

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
First General Meeting 4 September , 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: 7:30 pm. Quorum was confirmed. Prior meeting minutes were approved. This year's board were introduced.

Opening Statements by President Loveless: Mission Statement, and summer activities and accomplishments over the summer and initiatives.

Priorities: Need input from the local PTAs on PTACHC priorities for the coming year. Plan is to send a survey to presidents and delegates.

Benefits of PTA: Upcoming training on insurance policy from Maryland PTA coming up (webinar next week).

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed Summer 2018 expenses and last year's P&L Budget overview. Discussed Proposed Budget FY 2018-2019. Mayfield Woods delegate (former treasurer) asked about the MD PTA convention budget (much less last year) -- should we base this on last year or the year before? Debbie Rhoades, Murray Hill motioned to increase this item to \$1200, motion approved. Mayfield Woods PTA delegate moved to approve the budget as amended. Budget approved.

Volunteer call: President put out a call for people to fill official board positions as well as for unofficial tasks. Board will put up a list in the next few days, after the next board meeting.

PTA Phishing: Beth Silverman from HC Office of Consumer Protection was a guest speaker on protection from phishing/scamming attempts against PTA officers. Suggestions for ways to protect yourself: follow PTA financial rules (pay by check, two signatures, etc.), a delegate also suggested two factor authentication (such as password/mobile phone) on official email accounts.

Candidate Forum: Board proposed to follow up the BOE candidate forum in June with a general local candidate forum. President found the schedule is very difficult, and is looking to partner with another educational group. Announcement to come, along with a call for volunteers to help.

Legislative Update: Donna Sudbrook will be the chair for legislative affairs after a brief hiatus for Fall 2018. The President asked for assistance and noted that keeping an eye on developments at the County and State level is important. The Board is looking for ways to advocate in a timely way on educational affairs. APFO update by President: discussion on building excise fees for school construction, transfer tax (in and out of county) shared for general construction -- these fees and charges are noticeably lower than neighboring counties. State discussion on a possible bill at the end of the year on matching funding.

BOE Liaison Report: BOE Vice Chairman Mavis Ellis gave an update on their activities. The operating budget committee is already meeting, and a proposed budget will be issued in December. They will meet on 6 September to review capital improvement plan. Policies will be revised this year, including the Policy on Policies. Segued into the next topic:

HCPSS BOE Overcrowding -- Q & A: BOE released a set of proposed options to alleviate High School overcrowding

<https://www.hcpsss.org/f/schoolplanning/2018-08-23-relieve-hs-overcrowding-presentation.pdf> Public testimony at BOE 11 September <https://www.hcpss.org/board/meeting-participation>.

President from Mt Hebron indicated that they are drafting a local statement which could be shared with PTACHC. Discussion of the scope, and the fact that this topic is very controversial. Suggestion of possible general advocacy points that are higher level, emphasis on keeping classes together (not changing high schools). This is musical chairs, countywide. Mayfield Woods MS delegate moved that PTACHC not take a position on these options at this time. Motion was passed.

SECAC -- Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee representative asked for PTA reps to assist at SECAC, particularly looking for parents with students with 504s as well as IEPs.

Reports from E/M/H: Elkridge President (Meg Ricks) indicated that mold remediation happened. Dunloggin delegate mentioned lead testing over the summer, and mentioned presidential transition. Atholton HS has a new principal and year started well.

Meeting adjourned: 9:16 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 1 October meeting.

Associated Documents: Minutes from 4 June General Meeting. Meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report, Budget Overview 2017-2018, Proposed Budget 2018-2019, BOE HS Overcrowding Options sheet.

Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary