

PTA Council of Howard County
General Meeting
Homewood School
March 5, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by PTACHC President Vicky Cutroneo.

Minutes from February 12, 2018 General Meeting were accepted without changes.

Treasurer's Report - Laurie Ramey, Treasurer

- 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.
- Operating budget passed tonight. HCPSS 3/5/2018 BOE fully funded educational fund to make up a deficit but increased class size

Director of Security, Emergency Management and Response (HCPSS) - Thomas McNeal

- Safety issues have been assessed since new director started in December.
- Currently working on active shooter response, due to Florida shooting incident.
- 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.

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.

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.

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.

- 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.

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.

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.

Confidentiality: There is a process to help the students get help that need help and there is a security process of when to allow them back in school and not all of the information can be shared with others, as there are confidentiality policies that have to be followed. They have to measure risks and priorities.

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

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.

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.

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 at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (Wilde Lake HS)
 2. Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 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 & 6th grade; increased class size.

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

- 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.

PTA Council Scholarships - Yetti Lipede – PTACHC Scholarship Chair

(Report given by Matta Zeinali, VP Operations)

- 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) or call PTACHC office (410-740-5153).

Legislative Report - Donna Sudbrook – PTACHC Legislative Chair

- National PTA 2018 Legislative Conference will be held March 13 - 15 2018 at Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA.
- 103rd 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.

Announcements

- 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:
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