

# PTACHC General Meeting Takeaways

March 5, 2018

# Treasurer's Report

- Laurie Ramey – treasurer@ptachc.org
- 3 PTA's have not yet paid PTACHC dues.
- Laurie is contacting local PTA's regarding items they have not provided to Maryland PTA in order for them to be considered in good standing.
- BOE passed the Operating Budget 3/5/2018. The educational fund is fully funded to make up a deficit but class size has been increased.

# Director of Security, Emergency Management and Response (HCPSS)

- Thomas McNeal – [Thomas\\_McNeal@hcpss.org](mailto:Thomas_McNeal@hcpss.org)
- Safety issues have been assessed since new director started in December.
- Currently working on active shooter response.
- Three-prong approach to safety/security
  1. Physical security of facilities (front doors, locks, cameras).
  2. Policies for staff to ensure security.
  3. Training for staff/students.

# Security (continued)

## After-Prom

- PTA can pay for security but PTA insurance does not allow them to be armed.
- HCPSS will consider hiring 2 armed officers for each school's After-Prom.
- Q: What is the procedure to get officers?
- A: HCPSS will provide instructions soon.

# Security (continued)

Q: Is HCPSS hiring more school resource officers?

A: Resource officers are hired by Howard County Police, not HCPSS.

- Function of school resource officer:
  1. Community/ school policing.
  2. Intervene in student problems when needed.

Q: Where is money for safety coming from?

A: From HCPSS security budget.

# Security (Continued)

Q: What security measures are being done regarding student's with behavior or disability related issues?

A: Safety policies are being reviewed.

Q: How is HCPSS working with the Office of Special Education?

A: Yes. Policies are being determined with their input.

Q: Is there a threat assessment policy?

A: There is a threat assessment process by the psychological/security team.

# Security (continued)

- This office is now in charge of safety/security in future school designs.
- Governor's office is helping provide resources for cyberbullying and electronic threats.
- Howard County receives about 2 threats per month. All threats are investigated and determined to be credible or not.
- Community notifications – working with schools of how best to notify communities of problems.

# Security ( continued)

## Portable classrooms

- Looking at security of portables overall.
- Reviewing policies relating to entrances/exits, cameras, communications.

## 911 Center:

- They have access to the HCPSS cameras.
- HCPSS is working on giving 911 Center access to the school door locks.



# Security (continued)

## Lock-Down Drills

- Training will be provided at high schools (TBA) and may be offered to parents/PTA members.

Q: Is it safe to share information regarding how the lock down drills are conducted?

A: Sensitive information will not be shared. When there is a serious threat, there is a process, but it is not shared with the community.

- PTA presidents will be contacted soon about meeting with HCPSS Security regarding safety.

# Diversity

Dr. Kevin Gilbert – HCPSS Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Goals:

1. To redefine what safety means.
  2. Focus on relationships – want to align and restore emotional, social and mental health.
  3. Develop partnership with PTA.
- Survey was sent out to get a baseline. Vicky will send it out again.

# Diversity (continued)

Strategy – 3 Phases:

1. Develop cultural arts best practice guides in conjunction with Cultural Arts programs.
  2. Offer cultural proficiency training
  3. Develop strategy for PTA's to have Diversity & Inclusion committees and work with schools.
- Equitable and effective disciplines. Discipline data is an issue. Want to help lift up not push out students.

# Diversity (continued)

Q: How does having more police at our schools affect children (especially of color) if they might feel uncomfortable with having officers at school?

A: Security will become part of the community. They will be involved in interacting with the students, not just arresting people.

- Looking at how to motivate students of color to come back to the community to teach.
- Focus group: HCPSS has contracted with Hanover Research who will be conducting a focus group to study this issue.

# Superintendent Report

James LeMon - HCPSS Executive Director  
Community, Parent and School Outreach

- PTACHC community forum to discuss suspension rate disparity and discipline:
  1. Wednesday, March 14, 2018  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (Wilde Lake HS)
  2. Saturday, March 17, 2018  
8:30 am -10:00 am (Long Reach HS)
  3. April 11, 2018 - TBA

# Board of Education

Christina Delmont-Small – Board of Education member

- Budget HCPSS: cuts were made due to deficit of \$22 million.
- Estimated deficit of \$69 million by end of FY 2019

Q: What is the summary of cuts?

A: Cut world language for elementary school & 6<sup>th</sup> grade; increased class size.

# HCEA

Colleen Morris – President, Howard County  
Education Association

[colleenmorris@mseaneia.org](mailto:colleenmorris@mseaneia.org)

- Public hearing on Budget: Wednesday March 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Come give your support.
- Kirwan commission: Want to lockbox lottery money to come to education. It is supplanted not supplemented.

# Scholarships

Yetti Lipede – PTACHC Vice President Issues  
[vpissues@ptachc.org](mailto:vpissues@ptachc.org)

- PTACHC scholarship - Remind high schools and HS PTA's that applications & letters of recommendations are due by April 20, 2018.
- For more information, contact their guidance office, visit PTACHC website ([www.ptachc.org](http://www.ptachc.org)) or call PTACHC office (410-740-5153).



# Legislative update

Donna Sudbrook – PTACHC Legislative Chair

- National PTA 2018 Legislative Conference to be held March 13 - 15 2018 at Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA.
- 103<sup>rd</sup> Maryland PTA annual convention will be held July 13 - 14, 2018 at Oxon Hill High School (near National Harbor).
- Compliance checklist for Standards of Continuing Affiliation (SoCA). See PTACHC website for details.

# Future Meetings

- March 6, 2018 - Board of Education meeting with PTA Presidents – 7:30 pm at BOE building
- Board of Education:
  1. March 8, 2018, 4:00 pm (BOE building)  
Announcement of HS #13 site
  2. March 8, 2018, 7:30 pm (BOE building)  
Public hearing on budget
- PTACHC community forum to discuss suspension rate disparity and discipline:
  1. March 14, 2018, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (Wilde Lake HS)
  2. March 17, 2018, 8:30 am -10:00 am (Long Reach HS)