

PTA Council of Howard County
General Meeting
Homewood School
February 12, 2018

Meeting called to order @7:39pm by PTACHC President Vicky Cutroneo.

Minutes from December 4, 2017 General Meeting were accepted without changes.

Treasurer's Report - Laurie Ramey, Treasurer

- Motion made to change budget to decrease line item 60940 - Telephone by \$100 and increase line item 65040 - Office Expenses by \$100. Seconded and approved.
- Miscellaneous expenses - Attorney fee for work re subpoena was \$100.
- OBRC - Howard County schools are facing \$ 20 million budget deficit due to spending from health & dental funds. Does PTACHC want to take a position on whether to stop funding new programs to reduce the deficit faster? The BOE will approve the budget request on February 22, so there is not much time for PTACHC to take a position. Suggestion from a member to have two general meetings next January to have more time for discussions on the budget. HCPSS may not have put enough funds in the teacher's retirement, not as much as was needed per actuarial estimates, according to Howard County Education Association President.
- Audience question: Can a rule/ policy be put in place so that in the future the HCPSS does not spend outside of its approved budget categories?

Superintendent Report - James LeMon, Executive Director of Community, Parent and School Outreach

- There will be a Community Cabinet Feb. 27, 2018 from 7pm - 8:30 pm at River Hill HS.
- Schools now will be in session on April 4, 5, and 6 and for a half-day on May 18 to make up for the four inclement weather days used.
- Questions & Answers:
 1. Is there a review, or can there be a review, of the decision-making process for closing schools for inclement weather?
A crew assesses and determines when schools should be closed. The status of roads, sidewalks, parking lots and schools driveways are all evaluated.
 2. Can we extend the end of the year instead of taking from Spring break?
 3. Why did just a couple of snow day's result in spring break cancellation?

The calendar committee had determined these days as inclement weather make up days. Also due to other restrictions (school start/end date) and requirements (state mandated holidays), the committee had to consider those.

Howard County Education Association Report (HCEA) - Colleen Morris, President

- Thank you for the support PTA/PTSA's are giving to schools.
- HCEA recently received a three-year NEA Great Public Schools Fund Grant to build & maintain a pipeline of high-impact professional learning targeting early career teachers to support their commitment to continuous improvement, cultural competence, and fostering student success through the National Board Certification (NBCT) process.
- HCEA with HCPSS and other organizations are facilitating "peace circle training" for educators and administrators, parents and community members. For more information, contact Colleen at HCEA website (www.hceanea.org).
- HECA is applying for a NEAGPS for up to \$500K to get training for teachers.

Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) Report - Brent Loveless

- The Howard County Council voted to approve APFO legislation but the County Executive has not yet signed it.
- The new legislation sets a limit of 115% of High School capacity and decreases the current limits on Middle School capacity to 110 % and Elementary School capacity to 105% after which no new development can take place.
- A School Facilities Surcharge Bill has been introduced by the Howard County Delegation to Maryland State. This is a fee collected at the time of the issuance of the building permit and goes into a fund that is used for additional or expanded public school construction costs. This bill would allow developers to pay extra so that they can build even if an area is closed to development because it fails the school capacity test.
- Meeting on Feb 13, 2018 to discuss a buyout provision. If schools are beyond capacity, and pay a fee, construction can continue. PTACHC is opposed.
- Next APFO review is a year after the next general planning.

Legislative Report - Vicky Cutroneo, PTACHC President

- A state bill was introduced to allow a Board of Education (BOE) to fire its Superintendent. It is based on criteria comparable to State criteria and not just subjective. Testimony / Hearing is on Thursday 2/15/2018.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved for PTACHC to support the Superintendent firing legislation.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved for PTACHC to support the BOE's position on market rate fee mitigation of growth through Howard County Public School System.

Policy Report - Vicky Cutroneo, President

- Calendar committee is about to end, we should have a full report next month.
- Ethics committee is just starting.
- Sexual Discrimination/Harassment committee is making progress.
- PTACHC, CAC, HCPSS, Council of Elders, and NAACP are working on suspension data issue. How can we work with students that are being suspended repeatedly? Mr. James LeMon, a former social worker and principal at Wilde Lake HS, feels we need more support for these students.

Old Business

- Subpoena
HCPSS Office of Human Rights interviewed PTACHC President, Vicky Cutroneo. Most of the questions were prior to her being PTACHC president and not PTACHC related. Subpoena for PTACHC emails was ordered not enforceable and has been dropped by HCPSS.

New Business

- Three volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee by March meeting. The nominations will be elected to this standing committee. Duties are to find a slate of officers for PTACHC for the 2018-19 school year.
- Grace's Closet: School has given two storage sites. There is currently a coat drive by HCPSS Pupil Personnel Workers, but this would be a direct donation of coats & backpacks to people in our community who are in need.
- The Mt. Hebron Delegate discussed Voter Registration Drives at local High Schools. The Board of Elections is working with the Board of Education to do a drive at each high school. This is a great place for HS PTAs to get involved in coordinating these drives.
- Voter Registration at High Schools – Carolyn Bodziak (Mt. Hebron High School) - local board of Elections has sent their outreach coordinator to the school but some people had not heard about it. Check with them to see if they have attended at your High School. You may want to ask your PTA's to partner with Board of Elections.

Announcements

- PTACHC will host a Board of Education candidate's forum on June 3, 2018 at Atholton High School cafeteria, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm.
- March 5, 2018 – PTACHC General Membership Meeting at Homewood School cafeteria, 7:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08.