

MCCPTA

February 4, 2011 Committee Reports

ESOL Committee

Joy Burdin: triplejand@yahoo.com

An example of a school with a strong ESOL program can be found at the B-CC PTA. Here are some highlights to share:

The B-CC PTSA has a long tradition of reaching out to parents of students enrolled in ESOL classes and other parents with limited English proficiency. This spring marks the tenth year that the PTSA has sponsored beginner and intermediate English classes for parents. The ten week program meets two evenings a week and is open to any parent with children in one of the B-CC cluster schools. Also, for several years, the PTSA, with support from the B-CC Educational Foundation, has offered a basic computer skills program taught in English with Spanish translation. The B-CC PTSA, with additional contributions from cluster schools, covers the costs of the ESOL classes. Both programs are available to parents for a minimal fee of \$20 per session.

The PTSA is continually seeking ways to engage ESOL parents in their children's education. In a new effort to meet this goal, this past September, the ESOL Department, with funding from the PTSA, provided a dinner for parents of ESOL students prior to the start of the Back To School Night program. The dinner hour provided a key opportunity for parents to meet ESOL teachers, school administrators, and PTSA volunteers. Several parents activated Edline accounts that evening. As a result of this program, many more ESOL parents attended Back To School Night this past fall than in prior years. Additionally, as in past years, the PTSA continues to hold at least one evening PTSA program each semester in Spanish. The subjects of these meetings include an introduction to high school and the college application process.

If your school has any ideas to share about your ESOL efforts, we'd love to hear them! Please contact Joy Burdin if you are interested in increasing your ESOL efforts or have any questions.

Gifted and Talented Committee

Michelle Gluck: gluck.michelle@yahoo.com

The Gifted Child Subcommittee continues to monitor developments in the Math Work Group recommendations as they apply to math students who need to work above grade level, and to the Common Core curriculum rollout projected for FY 2011-12. Michelle also participated in a focus group on the Superintendent search process.

Guidance and Counseling Committee

Jeannie Dillingham: jeannie_616@msn.com

As the result of low attendance, we will try something new: we will meet via conference on February 23 at 6:30. If you are interested in participating in the conference meeting, please contact me at the above email.

High School Committee

Dave Lechner: dave@lechneronline.com

In order of items in 2010/2011 Work Plan -

1. Recognizing Issues: Sent out survey questions to all HS Presidents. Compiling responses..
2. Communications: No further action since HS E-List was "refreshed" via contacts to all HS Presidents.
3. Summarize Email Historic Content - no action this month.
4. Verify that all MCPS PTSA High School Presidents are aware of and "on" the Electronic Mail list - Completed, except for one HS (still seeking data).
5. County-wide projects and programs - See below.

Specific Actions / Projects:

1. Running a contest for Safe-Prom night Project launched - Ongoing. Responses due Feb 28.
 2. HS Model United Nations event....Requested HS contact info from HS Presidents.
 3. Parking Lot Safety - Had lengthy discussion with MCPS Office of Facilities. Surveying HS Presidents for info.
 4. Test Day Survey - in process - request for data sent out on HS President E-List.
 5. Joint Curriculum discussion event with the Curric. Committee... Planned for later this year.
 6. Special Programs - no action this month..
 7. Shakespeare Video Contest or Festival Event - Collecting contact inputs..
 8. MCPS Policy IED (H.Schools). - Reviewing newly-approved Policy to see if MCCPTA comments made a difference.
 9. Relationship to the Booster club and After-Prom Committees - No action to date.
 10. SAT/PSAT Test preparations - Requested inputs from HS Presidents.
 11. Share topics and speakers - no action to date.
 12. PTSAs involvement in SIP - no actions to date.
- (Note - Items 9,11, and 12 will be active the next several months).

Legislative Committee

Patrick Dunn: patrickdunn65@yahoo.com

Annapolis Night will be on Monday, February 28. We will be coordinating the visit with Montgomery County Education Association, the same as last year. All PTA members are invited to come to Annapolis, meet our legislators, and advocate for our top priorities. It is extremely important for us to show up in numbers to show support for increased state funding. Please look for information in MCCPTA Bulletin Announcements.

The Legislation Committee is working with the MDPTA Legislation Committee to monitor General Assembly bills pertaining to education issues and report back to MCCPTA.

The Governor's budget proposal was more hopeful than expected in terms on pushing teacher pension costs to counties and in education funds for Mont Co.

Membership Committee

Janette Gilman: janettegilman@verizon.net

The MCCPTA Membership Committee continues to work with local PTA/PTSA leaders to grow membership, answer inquiries, and problem-solve to increase our local effectiveness and our collective voice for the children of Montgomery County.

Based on the membership numbers provided by MD PTA in the December 2010 edition of its Standards of Continuing Affiliation (SOCA), we reached out to the president of each local PTA/PTSA that did not yet

appear to have paid dues to Maryland PTA (about 60 units). Those notes generated responses from many of the leaders contacted, uncovering administrative oversights, leading to positive exchanges on building membership, and in a number of cases revealing units that are very much "on the grow".

The committee also used MCCPTA e-lists to share ideas on how to build membership in December and January. The latest, on growing membership in the New Year, was sent in early January.

Please remember that this year MCCPTA will be presenting MCCPTA Membership Awards at the May Principal-Presidents Dinner. These awards compliment the Maryland PTA membership awards program. MCCPTA membership awards will be given for a) percentage growth in local PTAs by 5% increments (up to 5%, 10%, etc.); b) absolute numbers—the largest—PTA/PTSA by category of school (elementary, middle, high, or special school); and c) greatest parent involvement calculated by the ratio of the total number of students to total membership. Locals must be in good standing, and membership numbers used will be those on record at Maryland PTA as of March 31, 2011, so please encourage your treasurers and membership chairs or vice presidents to make one final push and then to get their dues in to MCCPTA and to Maryland/National PTA.

Presidents and Principals Dinner

Dale Ryan: dalejryan@yahoo.com

The date for the P&P dinner remains as previously advertized - Wednesday May 18.

- Social hour starts at 6PM (no food) and Dinner begins at 7PM.
- Location - Bethesda North Marriott Convention Center.

Mr. Leon Harris (ABC/WJLA TV) will serve a MC for the event.

Members of the P&P committee met in January and finalized the sponsorship letter.

MCCPTA office emailed first set of sponsorship letters out last week.

To encourage more sponsors, we have reduced the sponsorship contributions:

- 1) your name or business listed in the program, and get a ticket for only \$75.
- 2) Business card size ads and a ticket are only \$125

We are asking each PTA to send names/emails of businesses they normally do business with to the MCCPTA office.

Invitations to the dinner will go out via email to Presidents, delegates, and Principals next month. Cost of each ticket will be set based on sponsorship response.

Estimated = \$50 to \$55 per ticket.

Committee to meet on 2/10 at the MCCPTA office at 7 PM. If you are interested in being involved as a committee member or you know a business that would like to sponsor the dinner, please contact Dale.

Safety & Health Committee

Donna Pfeiffer: donnapfeiffer@gmail.com 301-370-3200

Susan Burkinshaw: susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net 301-758-6995

With a WHOLE lot of advocating to save the School Resource Officers (SROs) Program, County Council decided to keep the nine officers in place until June 2011 (originally the program was going to be eliminated Jan.1,2011). The SRO program will be back on the chopping block in July. We'll continue to meet with County Council, Board of Ed members and the Chief of Police to strengthen the political will for this valuable program that focuses on the safety of our students, staff and local communities.

Donna and Susan have formed partnerships with a group of other organizations to create a letter of support for SROs that share the same goals as our MCCPTA Resolution on SROs. Our goal is to collect signatures from various county leaders, community, cultural and civic groups. If you're a member of another county organization (civic association, arts, music, rec organization .), please contact Donna or Susan to get a copy of this letter so we can recruit additional signatures of support.

Upcoming Safety & Health Committee Meetings:
All are WELCOME & encouraged to attend!

Thursday, February 24th meeting 7pm @ Carver Auditorium.

- Our speaker will be Marla Caplon, Director, of Div. of Food and Nutrition Service for MCPS

Tuesday, March 29th 7-9pm at Carver Auditorium

- Our speaker will be Kathleen Michels, Program Director-Neuroscience Cluster NIH. Kathleen has done extensive research on artificial turf.

Special Education Committee

Jeanne Taylor: frtjmt@aol.com

Our next meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, February 7, 2011. We will meet in the Carver cafeteria to watch a movie about sensory integration. If time allows we will also watch a second video, "Misunderstood Minds."

Preparations are well under way for our twenty-third Annual Recognition ceremony, which is scheduled for the evening of Monday, May 9, 2011. The MCCPTA web site has been updated with the latest links to the online nomination forms. The Rockville high school auditorium has been secured and requests for nominations have gone out on various lists. Invitations have been sent out to those who traditionally help with the ceremony. Additional nomination solicitations and invitations will go out within the next few days. A local band - made up of Sherwood high school students - has been asked to play at the ceremony. Food arrangements with Bistro Catering at the Rock Terrace school will also begin in the next month.

The directory of local PTA Special Education Chairs needs to be updated. It will be posted to the SPED Chair list later this week.