

**Maryland PTA, 102nd Annual Convention, Friday/Saturday, July 28 - 29, 2017** at the Sheraton Columbia Town Center, Columbia, Maryland. Guest speakers include Maryland's 2016 Teacher of the Year Athanasia Kyriakakos and UMBC President Freeman A. Hrabowski, III. **Complete the Registration Form** found on the website [www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org) or included in the packet sent to each local PTA. Send the completed forms and fees to the Maryland PTA office **no later than July 3, 2017**.

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**APFO (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance) Update, June 5, 2017**, provided by Brent Loveless.

**June 5, 2017 - CR97-2017** The HCPSS and Department of Planning and zoning must produce a yearly APFO "Open - Constrained" chart (formerly the Open-Closed chart) based on current APFO law.

**CR96-2017** - In addition, any changes to the number of building allocations as a result of "rollovers" (unused building allocations from prior years) will be introduced tonight for approval in the next legislative session.

The public hearing which allows public testimony will be currently scheduled at the George Howard building in Ellicott City on **June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM**

**June 5, 2017 7:30PM** - The HCPSS BOE will present a APFO report on pending legislation with (Renee Kamen/Jeff Bronow, HoCo DPZ/Carl Delorenzo, HoCo Executive Office)  
A yearly feasibility study is due from HCPSS shortly which provides construction plans and priorities used for APFO projections, budgeting, and redistricting decisions.

**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 June 5, no APFO items have been pre-filed, indicating a July 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 future APFO tests. 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. Members of the Chinese community have expressed interest in hosting the next event. The County Administration has posted most of its 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.