

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, December 7, 2006 at Richard Montgomery High School

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Jane de Winter, April Keyes, Liz Wheeler, Juan Johnson, Sharon St.Pierre, Kay Romero

Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators: Phil Kaufman, Jim Keenan, Ted Willard, Steve Crowley, Paul Morrison, Deborah DeMille-Wagman, Ellen Paul, Harlivleen Gill, Deborah Stevens-Panzer, Sally Taber, Elizabeth Enders, Jaimie Jacobson

Committee Chairs: Patti Twigg, Marney Jacobs, Diane Dickson, Vicki Rafel, Sharon Schulman

OPENING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

Agenda: The agenda was accepted as written with no new business added.

Minutes/Secretary's Report: The November 2, 2006 Board of Directors (BOD) meeting minutes were distributed. One correction, to add Kay Romero's name to officers present, was made. The minutes stand approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Budget

The Membership Log for 2006-2007 was distributed. It is current for MD PTA amounts as of the end of October and for MCCPTA as of mid November. Cluster coordinators should send reminders to their local PTAs not listed in the paid column. Copies of the Treasurer's report weren't distributed, but a copy was circulated for those present to review. Insurance is the major activity, and bills went out this week. Call the MCCPTA office if your local didn't get a bill. The Treasurer will make a list of outstanding bills in about one month.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Vice President for Programs:

The Vice President is vetting a draft of a corporate sponsorship letter for the presidents and principals dinner, which should be out by the end of next week. Please let the President or Vice President know if you have any connections at any local businesses so we can send them our letter or you can hand deliver them. January's Delegate Assembly (DA) program will feature a speaker on Middle School Reform, February's program will focus on HSAs and March's will focus on safety. The Vice President gave a Reflections update because the committee chair wasn't present. (See committee reports below.) A room hasn't been reserved for the May DA, yet.

President's Report:

The President distributed a list of her activities from November 6 to December 6. The correspondence file was circulated. Please contact the president if you want to fill one of the three seats left at our table December 12 at 7 am at the Committee for Montgomery Breakfast, and/or the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on January 15. Both events are held at the Bethesda North Conference Center. Current issues were reviewed, including:

Relationship with state/national PTAs – MCCPTA is bound not to take positions that conflict with MD PTA and National PTA.

Role of Committees - By Robert's Rules the president can appoint committee members and can remove a committee member. MCCPTA committee chairs are elected by the Executive Committee. Committee guidelines are in the BOD handbook. Committees aren't separate entities and must support and follow the charge of the organization as in Robert's Rules and our BOD handbook.

Bylaws - Marilyn Ryan, MD PTA council bylaws chair was consulted regarding the question of an officer applying to fill a public office vacancy. According to MD PTA, as currently written, our bylaws do not require an officer to resign when applying for an appointment to public office. Mary Jo Neil, MD PTA President, will confer with the MD PTA parliamentarian and MD PTA Executive Board on December 9. If the Delegates want to require officers to resign upon their application for appointment to public office, they can amend the bylaws.

The Operating Budget Compact and Priorities as passed by the DA last month were sent to the county council, Board of Education (BOE), Dr. Weast, Larry Bowers and Marshall Spatz. MCCPTA comments on Policy FFA (school naming policy) were also sent to the BOE. The MCCPTA reply re: Policy IEB and Policy JFA will include the main points discussed at the November DA. Public comment is due on these on December 12 and 15. The delegates voted for MCCPTA to write a letter on Policy JFA without taking a position. Policy IEB and JFA comments from the delegate assembly will be posted on the bulletin.

The President received a request from the Drive for Supplies program to make a brief presentation at a DA. Dr. Weast would like all schools to participate this year. The presentation could be done at the April DA.

The directory (blue book) was sent to schools this week. Each BOD member gets one copy and should sign for his/her own or if taking one for another BOD member.

Those interested in ICB issues should contact the President.

AGENDA ITEMS:

CLUSTER REPORTS: (by Cluster Coordinators/Area Vice Presidents present)

Poolesville: Three nominations were made for cluster coordinators for the Poolesville cluster.

Jim Keenan made a motion to approve Roger Hayden, Maria Dolan and Carrie Jackson as Poolesville cluster coordinators. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Quince Orchard: The cluster is focused on: construction, including a gym at Thurgood Marshall, modernizations and additions at Fields Road; Brown Station's issues due to age; and working through the CIP and Operating Budget.

Richard Montgomery: A site coordinator resolution is being reviewed and voted on by the cluster schools. Background to the initiation of the resolution was given, which will be brought to MCCPTA after all cluster schools have voted.

Whitman: Cluster construction includes a gym at Burning Tree Elementary and a nine room addition at Pyle Middle School. In addition, they're discussing the acceleration of math and its implications at the high school level, and they will have an informational meeting in February. The cluster has also weighed in on the calendar process.

Rockville: The cluster is seeking a bus for underprivileged students to encourage school attendance.

Churchill: Advisory groups are meeting at Bells Mills, Seven Locks and Cabin John. Grading and reporting issues and math A and B are also under discussion.

DCC: The Cluster Coordinators are meeting on December 12.

Blair: They're discussing the operating budget and will bring a third name for nomination as a Cluster Coordinator.

Clarksburg: An elementary school is to be built at Milestone. Rocky Hill and Little Bennett are participating in Reflections for the first time. The cluster is trying to limit fundraisers to once a year. Rocky Hill uses "tea bag" fund raising at home and Cedar Grove uses REACH (donations for reading). Clarksville is proud of its first All-Met soccer player.

Walter Johnson: The cluster discussed the White Flint sector plan. A recent fire affected a Farmland Elementary School family.

Sherwood: Sherwood's PTSA voted last night to raise funds to pay for Comcast center for their graduation. If they can't raise the needed money MCPS still has DAR reserved for the same date and time.

Seneca Valley: Focus is on CIP issues. Montgomery County representatives, the chamber of commerce and civic associations are involved in cluster issues, too. Northwest and Seneca Valley are working together on Germantown issues.

Magruder: Cluster topics include the transition between 8th and 9th grade and the Shady Grove sector plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Reflections:

Reflections entries are due to the MCCPTA office on Tuesday, January 2. It's recommended that you call the MCCPTA office manager and arrange to bring them in rather than mail them. Please follow the entry form directions, paying attention to signatures and artist's statement, and make sure that your unit is in good standing. Additional volunteer judges (teachers or parents) are needed at the county level for art, photography, film, music and dance. You can't judge your own school's entries. January 8 is the goal for entries to go to the judges. If your school has less than five entries, then all entries advance to the state. Entries are due to MD PTA on February 2. The third Annual Reflections Awards Ceremony will be held April 25 at Northwest High School. Reflections reminders will be posted on the listserv.

CIP:

The BOE approved the Superintendent's CIP recommendations without additions. No further boundary actions will be taken. Please inform the new county council members and BOE members of your school CIP issues. The committee chairs met with Mike Knapp re: the task force.

Curriculum Committee:

The committee co-chair distributed background to the following resolution from the committee:

Resolution On Course In Personal Financial Management

WHEREAS, one of the most critical skills needed by adults in our society is personal financial management; including but not limited to knowledge of: how to manage bank accounts and credit/debit cards and understand the interest on them, how to create and follow a budget, how to understand a contract and its legal ramifications, how to calculate the aggregate costs of a loan, how to understand the charges on a bill, how to determine the true value of discounts, why gambling is not recommended as a career choice, and how to guard against identity theft and scams; and

WHEREAS, intelligent, educated people regularly and increasingly are taken in by scams, outspend their incomes, declare bankruptcy, wind up in court, or simply waste their money because they lack these skills; and

WHEREAS, credit cards are now routinely available to teenagers and college students who can legally sign contracts when they are 18 years old, but who have no experience or instruction in money management; and

WHEREAS, personal financial competence is as critical to success and happiness as physical health or a successful career, but the needed skills cannot be picked up from the media or social activities and a large proportion of parents either do not or cannot teach these skills to their children; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Council on Economic Education, as stated in the mission statement, recommends that children leave high school equipped with the economic knowledge and decision-making skills they need to make informed, rational decisions as consumers, workers, citizens, savers, investors and participants in the global economy. An understanding of basic economic principles and our free enterprise system is vital to an individual's ability to be a responsible consumer, a productive worker, a prudent saver, an investor, and an informed voter, and

WHEREAS, a one semester course in Health is required by the State of Maryland for high school graduation on the assumption that this is critical knowledge, even though it does not fit into the course progression for other academic disciplines; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Montgomery County schools should develop a one semester course in personal finance that should cover these and related subjects and that this course should be made available at every county high school.

Sharon Schulman made a motion that the Board of Directors endorse the above resolution from the Curriculum Committee.

Discussion of the motion included: lack of personal or consumer education in high school; one semester courses (e.g. health); consumer mathematics; requirements; work study; suggestion of more research on consumer mathematics before bringing the resolution to the delegates; and using it to satisfy technology credit requirements.

Juan Johnson made a motion to table this motion until the January Board of Directors. It was seconded and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Operating Budget:

The Operating Budget will be presented by Dr. Weast on December 13 at Rockville High School. Maintenance of effort, per pupil spending, spending affordability guidelines, and charter limits were discussed. There's \$11 million less funding initially. This year is Thornton's last. State money is up \$74 million above last year. \$27.1 million of that is the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI). The operating budget forum is January 8. January 10 and 11 are testimony dates. Questions to the county council, MCPS and BOE panel participants can be submitted at the operating budget forum. A testimony preparation meeting will be held January 6.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.