

PTACHC Legislative Committee Report, May 1, 2017
Submitted by Donna Sudbrook, PTACHC Legislative Chair, legislative@ptachc.org

Maryland PTA, 102nd Annual Convention, July 27 - 29, 2017

At the Sheraton Columbia Town Center, Columbia, Maryland. Registration information is available at www.mdpta.org Guest Speakers will include Maryland's 2016 Teacher of the Year Athanasia Kyriakakos and University of Maryland Baltimore County President Freeman A. Hrabowski, III.

Attending the 102nd Maryland PTA Annual Convention is an excellent way to gain and share information with other members from across the state. Convention fees are a legitimate expense for your local PTA unit. You can save money when you register early. **Early Bird registration ends May 31, 2017.**

Consider Becoming a Voting Member; According to the Maryland PTA bylaws, the local PTA President or alternate, two (2) other officers or their alternates, and one (1) delegate for each 50 members of a local PTA Unit having **met the standards of affiliation as of March 31, 2017**, are entitled to attend as voting delegates to the Convention. Contact your local unit president if you would like to attend as a voting delegate. Credential card packets will be sent to all PTAs that have met the standards of affiliation.

Can only voting delegates attend the Convention?; NO! All PTA members may attend the workshops and the General Sessions (non-delegates sit in the nonvoting area), visit the exhibit hall, the PTA Store and participate in all other convention activities that do not include voting privileges. You must still register and receive a badge that allows you access to these events.

Complete the Registration Form; Complete the registration form found on the website www.mdpta.org or included in the packet sent to each local PTA. You may duplicate this form for additional delegates. Each delegate must complete a separate form. Send the completed forms and registration fees to the Maryland PTA office **no later than July 3, 2017**. Please make a copy of the form as a receipt for your records.

PTACHC APFO (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance) Update May 1, 2017

Howard County Council / Planning Board -- APFO

Update provided by Brent Loveless, Forest Ridge ES / Patuxent Valley MS

New Information

APRIL 20, 2017 - The Planning board met to discuss proposed changes to the General Plan to implement one of the 17 recommendations in the APFO Task Force report from May 2016. The provision was a compromise that eliminated "carryover" provisions of unused building allocations into the next year in exchange for shifting more development into established communities.

Several PTA members testified individually on the topic.

The Planning board recognized there is a growing issue with the rate of growth and it's relationship to school capacity. The planning board was instructed they could only make recommendations on one part of a mutli-part proposal. They elected unanimously to not recommend the proposal because the portion they were responsible for would have shifted growth in established communities.

For the exact account, see the Video on the Howard County Planning Board website under "Past Meetings" – April 20th 2017/

Future APFO Actions – The County Administration has indicated in public meetings an intent to bring forward most of the recommendations in Upcoming sessions. As of May 1, no APFO items have been pre-filed, indicating a June timeframe at the earliest. **Please monitor the County Council Legislative Page for introduction of APFO related legislation. There may not be enough notice to discuss and respond in the monthly PTACHC time cycle.**

The APFO item most significant to Howard County Schools will be a proposed compromise proposal which includes lowering Elementary and Middle School development approval thresholds to 110% capacity for elementary and middle schools in exchange for development authorizations in over capacity schools for a fee. A portion of this provision is considered by the administration to require state approval, and will not go forward until the next year's state session.

Redistricting – APFO does not mandate redistricting but can influence growth patterns that may make schools candidates for redistricting. The redistricting process is underway to facilitate the opening of a new elementary school, and will change the capacity projections for schools that are used for APFO tests. The official projections APFO uses are generated in the yearly Feasibility Study to be published shortly. Schools that are brought below the current APFO test thresholds of 115% capacity for elementary and middle schools will be considered “open” or available to accommodate new development projects.

What Can I Do? – It is important to keep you PTA informed and educated on the topic. Each piece of APFO is part of a larger solution. Even items that do not seem to be school related can collectively influence rates of growth and levels of school capacity funding.

Several PTA members such as Judy George from Forest Ridge PTA are holding informal APFO 101 sessions for in-depth information. The County Administration has posted most of it's information online as well. The Board of Education, County Council, State, and departments hold public hearings on many topics that are related to Adequate Public Facilities – Take time to testify and advocate for your school when appropriate.