

PTA Council of Howard County Meeting  
Homewood Center  
June 6, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. by PTACHC President Reg Avery. Quorum was confirmed.

**Minutes Review:** The motion to accept the minutes was approved by all with a change under "Other Reports". Bill Santos gave a report as the VP of Operations, PTACHC.

**Treasurer's Report:** Under Programs, Hospitality, special schools. Move \$150 from #61230 to Hospitality for special schools. Under Leadership Training, budgeted \$3825.00. To cover everyone who want to go, need to move an addition \$150 from #62130 Council-sponsored Events. Under Leadership Training, there are 3 categories. Move the \$250 and \$75 into State and National Conventions (\$325) \$550 from Council-sponsored Events (#62130) . This is a total move of \$875.

**PTACHC Scholarship Presentation:**

The PTACHC scholarships were presented. Not all participants were in attendance.

**Superintendent's Report:** Joan Fox

Announcements:

- Status of the Diversity Coordinator Position? The position has been unofficially cut, it was never funded. No one was ever hired in the position.
  - Members would like to know more about what it was cut. A reason was not given at the meeting
- There is a survey, that is available in other languages, on Religious Observances through June 20<sup>th</sup>. This was a partnership with Hanover research. This survey will help with the academic calendar for 2017/2018 school. An email was sent to all parents associated with emails in the school system.
  - A question was raised regarding whether there be any provision for parents who do not have online access? The answer was no, only via email. Fewer than 2% do not have online access, therefore, these parents will not have access to the survey. There was a request for copies be made and provided to the Hispanic Liaison since a lot of Hispanic families do not have access to e-mail.
  - If parents did not receive the email, what is the follow-up? Contact the HCPSS. There was only one email sent per household
- Current Juniors and Parents to learn about Financial Aid (FAFSA), June 8<sup>th</sup> at Reservoir High at 7:00 p.m. The government has changed the application deadlines. The application process will open October 1<sup>st</sup> and students should apply in the Fall of their senior year.
- There were a lot of other announcements.

Questions:

- A question was raised about how schools can call 911 in case of an emergency. It was clarified that all classrooms/schools can call. Within the school system, dial '9' to get an outside line. Any school, do not have to dial '9' first. If PTAs find that is not the case, people should report it to the principal.

**Board of Education Liaison:** There was a report from Christine O'Connor, Chair of BOE. Board report is uploaded regarding the language of PTACHC being taken out of the Technology Policy. Each principal will work with the PTAs and schools and parents. PTACHC expressed that wanted it to be at a higher level....not per school implementation.

**Technology Policy:**

Denise Guiliano and Towanda Brown discussed the concern about the Technology Policy. There was a motion presented that "PTACHC reject the alternative language offered by the Superintendent today because it only supports the involvement of parents and community stakeholders in the implementation of technology guidelines" The motion passed. PTACHC requested stakeholder inclusion in discussions prior to guideline development, not after the guidelines have already been developed. Denise will prepare a testimony at the BOE meeting when the policy is presented.

**Policy Committee:**

There are 4 policies that still need representation. It was reiterated that any PTA member can participate on a policy committee, but they have to be willing to come to PTACHC to give a report for their policy to get input, as they are representing PTACH as an entity.

1. Policy 2010 Student Representation
2. Policy 3060 Data Privacy (NEW)

3. Policy 8010 Grading and Reporting: Pre-K through Grade 8:

4. Policy 9400 Special Education (NEW)

Reg Avery conveyed success in having PTACHC select their own representatives for the policy committees. For the past few years, people had to submit their names to the HCPSS.

#### **Child Author, My 100 Hands, Lauryn Burks:**

Lauryn Burks from Waterloo Elementary presented her book. PTAs were offered the opportunity to use the books as a fundraiser. First book is 3-5 age range., Second book 6-8, Third Book, chapter/picture book for 8-10 age range. If a school is interested, there is an incentive which offers 20% of the proceeds back to the PTA. Contact information is on the website.

#### **Survey Results:**

There was discussion of the survey results for Advanced Placement. There were few responses, but majority of the responses indicated that parents were not required to get extra support for their child to be successful in Advanced Placement.

#### **Legislation Committee Report:**

Donna distributed 2 handouts with 6 items listed regarding upcoming legislation.

The draft regulations were just released, so the legislation is currently in comment period. A comment is not required to provide input. Residents can let the Congressman or Congresswoman know.

#### **Nominating Committee Report / PTACHC Elections:**

The nominating committee presented the nominations:

President – Reg Avery, Executive VP – Ricardo Morales, Office of VP of Operations: Matta Zienali, Office of VP of Issues – Keefe Hogan, Treasurer – Laurie Ramey and Secretary – Towanda Brown

There were nominations from the floor for Bill Santos as President and Amber Treat as Executive VP. Under the Bylaws, because more than one person is running, there needs to be a ballot vote. For just one person running, there will be a voice vote. There was confirmation that there were enough certified members for a legal election.

- There was a vote for President between Reg Avery and Bill Santos. Both candidates were in attendance and gave a quick overview of their qualifications. The first vote resulted in a tie. The second vote resulted in Reg Avery being voted as President.
- There was a vote for Executive VP between Ricardo Morales and Amber Treat. Ricardo Morales gave a quick overview of his qualifications. Amber Treat was not in attendance. The vote resulted in Ricardo Morales being voted as Executive VP.
- There was confirmation via voice vote for the Office of VP of Operations: Matta Zienali. The position nomination was closed as there were no nominations from the floor.
- There was confirmation via voice vote for the Office of VP of Issues: Keefe Hogan. The position nomination was closed as there were no nominations from the floor.
- There was confirmation via voice vote for Treasurer: Laurie Ramey. Laurie will return as PTACHC Treasurer. The position nomination was closed as there were no nominations from the floor.
- There was confirmation via voice vote for Secretary: Towanda Brown. Towanda will return as PTACHC Secretary. The position nomination was closed as there were no nominations from the floor.

#### **Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO):**

The membership was requested to review the website on APFO, which includes information on the number of units of construction and school is overcrowding.. There is a public hearing on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Will not vote on this in the next legislative hearing July 18 will be a public hearing if introduced.

There was discussion on whether PTACHC should take a position on this. There was a general Motion: "PTACHC to ask the County Council to not introduce or take action on the APFO legislation until PTACHC has an opportunity to provide comment." This is essentially asking the County Council to hold off on making final decisions.

There was a discussion about the high density growth in Howard County. It was suggested that we invited Councilman Greg Fox to the next meeting.

#### **President's corner – discussion of upcoming items and events:**

If there is something you believe is important, email at [legislative@ptachc.org](mailto:legislative@ptachc.org)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:58

Minutes taken by Towanda Brown, Secretary