

## PTACHC Legislative Report for Feb. 6, 2017

The following 3 topics were addressed at the PTACHC January meeting either in a handout or in a presentation. Below are a few updates for your review on those topics and/or communicate your opinions to the various entities involved.

Any questions/comments, feel free to email me at [legislative@ptachc.org](mailto:legislative@ptachc.org). Thank you for all you do for our HCPSS students!  
Donna Sudbrook, PTACHC Legislative Chair

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**1. Maryland State Legislation (3 different bills) proposed to change how Howard County BOE members are elected.** Currently, 7 BOE members are chosen countywide. Legislation has been proposed and is being considered during the current Maryland State Legislative Session (January – April 2017) that would change that. The public hearing for all local bills (i.e. bills that affect only Howard County) proposed by Howard County State Delegates and State Senators was held on Dec 21, 2016.

If Local bills are approved by a majority of the local State Senators and also the local State Delegates, then the bill goes on to the entire Maryland Legislature for typically a courtesy approval of local bills approved by the local Delegation.

1. **Howard County Board of Education – Elected School Board, Ho. Co. 11–17** By: Delegate Atterbeary
2. **Howard County Board of Education – Independent Redistricting Commission, Ho. Co. 12–17** By: Senator Bates
3. **Howard County – Elected School Board and Districting Commission, Ho. Co. 13–17** By: Delegate Flanagan \*\*\*withdrawn 2/1/2017

For more information, go to <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/About-HoCo/State-Delegation> (or go to that website, select “About HoCo” at top of home page, then select “State Delegation” on drop down box, then select “Proposed Local Legislation”).

To voice your opinion on this matter, see contact info of Howard County State Senators and Delegates, select “State and Federal Representatives” on that same drop down box.

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**2. Howard County Council / Planning Board -- APFO** (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance – a set of zoning regulations that test if there is enough infrastructure to proceed with or temporarily limit growth.)

Information compiled by Brent Loveless, Forest Ridge Elem / Patuxent Valley Middle, who provided a written update on APFO at the January PTACHC meeting. We are in the process of adding that information to the PTACHC website under “Meetings”, January

2. We also hope to update you at our February meeting.

**Scheduled Planning Board meetings: Thursday January 19, 7pm at the George Howard Building.** If APFO is not on the January agenda, the planning board will meet on **Feb 3 and 17.**

The task force recommendations and report can be found at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Branches/County-Executive/Adequate-Public-Facilities-report-2016>. The list of (ALL) new regulations currently under consideration can be found at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Legislation> (The list is live, and changes as new regulations are submitted.)

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**3. Howard County Board of Education, Public Hearing for School Start Time/Dismissal Times, Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 7pm.**

At the January PTACHC meeting, a motion was made that PTACHC express support for continued discussion of new models for healthy start time options, but that the current 4 models that have been presented to us are unacceptable and therefore, we are supporting the current start time. Motion passed: 40 for motion, 8 against motion.

In an effort to provide additional information on all sides of this issue, the following 2 links are provided for your review.

**HCPSS Overview of latest proposal:** <http://www.hcpss.org/schools/opening-and-closing-times/committee/comparison-overview/>

**Research compiled by Bruce Sartwell, Atholton HS PTACHC Representative, that speaks to the advantages of a later school start time for high school students.** <http://www.ptachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/School-Start-Times-Report-Jan-2017.pdf>