _____

Amount Remitted (\$1.00 per member): \$ _____ Check# _____

PTA Treasurer: _____ Phone Number _____

Keep this portion for your records.

MCCPTA Dues - Initial Payment - Due November 1, 2006

Name of PTA: _____

Federal Tax ID Number: _____

Number of Member: Adults _____ Teachers _____ Students _____ Total _____

Amount Remitted (\$1.00 per member): \$ _____ Check# _____

PTA Treasurer: _____ Phone Number _____

For MCCPTA Office Use Only:

Delegate Card Numbers:

Date:

Return this portion to MCCPTA

**Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
September 26, 2006
Carver Educational Services Center**

Call to Order: April Keyes, Vice President for Programs called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

Mission of PTA.-Sharon St.Pierre, Vice President for Educational Issues

Introduction: April Keyes introduces, Jane de Winter, MCCPTA President

MCCPTA President -- Jane de Winter reminds all that meetings are to start promptly at 7:30 PM and reminded Delegates that they will have folders at these meetings with meeting/program materials as well as items of information to take back to their local PTAs.

MCCPTA Officers for 2006-07 are introduced: VP for Education Issues, Sharon St. Pierre, VP for Administration, Cassandra Abdelmeguid, VP for Programs, April Keyes, VP for Legislation, Victor Salazar, Recording Secretary for Delegate Assemblies, Kay Romero, Recording Secretary for Board of Directors, Liz Wheeler and Treasurer, Juan Johnson

Area Vice Presidents (VPs) are elected by their areas and their roles in MCCPTA are to oversee clusters, interact with clusters and as issues arise for clusters they are the next step up.

Clarksburg, Magruder, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill- Allyson Morrison
Seneca Valley, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard- Jim Keenan
Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Wootton- Kate Savage
Blake, Paint Branch, Sherwood, Springbrook- Debra Stevens-Panzer, Phil Kauffman
Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood- Sally Taber
B-CC, Walter Johnson, Walt Whitman, Wheaton- Liz Brennan

As Delegates you are a conduit for information from locals to us. You are asked to bring local views and concerns forward as well as take back items from MCCPTA as addressed in Delegates Assemblies and elsewhere. PTA Presidents need to make sure to have time on PTA agendas to hear from your Delegates about information from MCCPTA Delegate Assemblies as well as being informed as to the big picture of what is going on in other parts of county. PTAs will be hearing about resolutions in October from Delegates.

Folders will contain items of information from MCCPTA, MCPS and other community groups' activities. Delegate Assembly General Protocol Sheet, Must Do's for PTAs, as well as agendas for assemblies are some items in folders tonight along with other items. Presidents received handbooks for Delegates in June to be distributed to Delegates and other officers. The handbooks are also located on MCCPTA website for downloading or you can notify MCCPTA Office for copies.

There will be programs at assemblies approximately 1/2 hour to 45 minutes. (Please note the slight change in time for the upcoming BOE Candidates Forum meeting). Board of Education Candidates Forum is on October 24, 2006, 7PM-8PM. This will involve brief statements from the candidates then questions. The MCCPTA business meeting will be immediately after Board of Education Candidates Forum. First on the agenda will be the pending resolutions then the remainder of the business meeting. Delegate Assembly programs are taped and replayed on MCPS TV channels in case you may want to review a particular program or have your school communities view programs.

Resolutions are statements of beliefs and positions. Resolutions will be introduced one month to anticipate any edits, changes. Delegates will be asked to take back to locals, seek local's opinions while sharing the information and background of resolutions. Delegates should also report back any changes your locals would like to make or concerns from locals. The following month, Delegates should be prepared to participate in vote representing your local PTA's position.

Any Delegate or PTA President can bring a resolution to assembly. There are times resolutions can be referred to a particular committee for follow-up, more research, background information or clarifications.

Agenda: Tonight we have 2 resolutions to be introduced, proposed budget, as well as minutes from May Delegates Assembly. We need motions to approve, seconds to motions proposed and take votes to move things forward.

Approval of Minutes: On motion made and seconded, draft minutes for the May 23, 2006 Delegates Assembly were approved as corrected by show of hands vote.

Treasurer's Report: Juan Johnson, MCCPTA Treasurer presented proposed budget for 2006-07 with comparison to last year's budget. Dues were increased from \$.75 to \$1.00. President/Principal Dinner funds are a wash as money taken in goes back out in expenses for dinner. Juan explained why dinner will cost more this year as location will change along with other cost related increases involved.

Motion was made and seconded to accept budget. Budget for 2006-07 was approved as presented by show of hands vote.

Juan introduced MCCPTA Balance Sheet as of September 25, 2006. It was noted that \$19,000 was held in reserve to anticipate payment for 1st installment of insurance for locals by MCCPTA. Local PTAs are then billed.

Follow-up question was asked if all PTA activities are covered under insurance. Juan noted that most not all activities are covered under general liability such as for book fairs, regular events, meetings and Back to School Nights, etc. Special events that are possibly high risk may need rider and may not be covered under general liability. Phone insurance agent (David Feldmann) to make sure and get further information. Information concerning this issue is provided in Treasurer's handbook. If PTAs should need a Certificate of Insurance for verification needs, that can be obtained from insurance agent. The contact info is in Blue Book, treasurer's handbook and website. Every month there should be a treasurer's report on PTA meeting agendas.

MCCPTA Profit and Loss Statement for July 1 through September 25, 2006 was presented.

Committee Report: Ted Willard, Co-Chair of Curriculum Committee updated all on 2 resolutions passed last year—Resolution on use of films in schools as well as resolution concerning social studies and science curriculum. Last week a MCPS memo was sent to schools concerning film use as well as parental permission for some aspects. Office of School Performance is meeting with elementary principals in addressing science and social studies curriculum needs in elementary schools. It is stressed that school communities need to follow up on school based decisions in this area.

Business Items-Introduction of Proposed Resolutions:

Resolution #1—Proposed Resolution on Health Technicians

Rich Edelman, Co-Cluster Coordinator for the Wootton Cluster and Frost MS Delegate, introduced the Health Technician Resolution (Health Room Aides) for delegates to take back to locals for discussions before this resolution is brought back in October for vote.

Motion to bring this resolution forward was made and seconded. Action will be taken on this resolution at the October Delegates Assembly.

Proposed Resolution on Health Technicians

Presented by: Rich Edelman, Co-Cluster Coordinator for the Wootton Cluster and Frost MS Delegate

Whereas most MCPS Schools have Health Room Aides for between 5 and 6 hours;

Whereas MCC PTA believes that 5 or 6 hours of Health Room Aide coverage is insufficient to meet the needs of our children; it is

Resolved that MCC PTA supports and will advocate for increased Health Room Aide services so that a Nurse or Health Room Aide will be on duty at every school from ½ hour before the start of the school day to ½ hour after the end of the school day.

Additional Background:

MCPS has Nurses who are Registered Nurses, but they are typically assigned to two or three schools and split time between/among them.

All schools have Health Room Aides who are Certified Nurse Assistants (generally they have over 100 hours of training for certification).

No school has full day Nurse and Health Room Aide coverage.

The Health Room Aide position is funded not from MCPS but from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. [Advocacy on this issue would have to be direct to the County Council.] Entry level pay for Health Room Aides is \$15 per hour.

Expansion of Health Room coverage for some schools was discussed as part of the County Council deliberations on the FY '07 Budget, but additional spending was not authorized for this year.

Informational questions/issues are raised: Who pays? We would advocate for County Council to appropriate funds. Discussion was done previously at County Council last spring and follow up needed.

This would be funded by Department of Health and Human Services in which County Council can appropriate funds.

Need report from MCCPTA Health and Safety Committee as May Delegate Assembly minutes reflected this being referred to committees.

Legal questions are raised about before school and after school. Does this correlate with teacher hours?

Various discussions concerning children who are diabetic and with significant health needs about resolution proposed and having staff available to cover these issues when substitutes are needed. Floater aides in schools.....?

Question raised on cost of this? One attendee noted it could be around \$600,000 as estimated for one hour coverage per school.

Is this in school budget? It is not as this is separate line in county budget.

Hours-6 ½ for health tech and 8 hours for school nurse—Clarification on this item needed-What are the allocations per each?

Nurses assigned 2 to 3 schools with only a few schools having full time coverage between both nurses and health aides. Everyone else has less than full day.

A couple of schools may have full time nurses for specific needs in school community the rest of schools less than full day

For schools with high needs substitutes go to those first

Use listserv for discussion/ideas concerning this resolution.

Resolution #2--Proposed Student Service Learning Hours (SSL) Resolution

Sharon St.Pierre, MCCPTA VP for Education Issues brought forward a resolution for Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours

SSL hours are community service hours to fulfill graduation requirements.

Background: State mandated 75 hours under COMAR.

Since 2003 MCPS has had waiver from state for 60 hours to help meet MCPS goals for SSL hours to be of higher quality and more meaningful. Maryland State Department of Education has asked MCPS in May 2006 to increase SSL hours from 60 hours to 75 hours with October as timeline for Dr. Weast to respond with how to and when this will be done. Maryland State Department of Education wants to start with this year's sophomore class.

The Superintendent's advisory board met and wants this new requirement to start with 8th graders due to 4 year planning with guidance counselors, parents and students.

Starting in 8th graded was a good place to begin this compromise with complete notifications of expectations to all in high school planning. Dr. Weast is in agreement with compromise for starting with 8th graders and is in talks with Dr. Grasmick.

Resolution is being presented for 8th grade so as to have MCCPTA go on record with a position while MCPS lobbies Maryland State Department of Education just in case that does not work out. MCCPTA will then have an official position in case we have to lobby Maryland State Department of Education. Motion to bring this resolution forward was made and seconded. Action will be taken on this resolution at the October Delegates Assembly.

Proposed Student Service Learning Hours (SSL) Resolution

Presented by: Sharon St.Pierre, MCCPTA VP Educational Issues

WHEREAS, Maryland State Dept of Education (MSDE) mandates 75 SSL hours for all students as a requirement for graduation under COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations);

WHEREAS, MCPS was granted an exemption to this requirement, and set a requirement of 60 SSL hours. On May 2006, MSDE wrote to MCPS requesting that MCPS raise its SSL requirement to the state standard of 75 hours and begin this requirement with the class of 2009 (current 10th grade class).

WHEREAS, students in their 8th grade year create their 4- year plan, and are notified of graduation requirements at that time.

MCCPTA RESOLVES, that the state mandated increase of SSL hours from 60 to 75 should begin with the graduating class of 2011 (current 8th graders).

Continued discussion:

Question was asked if State PTA has a position on SSL hours.

Other counties have 75 requirements for SSL while we are the only county with 60 hours for SSL requirements

Question was raised if PTAs are on SSL forms as approved activities? SSL hours are for community related activity. SSL hours for some activities have to be pre-approved.

Concerns were raised about older students fulfilling this requirement especially if they transfer into school system late.

This proposed resolution deals with when do you want 75 hours to start 8th grade or 10th grade? Does MCCPTA need to have a position at all? We need feedback from school communities. More information will be provided via listserv.

The resolution was brought forward by motion and seconded.

Delegates are being asked to take back to their school communities for feedback, edits or additions.

Operating Budget: Dr. Jane De Winter provided information about the operating budget and officer activity concerning MCPS budget.

FY2008-Strategic Planning Forum and items related to this are in folders.

The Strategic Plan Summary is a synopsis of MCPS's Strategic Plan. The full strategic plan is located on the MCPS website.

A blue feedback card from MCPS was provided in folder to be filled out and mailed. MCPS was to have provided additional cards in English as well as in additional languages so Delegates could take back to school communities for PTAs to fill out. MCCPTA will follow up as to whereabouts of the extra cards needed by locals and post to Bulletin Listserv about how to obtain more blue feedback cards for your PTAs and school communities. More information will also be provided on how to obtain the blue feedback cards in languages other than English for your individual schools. It is important for PTAs to fill these cards out as this is what MCPS will use to address budgetary issues. MCPS and others have indicated it is going to be a tougher budget year. Fill out as many cards as you need and fill out as well on MCPS website. Feedback cards are due back by end of October.

The 4 questions to be answered on blue feedback card from MCPS are: In what areas is the school system doing well? In what areas can the school system improve? If Board of Education received extra resources for the operating budget, what would be the best use of the resources? High School students must pass the High School Assessments (HSA) in order to graduate starting with the class of 2009. What is needed to ensure that all high school students pass the HSA exams? Your input is crucial. MCPS website has the 4 questions posted there to be filled out and submitted online and website info is on blue cards. Locals need to make sure to post this information on their school listservs. MCCPTA will follow-up with school system about what information was gathered from blue cards.

On bulletin board in auditorium the feedback gathered from summer area meetings that MCCPTA officers had with each of the 6 quad clusters is posted on wall this evening. Please review for what we need to do for advocacy priorities as an organization. This helps to identify areas of concern for budgetary advocacy. This also includes items identified from last year in area meetings. A comment was noted that MCCPTA needs to ask for transparency in MCPS budget.

Reminder was given about October 7, 2006 MCCPTA training for PTAs at Carver. Flyer and information about each of the 21 sessions offered are in folders.

Volunteers are needed to work on a committee concerning ICB issues. If you are interested please provide your name and contact information.

Committee Briefs and Fair: Committees and their role in organization were highlighted. Each Committee Chair or Co-Chair was introduced. Committee leadership gave information about what their committees do. It was noted that after meeting is adjourned attendees should visit committee tables to hear about committee work and volunteer for any committee they would like to help with.

Listings and contact information for all MCCPTA Officers, Area/Cluster Coordinators and Committee Chairs for 2006-07 was provided in folders.

Adjournment: The business meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM

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

Pony Mailing

OCTOBER 2006

MCCPTA Calendar 2006-2007

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

October	19	7:30-9pm	Safety Committee Meeting, Cafeteria
	19	7-9pm	Legislative Committee Meeting, Rm 114
	24	7:00pm	Delegate Assembly, BOE Candidate Forum
	25	7:30pm	BOD meets with BOE, Cafeteria
	25	7:00-9:30pm	Special Education liaisons training, Auditorium
	30		CIP released
November	1	7:30 -9pm	CIP Forum, Cafeteria
	10, 11		MD State Convention, Ocean City
	13	6:30-9:30pm	Legislative Dinner, BOD with Legislators
	15, 16	7:00pm	CIP testimony to BOE, Auditorium
	20	7:30pm	BOE meeting/CIP decisions
	28	7:30pm	Delegate Assembly