

## *Rolling Terrace*



### **Executive Board PTA Meeting**

*October 5, 2010*

6:00 to 7:00 pm

### **Minutes**

6:00-6:10 Grab a plate and some dinner!

- Attendees: Karen Armstrong, Heidi Clark, Nilam Patel, Meredith Cabe, Evan Bernstein, Danielle Hermey, Mindy Kassaraba, Andrea Hall-Bell, Diane Dennis, Valencia Nicholls, Sherron Allen, Amber Khan, Vilna Bonilla-Kenny, Donna Victoria, Jennie Sniderman

6:10-6:15 Welcome/Introductions if needed: Nilam

6:15-6:20 Administrative

\* Additional content items

- Danielle is updating committee chair list on a google.doc

\* Consent to Agenda: Agreed

\* Identify timekeeper: Danielle Hermey

\* Identify note taker: Jennie Sniderman

\* Approve meeting minutes from 8/28/10: Approved

6:20-6:25 PTA Presidents report: Nilam Patel

- Andrea Hall-Bell and Heidi Clark will be our Montgomery County Council PTA (MCCPTA) reps.
- Nilam received many returned Parent Interest Surveys from PTA members. The survey is open until end of the month.
- Nilam attended the RT staff meeting and invited teachers to PTA board meetings. Nilam encouraged board members to participate in the MCCPTA committees.

- There are many training opportunities with the Maryland PTA for officers and others. The MCCPTA Convention is coming up in early November. The PTA will consider covering the fee for officers to attend.
- We will have a parenting workshop at the PTA general meeting. Nov. 9.
- Erica Sparks is working on student directory, which is getting expensive to publish. She found a parent who manages a print shop and was able to get the price reduced to \$500. She is exploring the possibility of selling ads in the directory. Prices will be \$25 for quarter page, \$45 half page, \$75 whole page. It will be ready for printing by the end of the month. She hasn't solicited ads yet.

6:25-6:30 Principals report: Mr. Bernstein

- Rolling Terrace now has 750 students and enrollment is still growing. RT was given permission to add a .8 time ESOL teacher and 4 hours for a para-educator. They will start Monday. Transferred some of the time to recess 12 to 1:30 with upper grades.
- Kaboom requires supervision. So, 3 orange tickets are given to each teacher each week to give to kids on Fridays. The students bring the tickets to Sharon Woods. Para-educators are still being trained on KABOOM. Mr. Bernstein plans to eventually give tickets out two or 3 times per week.
- There is a wellness competition for staff through Kaiser Permanente and MCPS On The Move program.
- Walk to school day will be tomorrow.
- Monday there will be an open house and Principals coffee.
- The county said they will help with the science courtyard because of flooding in courtyard into classrooms and from outdoor steps. They will grade it. The bricks which were delivered to be used in the science courtyard are waiting in the art courtyard until the grading is completed.

6:30-6:45 Discussion \* MCCPTA and RTES: Priorities for BOE roundtables Oct 13 and Oct 28 - Guest Speaker: Amber Khan, Vice President of the MCCPTA. Ms. Khan is a former Highland View ES PTA president.

- What is the role of the cluster? The cluster can advocate for resources for the schools. Individuals can check the MCCPTA link for information. The cluster also supports local PTA leadership. It cultivates relationships with decision makers. We have the 7<sup>th</sup> largest school system in the nation. The decision making process is not transparent. Because a new superintendent is coming the schools need to identify their needs. We will have a fresh opportunity to be there and represent our perspectives. Ms. Khan wants to encourage the PTA to think of key priorities to present to the new superintendent. Because of the budget cuts we should narrow down our priorities to non-negotiables.
- Nilam and Sr. Bonilla suggested that we need an additional counselor and more administrators in the front office. Also one of our administrative support positions was cut.
- Ms. Khan asked: what are priorities from parents? Parents want an additional counselor and feel there are too many kids per class in upper grades. Parents would like more recess staffing and more time for recess also. Each grade should get more recess time. Mr.

Bernstein says there is only one grade outside at a time this year due to the expected construction on the school based health center. So, that expands recess time overall and limits each grade's time. Parents are concerned that attrition from Spanish Immersion to GT school makes upper grade class size bigger and skims the top performing students. Mr. Bernstein says the County won't provide another teacher until class size reaches a certain number. So the school adds para-educators and specialists to compensate.

- Ms. Khan points out that class size was part of the budget negotiations. "Plus one" doesn't equal an additional staff person. There are up to 38 kids in some classes in county schools. Funding formulas shifted. More money was given to red rather than green zone schools. Some want equity instead.
- Also wanted: Investment in teacher training; staff development was discussed with Ms. Connors at other mtg. Ms. Khan says the MCPS web site has pictures of board memos and their biographies. Round Table attendees should look at those before the round table to become familiar with names and faces. Some board members are very accessible. We should strive to establish relationships with the board members.
- Ms. Kahn will talk to us further.

6:58 end

6:45-6:50 Clean up and Closing

Handouts:

1. Nov 12-13 MD PTA Fall Convention Training Schedule
2. Nov 9 – Parenting workshop: homework hassles
3. MCCPTA committees
4. MCPS BOE roundtable discussion topics and dates for Oct 2010
5. August 26, 2010 PTA ExBoard Draft Minutes
6. PTA mission statement
7. Oct 8 MCPS Coffee and Conversation