

PTA Council of Howard County
General Meeting
Homewood School
April 9, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:32 pm by PTACHC President Vicky Cutroneo.

Minutes from March 5, 2018 General Meeting were accepted without changes.

Treasurer's Report - Laurie Ramey, Treasurer

- The Personal Property Return (PPO) for PTA Council has been filed with the state of Maryland.
- All PTA's should file their PPO by April 15, 2018.

OBRC Report – Laurie Ramey, Treasurer

- Waiting to hear from County Council as to what they will fund.
- April 10, 2018, 7:00 pm - Public hearing on capital budget will be held at George Howard Building, Ellicott City in the Banneker Room.
- Vicky made a motion to take a formal position on funding the proposed Howard County Public School System budget now before County Executive and County Council to restore class size to current levels. Laurie Ramey seconded the motion. Discussion – some were not comfortable not knowing more details. Votes for: 30, votes against 0, abstentions 2.

President's Report – Vicky Cutroneo, PTACHC President

- Equitable and Effective Discipline Practices Meeting at Hammond High School, April 11, 2018, 6:45 pm - 8:45 pm.
- Initiatives of Diversity Committee
 1. Survey and focus groups are ongoing.
 2. Grace's Closet – coats/winter clothing are being collected; and preparing for Teacher Swap of supplies. Howard Community College (HCC) will collaborate with this effort and work with school counselors. There are currently three portables to house supplies at different schools in the county.

Legislative Report – Donna Sudbrook, Legislative Chair

- Update on legislative matters will be given in May

Board of Education - Christina Delmont-Small and Bess Altwerger - Board of Education members

- April 10, 2018 BOE meeting - Public hearing on Policy 8010: Grading and Reporting: PreK through Grade 8
- April 11, 2018 Equitable and Effective Discipline Practices Meeting. (Referenced by Vicky above). Discussion last meeting centered around disparities/suspensions among ethnic groups, and looking at strategies of how to bridge the gap.
- April 24, 2018 BOE Public hearing on Capital and Operating budgets
- April 25, 2018 County Council budget hearing
- June 7, 2018 Redistricting Feasibility study
- June 7, 2018 Public hearing on Sexual Discrimination Policy
- Discussion on redistricting process led by Christina Delmont-Small, Cindy Vallaincourt and Kristen Coombs. They will be looking at how to have a better process. They discussed how to create and develop polygons at last meeting. Email them if you have suggestions. Meetings are open to the public, but the public may not speak. They will check to see if meetings can be held in the evening.

Q: Can the Talbott Springs school rebuild be revisited?

A: State denied the funds due to study showing it was not needed and that extreme renovations should suffice. An appeal is pending.

Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) Report - Brent Loveless

- APFO Update handout ([view here](#))
- As of today, the last state bill to allow developers to pay an increased fee for development is probably defeated.
- Adjustment of school surcharge fees also will be defeated. Want to be more equitable.
- List of school surcharge fees are on the Maryland state site.
- \$64 million is owed in bonds as of April 9, 2018.
- CB-1-2018 Voted on Feb. 5 will become effective Apr 16, 2018. To view this document, [click here](#).
- Presubmission hearing on the development of the Milk Producers property on Leishear Road will be held at Maryland Housing Center, 11825 W. Market Place, Fulton MD 20759 on April 12, 2018.

Know the Signs Program – Karen Herren, Promise Leader with HoCo Maryland Sandy Hook Promise

- Sandy Hook Promise (www.sandyhookpromise.org) mission is to prevent tragedies from happening again.
- They have met with Dr. Martirano and Tom McNeal, HCPSS Director of Security to discuss and evaluate physical safety aspects in Howard County schools.
- Four (4) Know the Signs Programs
 1. Say Something
 2. Start with Hello
 3. Safety Assessment and Intervention
 4. Signs of Suicide (SOS)
- Northfield Elementary implemented Start with Hello program
- Say Something presentation: 70% of those who post about wanting to do something, follow through
7% of students feel unsafe to attend school and did not go
- Schools are safe but not immune to violence
- Sign up for HoCo Sandy Hook Promise on Facebook.

Alan Kittleman – Howard County Executive

- Question, Answer and Discussion session with members

Discussion: Talbott Springs Elementary School denied to be rebuilt, but it is very much needed due to the condition of the school currently. The school is overcrowded, and had pests, ants and roof leaks.

Kittleman: When Dr. Martirano first started, they looked at replacing Talbott Springs, but it has since been denied.

Q: If the decision for Talbott Springs were reversed, how would it be addressed?

A: That would be figured out and would he would support replacement. There is a work session on Wed., April 11, 2018.

Q: What is the cost of High School #13?

A: Basing decision on school board recommendations. There is a group that will be looking at figuring out when we will need HS #14 too and not waiting until it is too late.

Q: Can the decision about deleting the World Language program be reversed and be included in the curriculum?

A: Board of Education made the final decision based on funding limits, so it is a final decision.

Q: Why is Howard County having trouble keeping up with capital needs?

A: State delegation is looking at it, but we are at the limit. We have to look at development and redistricting.

Q: What studies or statistics are you looking at and what data are you using when decisions are made about police in schools?

A: Unsure of specific data. Police chief and superintendent have met and made the decision. Increased police presence and community outreach are a tool that I support. Best resource that we can use is to increase capital budget for security. More funds are being given to schools for buzzers, videos. High Schools need to be more secure in Howard County.

Q: How do we ensure the safety of portable classrooms at schools, especially at elementary schools?

A: Currently working with Tom McNeal, Director of Security to see what can be done to make them safer.

Q: What is being done about protecting and addressing students of color/immigrant populations who may be afraid of police?

A: HoCo Police Dept. works closely with schools and the immigrant community. The officers are receiving training on how to work with this population. Citizen advisory council meets regularly and includes immigrant population representatives.

Q: Do we receive feedback from this population?

A: Meetings are scheduled regularly to discuss any issues that they have.

Q: What can be done to improve the lack of communication between the community and the county?

A: Departments need more work in this area. Currently meets with superintendent once per month. County Council meets with BOE each month.

Q: What can be done when we feel like there is no place for community input on overcrowding and our efforts are not having results regarding development?

A: No easy answer. Zoning Board has ruled to decrease density at Maple Lawn but increase commercial development. Cannot override their ruling. Continue to be vigilant; ballot box is your strongest vote. I served on zoning board for 10 years and voted against Maple Lawn but he lost. Have also voted against other developments but he lost.

Q: Why are there the same number of counselors, psychologists and other resource officers when each school's needs are different?

A: James LeMon: Staffing is not the same at all schools. While some have BSAP and others have alternative Education, there are differences and it is based on the need of each school.

Q: What is the plan for training of the police working with different cultures?

A: All police have ongoing cultural training.

Q: Because the Planning and Zoning Boards are separate departments, what was the report data from the Planning and Zoning Board based on?

Q: More information is needed to understand the question, but will look into it.

Q: How are conflicts of interest handled when there is a power struggle between entities and the purchasing of property in regards to High School #13?

A: The School Board wanted the property at first, but then vacillated and did not want it; therefore, they should not buy it. Maryland will in the future allow purchase from private companies. He is unfamiliar with the bill but will review it.

Q: Where are we getting the additional funds from the apartment communities (with students) to help with development fees for our school?

A: New development is not enough; we have to figure out a way to get more fees for the schools. Will be including this in future discussions

Q: Is special training given to police officers on how to deal with persons with special needs/disabilities?

A: Yes, all officers receive this training.

Q: What can be done about overcrowding in schools other than redistricting? Are you considering transfer taxes, etc.?

A: Doing our best to increase infrastructure. Board of Ed had tough decisions to make about not disrupting students. There is a multi-prong approach. Legislation includes increasing money to local jurisdictions and construction.

Q: Can you discuss the state approval process regarding the Interagency Committee (IAC)?

A: IAC makes and presents recommendations about school construction to the Board of Public Works. Need to get more state help due to increased costs i.e. prevailing wages.

Announcements

May 7, 2018 PTACHC General meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Submitted by PTACHC Office Administrator