

**PTA Council of Howard County General Meeting
Homewood School
December 4, 2017**

Meeting called to order: At 7:30 p.m. by PTACHC President Vicky Cutroneo. Quorum confirmed.

Minutes Review from November: Vicky Cutroneo, PTACHC President
Minutes from November 2017 General Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Laurie Ramey, Treasurer

- November's treasurer's report was presented.
- OBRC Budget Committee Report
- 2018-2019 HCPSS budget
- Under discussion are later school start times which may cost more. Your input would be welcomed.
- Email Laurie to let her know what your local PTA's priorities would be for the 2018-2019 HCPSS budget.

Board of Education Liaison: Mavis Ellis, Board Member, Howard County Board of Education

- Policy 1020 - Sexual discrimination was added to policy review schedule. Public hearing will be held.
- BOE will hold public hearing on Dec. 7, 2017 at 7:30 pm on 2 items:
 - A. Policy 8040 - selection of instructional materials
 - B. 2018-19 Academic calendar

BOE members also present at PTACHC meeting - Christina Delmont-Small & Cindy Vaillancourt

Howard County Legislative Delegation:

Vicky Cutroneo, PTACHC President, introduced the Howard County Legislative Delegation

- District 13: Del. Vanessa Atterbeary
Del. Shane Pendergrass
Del. Frank Turner
- District 12: Del. Terri Hill
Del. Clarence Lam
- District 9: Sen. Gail Bates
Del. Warren Miller
Del. Robert Flanagan

District 12 - Del. Terri Hill discussed:

- Proposing Bill: Personnel should be able to handle concussions in schools.
- Proposing Bill: American Association of Univ. Women related to Child Support.
- Proposed Ho. Co. Bill 18-18: Collection and Sharing of De-Identified Student Data for Public Health Programs

Policies and procedures re if, how, and when student's data can be shared for purpose of public health. Policy to see what is appropriate to be collected (i.e. BMI of students) Audience question: doesn't the fitness gram already include this data? Del. Hill was not aware.

District 13 - Del. Shane Pendergrass discussed:

- Proposed Ho. Co. Bill 11-18: Howard County Board of Education – Superintendent of Schools – Term Length

In Howard County, the County Board shall determine the length of the term of the county superintendent.

Del. Bob Flanagan & Del. Warren Miller (Dist. 9) commented on this topic.

District 13 – Del. Vanessa Atterbeary discussed:

- Proposing a bill regarding termination of school superintendent.

District 13 – Del. Frank Turner discussed:

- Proposed Ho. Co. Bill 13-18: Transfer Tax Exemption and Rate Reduction – Teachers

To qualify for an exemption or rate reduction, a teacher would have to be employed for a minimum of 3 years.

This is to help with retention of teachers in Howard County schools, as many do not live in the county.

- Proposing bill "Statewide": To reduce or eliminate the need to pay for community college.

It has limitations of dollar amount, would have to live in the county, and have to file FAFSA. It will be need-based.

District 9 - Sen. Gail Bates discussed:

- Proposed Bill: Check children's vision for tracking (visual acuity is currently tested but not visual tracking).
- Last year the bill did not pass, so it will be proposed again this year.

District 13 - Del. Vanessa Atterbeary discussed:

- Proposed Bill 14-18: Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Teachers

Howard County needs to have student loan forgiveness program for teachers who commit to Howard County schools for 5 years. Qualifications have to be met. Howard County has problem retaining top-level and diverse teachers.

APFO Legislation: the Howard County Delegation Chair made several Proposals:

1. Ho. Co. Bill 12-18: School Facilities Surcharge - Rate Alteration
 - A. Dist. 13 - Del. Shane Pendergrass – concerned the bill needs more process and doesn't think there should be a hearing yet.
 - B. Brent Loveless - Commented that there are differences of opinion on this bill.
2. Proposed Ho. Co. Bill 15-18 (Del. Flanagan): Transfer Tax – School Site Acquisition and Construction Fund
 - A. Generally relating to the allocation of transfer tax revenue in Howard County. County Council may, by law, increase the percentage of transfer tax revenue allocated to the school site acquisition and construction fund up to a maximum of 50%.
 - B. In 1989, this program was enacted to preserve farmland in HoCo. This bill prohibits county reducing funding for HoCo Agricultural Land Preservation Fund.

Audience & Delegate Discussion/Questions

Questions taken from the Audience and answered by the Delegation:

1. Is there a state construction model that can be considered for schools to make costs cheaper initially and then upgrade later instead of more having more upfront costs?
2. Maintenance in schools and keeping up the facilities.
3. Del. Warren Miller (Dist. 9): Stated there is a need for redistricting schools in Howard County.
 - HoCo is getting ready to build 13th high school!

Future Meetings

- December 7, 2017 Board of Education
Regular meeting 4:00 pm
Public session 7:30 pm
- January 8, 2018:
PTACHC General Membership Meeting
7:30 pm at Homewood Cafeteria

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.