

PTA General Meeting

Montgomery Knolls-Pine Crest PTA

February 3, 2016

6:30-8:00pm

Montgomery Knolls Elementary School APR

The meeting started at 7:01 p.m.

In Attendance:

Madeleine Santiago, PTA President

Natesia Johnson-Samuel, PTA Vice-President

Rebecca Wilson, PTA Corresponding Secretary

Cheryl Booker, PCES Principal Intern/Acting Principal

In addition, 41 parents attended the meeting - see sign-in sheets

Handouts Distributed/Posted:

- "Agenda for MK-PC PTA General Meeting, February 3, 2016"
- "MKPC-PTA Minutes from PTA Meeting December 2, 2015"
- "PTA Committee Chair Reports - January 2016" English
- "Treasurer's Report as of February 3, 2016"

I. Call Meeting to Order

A. Welcome and Introductions

B. Mission of PTA: Engagement, Advocacy, Community

II. Approval of the Minutes. Announce next meeting date: 4/7/16

A. April 7th Meeting: Elections and PEP (Parent Encouragement Program) on "Positive Discipline"

1. Materials will be translated into Spanish, and presentation will be translated.
2. Elections for new President and Vice President. We have parents interested in these positions, but they are also open to community, so if you're interested in any position, contact Madeleine at president@mkpcpta.org.

III. Reports of Officers

A. Treasurer's Report - hasn't changed much from December

B. President's Report

C. Membership Report - up to 272 members this year, thanks to Cari Jordan's efforts! Tell your friends, you need to join every year. Memberships and donations support PTA events, pizza at meetings, Science Fair, field trips, etc. Membership numbers also shows the county and state how active our school is.

D. Principal's Report - Ms. Booker: snow is melting, thank you for your patience. Playground at PCES still needs to be cleared out, maybe PTA can help?

IV. Reports of Committees and Questions: Please see attached

V. Unfinished Business: (None at this time)

VI. New Business

- A. Pizza Bingo Rescheduled to **Friday, 2/19** (Eastern MS)
- B. Black History Month Celebration **Thursday, 2/25** (Eastern MS)
- C. Board of Education - Lily Villones and Juan Del Cid both testified at Board of Education for Montgomery County (BOE) in January to talk about how schools need more paraeducators, technology in classrooms, and translation services. Thank them for having courage to talk about our community's needs. Jill Ortman-Fouse of the BOE is going to give us more info about budget planning at county level.
- D. **Feb. 18 at 7pm** (?) at Eastern MS, a special meeting with BOE and our Blair Cluster. We will present our needs to the Board. Please come, show support of MKPC community!
- E. Tablets in classrooms are good (MKES) but the County took away computers in classrooms, and the technology tech lab is not enough for testing needs. Ask BOE for technology we need to do testing.
- F. PTA Volunteer Dessert on **Thursday, March 3, 7-8pm**. Music, dessert, socializing.
- G. Elections in April: new President and VP, 2-yr positions.
- H. Looking for committees for MK Teacher Appreciation, SMILE, Dine Outs, Fun Run, Kindergarten Play Date

VII. Program: Testing in Elementary School

- A. Ms. Denise Medley, Montgomery Knolls Reading Specialist, Testing Coordinator
 - 1. Testing is part of assessment cycle (see slides online at <http://www.mkpcpta.org/apps/links/>). Formative assessment, for example, is done each week when teachers plan for student instruction, as part of planning process. This is how teachers assess how students are learning.
 - 2. County builds in make-up days, so students can make up tests within a certain window. Schedule is determined by County or State, schools have to adhere to that schedule. Schedule is online at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/sharedaccountability/calendar/estesting.aspx>
 - 3. KRA (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment): What do children know and what do we need to teach them?
 - 4. MCPS APR: County reading test ("M-Class"), based on child's reading level. PreK, PEP, Headstart, Kindergarten, and grades 1-2 all take test, depending on their IEP and ability (not all across board, but based on ability and age / at least age 4). Test is given 3 times per year.
 - a) 23-26 reading indicators we expect students to be able to master throughout grades K-12. County uses the same indicators every grade, but they become more complicated as the grades move up and more is expected.
 - b) Higher order questions: Inferring, Synthesizing, Analysis, Critiquing. Asking teachers to go slower and deeper when teaching the reading and don't move kids through reading level too quickly. Don't just tell, but teacher - modeling, providing prompts, reinforcing.
 - c) Question: What can parents do?

(1) Encourage your children to talk about what they're reading. Engage them in conversation. Book clubs encourage conversations with adults and children.

d) Both fiction and informational text books are read.

5. InView: Test given in 2nd grade only, to assess cognitive ability and plan for instruction. This is only one small factor in terms of identifying gifted and talented status (GT). Given in Winter (usually December).
6. ACCESS for ELLs: Test given to all K-6 ESOL students. Assesses listening, reading, and speaking English.
 - a) This year the format of ACCESS testing changed to being done on computers (Chromebooks). If we had Chromebooks in classrooms we could've used those and not taken over computer lab and affected entire school during testing time. Please tell the BOE: "We do need that technology if they want us to continue testing and instructing the students as we should." -Ms. Medley
7. Question: What proportion of time in school is spent on assessment for typical child, what percentage?
 - a) It's an ongoing process, done in reading groups, etc. For scheduled tests such as M-Class, schools have about 30 days to complete it. InView is completed over 3 days. Not every child is tested every day.
 - b) About 3 weeks to a month is spent on testing, including formative (in class) and formal testing. MCPS is concerned about that; they cut final exams for HShigh school students, streamlined M-Class test to reduced amount of time spent.
8. Contact Ms. Medley anytime with questions, she is available to teachers and parents. Her role is to assist admin to make sure reading arts instruction is implemented, professional development for teachers, providing resources, etc.

B. Ms. Helen Kahl, Pine Crest Staff Development Leader, Testing Coordinator

1. PCES gives 6 assessments to grades 3-5. County looks at all results and makes decisions, schools do not make decisions about compacted math, CPHG (Center Program for the Highly Gifted), etc. Teachers can rescreen a student if they think the County's decision is wrong. Parents can also call and ask for a rescreen.
2. MAP-M(ath): given 3 times per year, Fall, Winter, and Spring. 50-53 questions.
3. MAP-R(eading): given 3 times per year, Fall, Winter, and Spring. 40-43 questions.
 - a) Information gained from the MAP test helps teachers plan for individual and small group instruction. Also informs school of overall academic progress.
 - b) Always want students to beat their last score. Like levels in video game.
 - c) Time taken is about 2 hours per student per semester (6 hours per year per student). NWEA-administered - see <https://www.nwea.org> for information. Within 24 hours, scores are digitally tallied and archived, so the next morning teachers can see scores and start using them to assess. Aggregate scores across years, so can see child's growth over grades.

- d) PCES does not test MAP-R and MAP-M on same day. We want to set them up for success.
 - e) Question: MAP is a computer-based test. Are younger students disadvantaged (new 3rd grader) because of less tech time at MKES? What are you doing to overcome the inequities?
 - (1) Ms. Kahl - Teachers are very experienced with technology and Chromebooks, so teachers can get students up and running on tech right away. Kids pick up on it quickly.
 - (2) Ms. Booker - 3rd graders at PCES now, in 2016, are doing fine. It has not been a huge concern about their tech ability. Paraeducators have been working with students on keyboarding skills, from first day of school year. We haven't seen any major challenges.
 - (3) Ms. Medley - Teachers at MKES have time built into weekly schedules to spend time in computer lab.
 - f) Advocate to get technology in classrooms, by all means.
4. InView: only given to brand-new to County students at PCES, or students who are flagged as needing to be prescreened after their 2nd grade test (must get parent permission first). Given in December. Provides teachers with info about how a child thinks so they can plan instruction around meeting those needs.
 5. WIDA ACCESS: Given to all ESOL students, assesses how they read, listen, write, and understand English. Given during window of January-February, Used to determine student's level of understanding of English.
 6. MSA Science: given in 5th grade in March. The only formal test County has to measure a content area besides reading and math. A cumulative assessment of knowledge. About 1 hour; in 2016, this will be given electronically for the first time.
 - a) Question: What is scope of MSA Science? State, national, how large is data set?
 - (1) Just a Maryland test. MSA stands for Maryland State Assessment.
 - b) Question: What do they do with the data? Placement for 6th grade, honor science versus mainstream science classes in MS?
 - (1) No, they've already had placement tests in December. That is a good question for the Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI) committee (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/enriched/>).
 7. PARCC: Grades 3-5, used in 12 states including Maryland. There are 2 sections - English language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. Given during window of May-June, end-of-year test. Informs state and county about student proficiency and understanding compared to other students across USA.
 - a) Question: Why did it take so long for scores to arrive?
 - (1) Schools don't know. It took PCES only 1 week to get results to parents once the schools got them.
 - b) Question: What is the County's plan for the scores/data?

- (1) We want to see that our students are meeting proficiency - that they are prepared and ready after completing a grade, and make sure we are on level and keeping up with everything country-wide. We have benchmarks - did we meet them?
 - c) 1 hour is built in each week for each grade-level team of teachers to meet and discuss these things.
 - d) PARCC Night was cancelled because of snow. MCPS will present a webinar on Wednesday, February 10, from 7 to 8 p.m. During the webinar, staff will provide an overview of PARCC assessments, as well as information on upcoming changes for the 2016 administration of the tests. Instructions for accessing the webinar will be posted on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org by Feb. 5.
 - e) See PARCC website for sample tests: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/parcc/>.
8. CPHG screening test (for highly gifted), uses outside support to administer this test.
 9. Students going into 4th grade can take compacted math testing (ask Ms. Sadqi at PCES for details Elizabeth_S_Sadqi@mcpsmd.org).
 10. Center Program for Highly Gifted (CPHG), screening test given in 3rd grade with parent permission. Takes about 2 hours.
- C. Q&A - questions were asked throughout presentations

ended at 8:05pm

submitted by: Rebecca Wilson, PTA Corresponding Secretary