

**Minutes of the Maryvale Elementary School General PTA Meeting
Maryvale Media Center
Tuesday, September 7, 2010**

Call To Order The Maryvale PTA met on September 7, 2010 at the school's media center. Parfait Awono called the meeting to order at 7:07PM.

Roll Call

Present:

Officers

Parfait Awono, Gail D'Almeida, Marie-Stella Heiser, Mara Lynch, Anne Simcox, Jackie Suzich

Committee Chairs

Sima Blackmon-Hall, Cristie Good, Norma Mendoza, Deborah Bowe, Aissa Sires, Esther Alessio

Other Positions

Karen Gregory, Acting Principal

Guests:

Micharel Arias, Patrice Bolté, Byron Blunt, Bob and Iona Bouvier, Patricia Canar, Don Gladstone, Tim Hanson, Alexander Lancaster, Wilmara Manuel, Melissa McKenna, Alison Moser, Caryn Nagler, Sabine Philippe, Patricia Polster, Flor Ruiz, and Pofen Salem

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order at 7:07PM by Parfait Awono. All Board members and school staff who were present at the meeting introduced themselves and identified their role with the PTA or school. Madame Claire Zapatka, the French Immersion Coordinator, was also introduced and Jackie Suzich was voted as the new Maryvale PTA President.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Karen Gregory, Acting Principal, introduced herself and answered a series of questions from the audience.

MINUTES

Marie-Stella M. Heiser, Secretary, presented the minutes of the August 31, 2010 Executive Board Meeting. The minutes were accepted with the following corrections: Karen Gregory clarified that during the year teachers are contractually mandated to participate in 3 events chosen by the Principal, and she was contemplating which PTA activity to use as one of the obligations. She also mentioned that there will be a free workshop for parents called "Celebrate Calm" at Rockville High School on

Thursday, Sept. 30, and that she highly recommends the presenter. The PTA is sponsoring part of this workshop.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jackie mentioned the possible future co-location of Carl Sandburg Learning Center after Maryvale is renovated in June 2018. The PTA will be forming a committee in preparation for discussions about this project. Individuals who are interested should let Jackie or Sima know if they would like to serve on this committee. The state of Maryland is no longer going to support stand-alone Learning Centers. As a result, Montgomery County Public Schools system and the Board of Education are cutting back on funding for stand-alone learning centers, and looking to co-locate them at other schools.

Jackie also said there is a need for volunteers to be part of the MCCPTA Capital Improvement Program (CIP) committee.

Jackie discussed how this year guest speakers will be visiting some of the general PTA meetings. Parent Education Program (PEP) will have a guest speaker at the general PTA meeting on October 5. The Bake Sale which will be held on September 14 needs volunteers. Maryvale will have monthly restaurant nights, and the first one is schedule for Tuesday, September 21 at the Congressional plaza Baja Fresh and Baskin Robins.

Jackie also mentioned various needs that other committees have. The NAACP still needs a representative from Maryvale. There is a back up person, but the main position is vacant. There is an expected monthly meeting attendance and please contact and if anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Sima Blackmon-Hall.

The fact that students are mixed during Maryvale behavioral celebration was raised and various comments were made and shared by various members of the audience. Maryvale mixes the students because it emphasizes the idea of being one school. Different parents shared the pros and cons and their opinions in the matter.

There is a new security system that will be put into place by mid September. This is in an attempt to have a more uniform practice than more schools in the MCPS system. Currently, there are some disparities and the system will be tightened up.

ROCKVILLE CLUSTER & MCCPTA DELEGATE REPORT, Aissa Sires

The city of Rockville is re-evaluating its master plan to address the current growth issues and its impact on schools. Currently, there seems to always be more students than the yearly projection numbers. The city of Rockville and MCPS are in talks to resolve this issue while parents of the most affected schools are testifying and watching closely to assist as needed. There are testimonies and meetings happening right now, please stay tuned for more info in the coming weeks from the other Cluster Coordinators.

There is a new integrated curriculum

COMMITTEES REPORTS

Jackie talked about different programs that are currently available to the Maryvale students. Girls on the run runs in the Fall and Spring and it is available for 3rd through 5th graders. Pofen Salem, a parent in the audience, brought up Destination Imagination, a program that was held at Maryvale in the past.

Programs

Anne Simcox mentioned the Maryvale parents' adult only social gathering that will take place at the Rockville Town Square Austin Grill on September 26.

Imagination Stage

News will be announced soon about an after-school program.

Membership

There are currently 110 members

Cultural Arts

The MCCPTA showcases will be held on October 4, 5, 11, and 15. Volunteers are needed to attend the showcases. Please contact Brenda Diaz at bmdiaz25@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer.

HispanicLiaison

Norma is working hard in encouraging the Maryvale Spanish speaking families to join the PTA and become active. She is trying to recruit 5 volunteers to assist her in this endeavor.

New Business

The idea of forming a committee to discuss how to make all students feel as one body in Maryvale was discussed. The committee will brainstorm and devise ways to ensure that the non-French immersion students feel comfortable with their counterparts. Jackie stated that forced interaction is a great idea.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mara Lynch presented the draft budget. It will be voted on at the next meeting on October 5. A contingency budget was passed to allow reimbursement of necessary expenditures through October 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08PM.