

PTACHC Legislative Committee Report, February 6, 2017
Submitted by Donna Sudbrook, PTACHC Legislative Chair, legislative@ptachc.org

Dates of Interest: PTA Night in Annapolis, Thursday, February 9, 6pm – 8pm Room 170 in House of Delegates Bldg. Mix and mingle with State Legislators. More details at www.mdpta.org.
Information of Interest Below: 3 topics; BOE Elections/Donna Sudbrook, School Daily Start Times/Bruce Sartwell, AFPO/Brent Loveless

1. Maryland State Legislation (3 different bills in current Jan-April, 2017 session). **Proposals to change how Howard County Board of Education members are elected.** Currently, 7 BOE members are elected county wide. 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 by the entire Maryland State Legislature.

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. *****bill withdrawn 2/1/2017, Howard County – Elected School Board and Districting Commission, Ho. Co. 13–17 By: Delegate Flanagan**

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.

2. 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>

3. Howard County Council / Planning Board -- APFO

Provided by Brent Loveless, Forest Ridge Elem / Patuxent Valley Middle School.

What is APFO? - The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance is a series of tests applied to new commercial and residential developments. These currently include tests for **Elementary School Capacity, Middle School Capacity**, road intersection capacity and maximum number of units that can be built in a given area. The current APFO does not test for items such as High School Capacity, Police, Fire, Parks, Libraries etc.

APFO provides some mitigation in the form of fees or delays, but does not hold back development indefinitely in areas that are over capacity. Items such as school redistricting directly change the utilization of schools and effect the tests used for development approval or delay.

Current Status - The administration formed an APFO task force in the summer of 2015 that came up with recommendations. In 2016, Howard County topped the most residential development approved in the last 25 years. In Feb 2017, these recommendations were reviewed by the county administration and the DPZ with detailed descriptions describing they feel should be approved. This document will be presented at the end of a **Planning board meeting on Feb 16th** following an uncommon format allowing for the planning board and public to provide input. The administration has elected not to market this information via social media or other outlets than the standard planning board agenda. It is your responsibility to communicate this to your local schools.

The DPZ approved regulations will be rewritten in the form of legislation to the County Council shortly thereafter for their approval at an unspecified date.

PTA Position – The PTA has expressed a position to lower the capacity thresholds for schools and include high school tests. This was intended for presentation to the County Council, however the administration added a planning board review since the position was voted on. PTACHC should provide input at this level as well.

Outside Factors - Recent presentations and decisions of the HCPSS Budget Reviews, BPW, Spending Affordability Committee, Attendance Area Committees, 21st Century Committee on School Construction and other forums do not anticipate significant improvements or change in the trend of school capacity issues. The outcome of APFO updates are one of the only active legislative initiatives that can change the trend positively or negatively.

What's Next – The County council will be presented with legislation to approve, disapprove or amend. The State will be presented with any legislation that involves tax changes, and some interdependent legislation may be introduced separately from the APFO code. Redistricting processes have started with feasibility estimates based off of older APFO criteria.

The **APFO report with FEB 2017 DPZ comments** are posted on the Howard County Planning Board site at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Planning-and-Zoning/Boards-and-Commissions/Planning-Board> The County Executives site for the 2015 APFO task force is.....

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/About-HoCo/County-Executive/Adequate-public-facilities-ordinance-task-force> <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Branches/County-Executive/Adequate-Public-Facilities-report-2016>

Disclaimer – This update has been provided by a member of the APFO task force representing themselves as an individual and as a PTA delegate.