
WELCOME!

Montgomery
Virtual Academy Parent Council
January 6, 2022

PTAs

Pros:

Already established national organization with EIN, bylaw templates/requirements, training for officers. Legal framework exists.

Strong lobbying group with MCPS, State and Nationally

Some tools like MemberHub available.

Insurance is at a negotiated group rate.

Cons:

Pay large amount of dues to local, state and National PTA organizations. (\$5+ per membership)

Follow their rules, bylaws and procedures.

Concerned if they will fairly represent Virtual Academy.

Politics with the local, state and national PTA may mean little benefit to unique needs of Virtual Academy community.

PTOs

Pros:

Independent organization where all funds stay within the organization to serve its purpose.

We choose to advocate directly for Virtual Academy and student/staff needs.

More flexibility in terms of what we can help fund (i.e. more like a booster club vs. PTA).

Own By-Laws, EIN, and non-profit status.

Avoid the issues going on within the PTA organization.

Cons:

Have to create and maintain our own bylaws, EIN and procedures. Have to complete state and federal paperwork to form a non-profit.

Negotiate our own insurance.

Excluded from PTA programs, such as the Reflections Program and other competitions for the students.

Informal Group

Pros:

No PTA/PTO politics.

Parents can informally take on roles of interest to support the school.

No pressure to fundraise to meet minimum expenses - insurance, website, etc.

Cons:

No structure so parents have to organize themselves each year.

Without non-profit status, collecting money/fundraising becomes very difficult. Many donors/outside supporters and activities require status.

Can be chaotic and difficult for interested families to participate in if there isn't an organization with centralized communication and helping to connect people with similar interests/goals for the organization

No insurance, which may be a liability issue for any activities held.

How will fundraising and money be handled? E.g. If individuals do it, it will be income to them personally on their tax return, and without nonprofit status it cannot be a tax write off.

Accountability?

Membership & Start Up Cost Funding

Membership: <https://forms.gle/L3kVGZHQqggtkUU8>

GoFundMe for start up costs: Membership is free this year until the organization is up and running, but we need your help to make the Parent Council a nonprofit organization. Please consider donating \$5, \$10, \$20, or more to help us reach that goal:

<https://gofund.me/f0bba235>

Shirt Sales (will be regularly updated as shirts sell - if your size/style is not available, please contact Jessica): <https://vaparentcouncil.godaddysites.com>

What We'd Like to Accomplish This School Year:

- ❖ Obtain Non-Profit Status/Formalize Our Group.
- ❖ Fundraising to pay for Non-Profit Status and Insurance.
- ❖ Social Activities for Families (Depending on Covid).
- ❖ Advocacy for VA in terms of staffing, funding, supplies, materials, and activities.
- ❖ Organize teacher appreciation week.

What We Need to Accomplish Today to Move Forward:

- (1) Finalize organization's name, bylaws and mission statement and budget,
- (2) Organize/Vote to establish the Board of Directors for this year who can be named on Articles of Incorporation,
- (3) Discuss fundraising/donations to pay for the filing fees and insurance (approximately \$1000),
- (4) Seek volunteers to help us with the non-profit status, and
- (5) Seek volunteers to start committees such as fundraising, social, grant writing, teacher appreciation, graduation, etc. and begin work.

Name of Organization

The name, Parent Council, came from the Upper School Administration.

Keep or create our own name?

Current Proposal: Montgomery Virtual Academy Parent Teacher Council

*Vote on Name

Links to Documents

Mission Statement:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bpFlq9XK8fQBN5UjfMAuztsIskhLNXMMPf2UmkmlNH8/edit?usp=sharing>

ByLaws:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YPDIT0J2wdJN2SDtZ2kmsCbBbSMchjLGPEeghzlJAN8/edit?usp=sharing>

Budget:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1faXEIQPmpab2tSVIRBZKdAEIjAfOCrBjr2uwwMonyWk/edit?usp=sharing>

Proposed Mission Statement

Montgomery Virtual Academy Parent Teacher Council (MVAPTC) Mission Statement

The Montgomery Virtual Academy Parent Teacher Council purpose is to build community and provide support to the parents/guardians, students, teachers, and staff within the Montgomery Virtual Academy community.

The focus of the Parent Teacher Council is to aid the school in providing for the educational, emotional, social, health, physical and safety needs of those within the Virtual Academy community. We strive to provide opportunities for parents/guardians, students, teachers and staff to learn, socialize, collaborate, communicate and support each other.

We seek to build a warm, inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of the Virtual Academy community regardless of their ethnicity, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disabilities. The Parent Teacher Council is a group where everyone is welcomed, wanted and encouraged to participate for the betterment of our Voyagers.

[*Vote on Mission Statement](#)

ByLaws

Discuss and vote on bylaws.

See link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YPDIT0J2wdJN2SDtZ2kmsCbBbSMchjLGPEeghzlJAN8/edit?usp=sharing>

Establishing Board

Positions:

President

VP of K-2nd Grades (Lower School) - represent K-2nd grades and coordinate social/grade specific needs

VP of 3rd-5th Grades (Lower School) - represent 3rd -5th grades and coordinate social/grade specific needs

VP of 6th-8th Grades (Middle School) - represent 6th-8th grades and coordinate social/grade specific needs

VP of 9-12th Grades (High School) - represent 9th - 12th grades and coordinate social/grade specific needs

Secretary

Treasurer

*Vote on Board

Volunteers

In order to make this work, we need volunteers. Please do not let your past PTA experiences deter you from volunteering.

- ❖ Fundraising - Restaurant Nights, Store (Example: Below Five), Social, Amazon Smile and Auction
- ❖ Grant Writers
- ❖ Advocacy
- ❖ Social Activities Online or In Person for Families and Students
- ❖ Social Media
- ❖ Board Member Nominating Chair/Committee
- ❖ Special Needs
- ❖ Mental Health
- ❖ Cultural Arts
- ❖ Membership/Recruitment/Welcoming
- ❖ Teacher Appreciation - Donations from business and families
- ❖ Student Recognition - Donations from businesses and families
- ❖ Clothing, Food and Instrument Closet (if we have physical space to store items)
- ❖ Volunteer Coordinator
- ❖ Create your own position and/or title

Non-Profit 501(C)3

What needs to be done?

- ❖ Obtain funding to pay for the Costs
- ❖ Incorporation as Tax Exempt Organization in Maryland
- ❖ Incorporation - Expedited Service
- ❖ Federal EIN
- ❖ Federal 501(c)3 application
- ❖ PTO Insurance
- ❖ Registration as MD Charitable Organization required to collect charitable donations

Budget

PTO Establishment and Operating Costs:

Incorporation as Tax Exempt Organization in Maryland	\$170	
Incorporation - Expedited Service	\$55	
Federal EIN	\$0	
Federal 501(c)3 application	\$275	
PTO Insurance	\$404 (estimated)	
Registration as MD Charitable Organization to be authorized to collect charitable donations		\$0

Total: \$899 (estimated)

Donations/Fundraising

We need a minimum of \$900 for state and federal non-profit filing fees and insurance. We are limited in working with some restaurants due to not having the non-profit status.

Ideas for fundraising:

- ❖ Direct Donation Campaign
- ❖ Restaurant Nights - Five Guys (next slide)
- ❖ Spirit Wear - to be sold on the website
- ❖ Auction - need volunteers
- ❖ Online fundraisers
- ❖ Other?

Five Guys Fundraiser

MVA Restaurant Night Fundraiser: Five Guys- January 17, 2022 from 5 PM to 9 PM.

The four participating Five Guys restaurants are:

Kensington: 10510 Connecticut Ave, Kensington, MD 20895

- Telephone: 301-933-5400
- Online ordering: <https://order.fiveguys.com/menu/five-guys-1694>

Montrose Crossing: 12029 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD 20852

- Telephone: 301-230-1340
- Online ordering: <https://order.fiveguys.com/menu/rockville-pike>

Rockville Town Square: 130 Gibbs Street, Rockville, MD 20850

- Telephone: 301-762-3500
- Online ordering: <https://order.fiveguys.com/menu/rockville-town-square>

Firstfield: 507 Quince Orchard Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20878

- Telephone: 240-912-6745
- Online ordering: <https://order.fiveguys.com/menu/five-guys-1851>

Please be sure to let the Five Guys team members know that you and your guests are with the Montgomery Virtual Academy (MVA) when ordering and/or picking up food and beverages on January 17. If ordering online, just tell the cashier at pick up, and they will make note of the order (there is no special code to use).

Social/Get Togethers

- ★ Need insurance for the PTO to sponsor get togethers.
- ★ Possible Partnerships: Montgomery County Recreation Department
- ★ Family Directory?

Bank Account

The PTO needs a **nonprofit checking account** to be an organization that can receive proceeds e.g. from a dine-out night or selling school shirts, instead of having individual parents handle funds that cannot be pooled in one place for the PTO to then purchase things e.g. after school club/activity funds. This enables the organization's funds to stay with the members on the PTO to the benefit of the students.

Paypal account to be set up to make online transactions easier. We will need to check Venmo rules to see if they allow non-profits/PTO's.

Insurance

Really needed before handling money and hosting activities. Coverage is for liability, accidents, activities and events (e.g. after school clubs, dine out nights, walk-a-thon), and officer liability.

It appears our primary options are AIM, RVNUCCIO and PTO Today.

Cost from AIM and Rvnccio are about \$400.

Next step: Review quotes and coverage; may be needed before PTO activities start.

NAACP Parents Council

WHO ARE WE?

Formation of the Parents' Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) came about as an outgrowth of ideas put forth during the 1995 and 1996 NAACP Youth Summits. The Parents' Council is one of the vehicles created to empower African American and other minority parents to take a more pro-active role in the education of their children. The Council is made up of parents, guardians and grandparents of minority children enrolled in the Montgomery County Public School System (MCPS) and residents who may not have children in school but who **share the goal of equal education for all children**, particularly minority children.

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

The Purpose of the Parents' Council is to provide a forum through which interested citizens may offer assistance, guidance and support to African American parents and students of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to pursue the highest quality education possible through encouragement, information sharing, positive motivation, critical evaluation and advocacy.

Upper School Representative: Kulika Frazier

Lower School Representative: Donald Whitfield

NAACP - Upcoming Events

Conversation with Dr. Monifa McKnight co-sponsored by NAACP-MC Parents' Council and Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence

Description

Participate in a direct discussion with MCPS Interim Superintendent Dr. Monifa McKnight on topics important to Black and Brown communities, including Recovery from Learning Disruption, School Safety, Covid-19 Surge Responses, Anti-Racism Initiatives, and more.

Jan 19, 2022 06:30 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Registration Link: https://mcpstv-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vMd-JDuFTW67JWp9SUopBw

What's Next?

Next member meeting date/time?

Board member meeting date/time?

Fundraise

File for Non-Profit Status & set up bank accounts

Start working as a Parent Council - Communication Committee; Parent Representatives for each grade; Social Committee; Fundraising Committee?

Helpful Links & Contact Information

Website (still working on): <https://vaparentcouncil.godaddysites.com>

Unofficial Parent Group called MCPS Virtual Academy Families (Montgomery County, MD):
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/530674078014807>

Helpful PTO Website I've been using regarding PTO's: <https://www.ptotoday.com>

*We will complete an official PTA Facebook group and other social media once the name/email addresses are finalized.

You can reach Jessica at parentcouncil@cpjsweb.com