

PTA Council of Howard County General Meeting
Homewood Center
December 5, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by PTACHC President Reg Avery. Quorum confirmed.
The inclement weather policy was discussed. If schools are closed for snow, all meetings are cancelled.

Reading of the PTA Mission by Laurie Ramey.

Membership Wisdom _via Sarah Mugo membership@ptachc.org

All PTAs should have a membership chair at their PTA. If a local PTA wants the PTACHC Membership Chair Sarah Mugo to come speak at their PTA meeting to discuss ideas of how to increase membership, email her at membership@ptachc.org.

Minutes Review from November – Towanda Brown secretary@ptachc.org

Meeting minutes from November were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Laurie Ramey treasurer@ptachc.org

Written report given

It has been reported to Council treasurer that some local PTA treasurers are receiving scam emails that look very real from their president. If your PTA president & treasurer has received them, report to the email provider via phone call. This is what MDPTA has recommended. And to change passwords for all accounts. It is highly recommended to not use personal emails for PTA business.

Policy Report – Towanda Brown policy@ptachc.org

Discussion about the proposed HCPSS Digital Education Policy and the proposed changes to the School Start/Stop Times. In January, PTACHC will discuss the proposed changes with the School Start/Stop Times.

Information on School Start/Stop Times: <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/opening-and-closing-times/committee/>

Program: Science Curriculum Changes and testing related to the New Generation

Power point presentation will be posted on the www.ptachc.org website under the Meetings tab.

Amy Reese, Elementary Science Coordinator and Mary Weller, Coordinator Secondary Science Coordinator.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) ensure that all students are getting what they need from Science instruction (practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas). It is no longer about memorizing standards.

Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA)

- Multi-disciplinary (earth space, life, and physical sciences)
- How students think and solve problems
- HS MISA will be administered next year

MISA Graded 5-8 in the spring 2017-2018

Middle schoolers entering high school next year will be the first to be given the MISA test. Administered at Grade 11 on the 3 sciences. www.nextgenscience.org

For any questions: Amy Reese: [amy_reese @hcpss.org](mailto:amy_reese@hcpss.org) and Mary C.H. Weller: mary_weller@hcpss.org

Report on HCPSS Budget Committee

The committee formed by the County Council. It was formed from County Resolution No 88-2016

Last year, there was a shortfall between what the County Executive approved and what the HCPSS BOE requested.

There are 9 different organizations represented. Reg Avery represents PTA Council of Howard County (Matta is alternate)

The Committee met and prioritized topics. Discussion of staffing, one of the biggest parts of the budget

Other areas discussed were:

- Special education
- Fixed charges (medical/dental)
- Legal fees

All meetings will be video-archived. First meeting was who would be the chair and how the books would be acquired. The approved budget can be changed and monies moved into different categories. The County Council did not cut the HCPSS budget, just not increased as much of the school system asked for.

A delegate spoke about that there were a lot of hot topics and did not feel that there was not much opportunity to talk about them. She recommended that there was a need to get more focused on a smaller number of things. Doing so much, but not getting a lot done.

Another delegate reported that there are duplication of presentations by the school system...for example, there is a presentation by the HCPSS on the Curriculum and testing related to the New Generation at both council and the superintendent's meeting.

Superintendent's Report/Q&A – Joan Fox

School Start/Stop Times...can submit thoughts and opinions to the BOE via email to boe@hcpss.org

4 proposed models and a chart of the differences are posted on the hcpss.org website

There was an online presentation held today about the proposal.

How much feedback has been received? Close to 7000

The New Wilde Lake Middle School will be opening soon. Celebration on December 12, 4-5:30 p.m., New building on January 8th (new building opens January 2nd)

The ARL Greenhouse has its annual holiday plant sale through December 19th.

Board of Education Liaison – no report as the new BOE members were sworn in early this evening.

Legislative Report – Donna Sudbrook legislative@ptachc.org

Overview of the HCPSS Operating and Capital Budget Process

\$808,38,856 is the request

Internet Safety Program will be held at Patuxent Valley Middle PTA. All are welcome to attend.

Also, hosting this type of event is Oakland Mills Middle on Jan. 3rd and Howard High School is an event January 16th

MDPTA Presentation on Estate Planning Lawyers

Two lawyers spoke on the importance of estate planning and if a PTA member uses their office services they will receive a discounted rate.

New Business

Anne Santos – Running Brook PTA requested to put on future agenda to discuss what more PTACHC can do to help Homewood School staff and students as they don't have a PTA because of the nature of their program.

Background info: All students are still considered students at their home school and the goal is to get the students back to their homeschool when possible.

Jane Holcomb was presented with a gift of thanks as she will be working remotely for Council until a new office admin is hired. She will not be able to attend meetings as she is moving. Jane has been the office admin since 1999.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:12 p.m. *Submitted by Towanda Brown*