

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
Second General Meeting 1 October, 2018

Board Attendees:

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Beth Gettleman, Executive Vice President
3. Matta Zeinali, Vice President, Operations
4. Meg Ricks, Treasurer
5. Brett Sovereign, Secretary
6. Lisa Soto, CAC Representative
7. Sarah Rehling, Office Administrator

Meeting was called to order: 7:31 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

Opening Statements by President Loveless: Announcement of upcoming education meetings: Tuesday October 9th 7:30 BOE meets with PTA Presidents and CAC, Boardroom. Thursday October 11th, work session on Options for HS Overcrowding. Thursday October 18th, Regular Meeting. Tuesday October 23rd, 7-8 pm with PTACHC.

Treasurer's Report: Report on September expenses and income. PTACHC Membership dues due November 1st, and Form 990/990ez due to Maryland by November 15th. Three more trainings upcoming for local PTA treasurers.

Secretary Report: Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Superintendent Report: James LeMon reporting from office. Advisory councils are starting up, see <https://www.hcpss.org/superintendent/advisory/>.

SECAC Report: No report this month.

HCEA Report: October 10th 6-8 pm -- hosting "Innocence Stolen: Protecting Our Children Online" at Rouse Theater. bit.ly/protectinghowardstudents to register.

Priority Survey Report: Executive VP reporting. 120 responses from across the county, with 60% of respondents being local PTA members. Overcrowding in HCPSS was the highest priority. On other issues, board is still processing the myriad of issues raised outside the major categories. Educating local PTAs on County and State matters and advocating for improvements.

Open PTACHC Positions list was handed out and there was a call for volunteers. Question on whether the list is available in softcopy -- President indicated it would be on the website shortly.

JumpStart-Dual Enrollment Program: Bill Barnes, Chief Academic Officer, Caroline Walker (Program Innovation). JumpStart is a partnership of HCPSS and HCC to gain college credits or earn an associates degree. Background on the program: started with Cybersecurity@ARL for credits and AA degree in Cybersecurity. Also a STEM program is offered with 30 credits at HCC. In 2013 State asked Howard County to encourage options to earn college credits (prior to that, near the bottom of the state). Benefits of dual-college program: dual enrollee increased student retention in HS and as well as chances of completing a Bachelor's degree.

River Hill and Oakland Mills expanded the program and there is interest by 8th graders moving to these HS to join these programs. Reasons included full courses, interest in CyberSecurity and STEM, getting an AA before HS graduation. A number of different options centered around subjects of student interest and career viability.

Course credit is from HCC and is accepted at Maryland colleges/universities (these also likely transferable to other schools). Certain subjects are taught at HS by HCPSS faculty who've been accredited. Question from audience: how will this expand to other HS or away from HCPSS? <https://hcpss.org/jumpstart> Aim is to expand to all HS by the time HS 13 is open -- using the schools that needed enrollment as a good place to start.

Question on how effective so far this was in reducing population at Long Reach (about 160 students) and Howard HS (about 53 students), Centennial (about 11). 50% of tuition covered (100% for FARMS). Bright Minds foundation covers fees and textbooks for now.

BOE Liaison Report/School Overcrowding: Reviewed the actions taken by the BOE for September 20 -- redistricting for 2019 is not an option. Options 4, 5, and 6 were removed. Long Reach enrollment is better due to JumpStart, but Howard and Centennial HS still have issues. Regular meeting on 2 October to continue work. October 18 Public Hearing on proposed 2019-2020 Academic Calendar. BOE documents at <https://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpsmd/Board.nsf/Public>.

Legislative Update/APFO introduction for new members: President PTACHC gave an overview of APFO in Howard County. The President presented background on what APFO is supposed to do and how it has fallen short of objectives, as well as relevant reports, updates, and timelines for advocacy. The most recent APFO update passed earlier this year doesn't take effect until 2019, and will have the first HS test for enrollment.

Reports from Blue Ribbon Schools: Waterloo ES named National Blue Ribbon School, Manor Woods ES delegate reported that the trailers are no longer being used this year.

Meeting adjourned: 9:18 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 5 November at 7:30 pm, Homewood School.

Associated Documents: Minutes from 4 September General Meeting. Meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report. JumpStart-Dual Enrollment, BOE Options to Relieve HS Overcrowding. Presentations: JumpStart, APFO for New Delegates.

Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary