

MCCPTA

November, 2010 Committee Reports

Capital Improvement Program Committee

Steve Augustino: sauggiedog@comcast.net

In October, the CIP Committee continued to work toward pursuit of our budget objectives for school construction.

CIP Budget. On October 15, the Superintendent released recommendations in response to the roundtables on Monocacy ES and ES enrollment in the BCC cluster. On October 28, the Superintendent released his recommendation for the FY 2012 capital budget and amendments to the FY 11-16 CIP. MCCPTA released a statement that the Recommendation furthered our CIP priorities, as adopted at the October Delegates Assembly.

FACT Assessments. In August and September, Kristin Triple and I attended weekly meetings with MCPS and EMG Group to refine the proposed FACT Assessment criteria and to develop scoring metrics for each factor. The draft document is still being prepared, but we are hopeful that EMG will release it soon. Clusters and individual schools may comment on proposed scoring criteria some time in November. The BOE is targeting action on the FACT Assessments at its December 2010 meeting. MCCPTA will submit comments, and the CIP Committee will provide materials to assist cluster and individual school comments.

2010 CIP Committee Initiatives. The CIP Committee's workplan identifies three initiatives for the 2010-11 school year: (1) review of countywide CIP projects; (2) drafting of a Parents' Guide to the Construction Process; and (3) study of costs related to the maintenance and renewal of athletic fields. The Committee is recruiting volunteers to assist with each of these initiatives.

Recent or upcoming CIP-related dates are highlighted below.

- Oct. 15 – Superintendent's Recommendations re Monocacy ES Roundtable and Bethesda-Chevy Chase Enrollment Roundtable.
- Oct. 28 – Superintendent's Recommended CIP Released
- Oct. 29 – Comments on BOE Renewal and Modernization Policy (Policy FKB)
- Nov. 3 – MCCPTA-MCPS CIP Forum (to be taped by Cable TV Montgomery)
- Nov. 4 – BOE CIP Worksession
- Nov. 6 – MCCPTA CIP Comment Workshop (**Please RSVP!**)
- Nov. 10 and 11 – BOE CIP Hearings (Cluster Comments)
- Nov. 18 – BOE Vote on CIP
- Nov. – Comments on FACT Assessment Criteria (with scoring criteria)

Cultural Arts Committee

Priscilla Peterson: PrisFP@verizon.net

The 2010 Cultural Arts Showcases were presented on October 4th, 5th, 11th and 15th. Of the 142 performers listed in the Performing Arts Catalogue, 78 were presented at the Showcases. All performers who had requested an opportunity to perform were accommodated; the others were not available on those dates. Each performer presented a 15 minute segment of their show. Attendance at the Showcases ranged from 25 adults and children on Oct. 11th to 62 adults and children on Oct. 15th.

This year the Showcases were videotaped for the first time, and all audience participants in the presentations were asked to sign a permission/release form. The videotapes have not yet been made available, but as soon as they are ready I will be posting the information about how to view them online. Copies of the Performing Arts Catalogue were given out to school representatives at the Showcases, and the catalogue is also available online (posted on the PTArts e-list and by MCCPTA.) At the Showcases I began the process of updating the Cultural Arts Budget Survey I

did last year, and will also be posting that information when it is more complete. I had numerous sign-ups for the PTArts e-list and now have 182 members.

At the Maryland State PTA Convention in Linthicum, I will be participating in a panel discussion on Cultural Arts, on Saturday, November 13th at 1:30 p.m.

ESOL Committee

Joy Burdin: triplejand@yahoo.com

This past two months the committee has met with support groups available for the ESOL children and families. There are many tools available to ESOL student and families. This link <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/esol/> will allow you to look and obtain information to enable you to pass along these resources to others. Also a resource to our PTA's can be found at office@mdpta.org in which you can get the following materials in Spanish:

- 100 Ways to Help Your Child and School Succeed
- Help Your Child Join PTA!
- PTA: Helping Your School Achieve More
- Programs de PTA Accion Local Impacto Nacional

Together we can make a difference by engaging ESOL families to become involved!

Gifted and Talented Committee

Michelle Gluck: gluck.michelle@yahoo.com

The GT Liaisons Fall Training Meeting was held on October 25, 2010 at Magruder High School. More than 30 schools were represented and heard presentations from committee members and MCPS staff. Margie Lope and Marisa Stemple from the Division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction attended and gave presentations and provided numerous information handouts to the Liaisons. Copies of all of the handouts are being sent out to schools whose representatives were not able to attend in person.

Michelle Gluck, along with Ted Willard, attended an informal meeting of the AEI Advisory Committee on October 12th and received an update about the SIPPI pilot that was later presented to the BOE on October 25th.

Any interested parents are invited to contact Michelle to join the committee's E-lists and become involved in its activities.

Guidance and Counseling Committee

Jeannie Dillingham: jeannie_616@msn.com

Meeting minutes from 10/28/10:

Our meeting started at 7:30 p.m. with everyone introducing themselves.

The first order of business was to review the mission of the Guidance and Counseling committee, which was sent to each member prior to the meeting. The MCPS staff were pleased that the committee requested a meeting with them to discuss how we can work together.

Most of the meeting was spent with Dr. Newton and Mrs. Wilks explaining the vision and mission of the MCPS Department of Student Services Guidance and Counseling services, as well as the role of the counselors and student services staff at the school level. The committee was also given detailed information on the **Collaborative Problem Solving** or **CPS** approach to students in need of interventions based on failing grades. It was explained that the CPS approach was rolled out in the last school year; and training was made available to all MCPS counseling staff so that full implementation could take place during the current school year. It was felt by the committee that this approach will be very effective when fully implemented. Parents of the committee expressed an appreciation in better understanding the role of the counselors in the school as it relates to the children, as well as the parents.

Because the overall feeling of the committee is that the parents, and consequently the students, do not understand the role of the school guidance counselors, the committee came up with some potential activities that will be scheduled throughout the year designed to support the guidance and counseling area of the school system. These

activities will need some time and thought put to them by the committee in how they will be carried out, but the main goal of these activities is to give better exposure of the counselors to the parents. One idea that seemed to be a popular one is to encourage the schools to host a “**Meet the Counselors**” event at the schools, much like the “Meet the Principal” events that many schools are currently hosting. This will allow the counselors to share with the parents their specific responsibilities within the school and how those responsibilities relate to their children as students, as well as to the parents. It is felt that because the role of the counselor is not always clearly defined, that the parents, and possibly the students, do not always see the counselors as a student advocate. The majority of the committee feels being a student advocate is the most important role of the school guidance counselors.

Another activity that was discussed and will be refined and rolled out to the schools before the end of the calendar year is information on **School Counselor’s Week**, which is slated for February 2011. The committee will put together information on potential activities suggested to be held on the school level. It is hoped that this information can be disseminated to the individual schools by the end of the year.

The student services team also shared information on the **K-16 Project** that is being rolled out. This project relates to assisting every child in the Montgomery County public school system in setting and reaching their secondary education goals. This will be done by providing the families with much needed information on financial assistance early on; as well as early as elementary school, guiding the student in realizing their goals beyond high school graduation. Many of the committee requested information on supporting this project.

Robyn Krugman, of **Jewish Social Services Agency** of JSSA gave the committee a presentation on the many services offered to children and families. Robyn explained that JSSA has a desire to reach all families in Montgomery County and would like to get information out to the individual school PTAs. The MCPS team shared with Robyn information regarding the Linkages program and the Montgomery County Collaboration Council as other avenues to ensure that information on JSSA services will get to those who need it most.

Next Steps: It was decided that an email group of the committee would be developed and that a next meeting date could be decided by polling the group. It was felt that the committee may need to meet more often than originally expected to ensure that the goals are met. Much of the work can be done via email, but it was felt that meeting only a couple of times a year may not be as effective in meeting the current goals.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

High School Committee

Dave Lechner: dave@lechnersonline.com

Achievements:

- Sought members for committee - 3 responses.
- Provided MCCPTA Comments to Board of Ed. and MCPS on Policy IED, Framework and Structure of High School Education.
- Solicited committee work plan topics (several responses, see work plan -none were rejected).
- Coordinated proposed "Work Plan" for MCCPTA Board (attached to this email, and below in text) with the committee members.
- Met with Angel Santiago, Marketing Director/ Event Producer, Washington Talent Agency to discuss "Safe Prom Night Video Contest" -

Membership Committee

Janette Gilman: janettegilman@verizon.net

The MCCPTA Membership Committee is working with local PTA/PTSA leaders to grow membership and problem-solve to increase our collective voice for the children of Montgomery County and the resources available to our local public schools. We still are anxiously awaiting the initial membership number from many of our locals; anecdotal evidence—and early numbers—suggests that our goal of 75,000 members in 2010-11 remains a possibility thanks to the drive of our local PTA presidents and membership leaders. Many locals have already topped their prior year membership numbers; many continue to actively work to grow membership.

This past month, the MCCPTA 2010-11 Membership Awards, a set of awards to be presented at the May Principal-Presidents Dinner that compliment the Maryland PTA membership awards program, were announced. 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. Our intention is to reward ALL PTA/PTSA's who either grow or retain significant membership in the company of their friends, peers, and Montgomery County and MCPS officials.

Operating Budget Committee

Pam Moomau: Pammoomau@gmail.com

The operating budget resolution priorities resolution and operating budget compact were adopted by the Delegates Assembly after a lively and thoughtful discussion. The priorities resolution was amended to provide more detail on two priorities. The final priorities are:

- No reductions in maintenance, building service, or security staff to maintain safe, secure, and healthful schools.
- Judicious curriculum rollout; no new curriculum without adequate staff development, materials, and technology.
- No further increase in class sizes,
- Full implementation of hours-based staffing for special education students,
- Continued support for after school activities, and
- No reductions in academic intervention, focus, reading, ESOL, or special program teachers.

The Compact was amended to make clear the bullet on middle school rigor was meant to connote extending rigor to schools where reform has not yet been implemented.

Getting sufficient funding from the County and State to maintain current programs is looking very difficult. Because of increasing enrollment (and the fact that last year's waiver from the state requires a return to fy10 maintenance of effort (MOE) levels) a MOE level of funding from the county would mean an increase of \$84 million over last year, but the county so far has not indicated an intention to provide that increase. Failure to meet MOE would also put state funding in jeopardy. Parents are urged to show a strong presence at every advocacy opportunity, beginning with the Operating Budget Forum on Jan 3 (first Monday after winter break). The BOD is also encouraged to attend the legislative dinner to begin dialogs with our state reps.

Safety & Health Committee

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

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

We welcome everyone to join us Wednesday, November 10th 7pm for our first Safety & Health Committee meeting for this school year— location TBA. Topics that will be covered include:

- Ø SRO (School Resource Officers) program- what's the future for this program?
- Ø Anti-bullying programs –Kingsview MS is stepping up to the plate with some new approaches to deal this these issues
- Ø Mentoring programs- County Councilman, Phil Andrew's office is reaching out with support to pilot local mentoring programs in a few of our schools

We're excited to have our new Safety & Health Committee e-list up and running, with 80+ members strong! ANYONE is welcome to join, just email DonnaPfeiffer@gmail.com and we'll get you registered. We'll share info, concerns and timely developments that affects the safety and security of our students & staff. We encourage at least one person per school to sign up on this e-list so they can keep their school community in the loop.

We have recruited **Carroll Lovelace**, from the Gaithersburg Cluster to lead us on the Health Committee side. His contact information is: clovelace3@comcast.net 240-461-8313.