

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
Sixth General Meeting 4 February, 2019

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. Sarah Rehling, Office Administrator

Meeting was called to order: 7:36 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

President's Announcements: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory committee representative from PTACHC needed. Please contact the board if interested.

Treasurer's Report: Report on January expenses and income.

Secretary Report: Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Superintendent Report: James LeMon reporting. HCPSS News -- provided free and reduced meals to students whose parents/caregivers were furloughed during the federal government shutdown. Deadlines for summer school registration coming up.

SECAC Report: No report.

CAC Report: No report.

HCEA Report: Colleen Morris, President of HCEA reporting. There is a statewide rally Monday, March 11 in Annapolis, with chartered buses from the high schools leaving 4:15 pm (6-7 pm) -- check HCEA website or your local principal to register for a bus. Ask PTACHC to support the rally to gain funding for public education. Q: What is the background on Kirwan? A: HCEA has no position on the Kirwan recommendations. The HCEA position is for more state funding. Other Maryland school systems will be participating, as well as principals and Superintendent will be coming.

President motioned that PTACHC adopt the following position: PTACHC supports HCEA's effort to provide appropriate state educational funding for all Maryland public schools. Motion adopted unanimously.

Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) -- Presentation: Joe Smaw (joe_smaw@yahoo.com) presenting. (www.dadsofgreatstudents.com). This is a community engagement initiative to provide positive male role models and to provide supervision in order to enhance security and reduce bullying. Volunteers spend time in the school tutoring, supervising recess and school entrances and hallways. The program provides training, meetings, and shirts and tags. Currently there are five schools in HCPSS participating (Thomas Viaduct delegate says it's been there for several years). There is an upfront cost to Watch D.O.G.S., which can be paid over time. Question -- do you contact the administration of the school? What about screening of the volunteers and insurance implications. Answer: they work with the County policy on student supervision and use the border guard system.

OBRC (Operating Budget Review Committee) Liaison Report: Laurie Ramey reporting. January 23rd - information meeting was held to discuss the HCPSS budget proposal. Contact Laurie at obrc@ptachc.org for more information. Work sessions were postponed due to the weather last week. [Board Docs link](#). 5th or 7th February for public work sessions. February 12th scheduled for BOE adoption -- still asking for feedback on priority items, such as smaller class sizes, more mental health support, and later school times.

[Link](#) to relevant supporting documents and meeting schedule.

BOE Report -- Q&A on Current items: Coffee and Conversation Community meeting with BOE, Tuesday, March 19th, 7:30 pm at Marriotts Ridge High School. Jen Mallo, liaison from BOE reporting. Emergency Preparedness and Response Policy public hearing (March 14), and Student Dress Code public hearing ([Link](#)). Question: how will redistricting be done differently this time around compared to the previous time? There is a policy for redistricting. There will be many opportunities for feedback and the attendance committee will be advisory only. Question: is there anything in the budget for replacing the technology that is mandated for testing? Yes.

Moms Demand Action: Lisa Siano (lsianoesq@gmail.com). Nicole Berger (hocomomsdemand@gmail.com) gave a presentation on Be SMART, guidelines to prevent gun violence by children/students. Contact and information at momsdemandaction.org to help share this information throughout the community and your local PTA (also - besmartforkids.org).

Legislative Update: Brent Loveless presenting. Legislative committee is growing, but still could use volunteers to help track BoE, local and state legislative activity. Impact Fees for school construction status: there is a special work session at the state. There is also a redistricting bill in draft (not available) and a new bill on transfer taxes. There was a straw poll on giving local BoE control to adjust school starting times. There is a Maryland PTA Night in Annapolis, Thursday Feb 7, 2019 6-8 pm. Maryland House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 170 Annapolis 21401 (email info@mdpta.org on logistics)

Wrap-up -- Issues and Updates at Local PTAs: Alert: the National PTA has proposed an increase in individual dues for next year from \$2.25 to \$3.75 (\$5.75 per member). Will have conversation next meeting on our response. News from local PTAs

Meeting adjourned: 9:03 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 4 March at 7:30 pm, Homewood School.

Associated Documents: Minutes from 7 January General Meeting. Meeting agenda (including draft HCEA position and Treasurer's Report).

Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary