

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)  
Seventh General Meeting 4 March, 2019

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**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, SECAC Liaison
7. Tonya Tiffany, Legislative Chair

**Meeting was called to order:** 7:32 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

**Feedback, communications, and quality control check up:** Beth Gettleman, Executive VP. As a follow-up to the survey on PTA priorities from earlier in the year, there will be a communication survey coming out shortly.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report on February expenses and income. For local treasurers, Personal Property report is due by April 15th. PTACHC scholarships are coming up, \$6015 donated so far. Donations are welcome at any time, but the current amount received will determine how many 2019 scholarships can be given.

**Secretary Report:** Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Superintendent Report:** James LeMon reporting. He provided fliers with a summary of the 2020 FY budget. It was approved by the BoE and now is at the County Council. March 5, 7:00 pm, County Executive Public Hearing. April 24, 7:00 pm, County Council Public Hearing on BoE Requested Budget. April 25, 7:00 pm BoE Public Hearing on Requested Budget. See [www.hcpss.org/budgets](http://www.hcpss.org/budgets) for complete information and to sign up to testify.

**SECAC Report:** No report. Action to reach out to SECAC as they haven't attended for several months.

**CAC Report:** Lisa Soto reporting. She distributed fliers on "Tips on Advocating For Your School." Next CAC meeting March 13th at 7:00 pm at BoE building. Overview of CAC -- Community Advisory Council is a citizens advisory committee for the Howard County BoE. The meetings provide a forum for information of use to all local PTAs.

**HCEA Report:** Colleen Morris, President of HCEA reporting. Reminder that Monday 11 March is the Annapolis Rally. Sign up for bus transportation from the high schools soon -- already 950 people signed up (19 buses chartered), departing at 3:15 pm and 4:30 pm. She emphasized that attendance at the County Executive Public Hearing is important.

Bill on school vision screening. Baltimore City has a mobile lab for vision that provides glasses and other work. Moved by HB 1242 0915 Vision - Maryland Kids Program to support the bill for counties to provide mandatory vision services (diagnosis and provision of glasses). Discussion -- who pays? Answer -- unclear, IEP can bill to Medicaid. Budgeted to the Health department.

**Position:** Motion for PTACHC to support Delegate Hill's Bill [HB1242](http://www.maryland.gov/house/bills/2019/0915) Public School Students – Vision Services and the Vision for Maryland Program. Motion passes with 7 nays and 4 abstentions.

**BOE Report:** Jen Mallo reporting. Next BoE public meeting at March 14, 2019, 4:00 pm and 7:00 p.m. These meetings are also live streamed ( <https://www.hcpss.org/board/>). There are a number of important policies undergoing revision. The policy on grading and reporting on HS students is under review. Policy on students charged with community or reportable offenses. She also emphasized the importance of attending the upcoming public hearings on the budget.

**Bill Barnes, HCPSS Chief Academic Officer:** Media Licenses announcement: HCPSS will continue to pay the yearly site license (\$35,000/year) to cover the showing of movies at school activities. HCPSS wants help to communicate to the local PTAs that this is covered. Question: what about music? No coverage here, it's a different realm.

**Legislative Update:** Brent Loveless presenting. Status of HB1409 School surcharge bill: currently amended to allow the County Council to set the rates (rather than \$4.00) and remove the inflation index, and exempt retirement and affordable housing. Under this, the Council will be able to change the rates with no guidance. Important to follow this going forward, even if it passes. Local bill to force redistricting was introduced (and then recently removed). Another bill to adjust transfer tax (based on sales price, 1% currently in Howard County, with a quarter going to school site acquisition) with no actual amounts. Delegate asked for President Loveless and CAC Liaison Soto to provide educational sessions on the legislative process.

**Nominating Committee:** PTACHC needs 3 people to serve on the nominating committee. Please contact [ptachc@gmail.com](mailto:ptachc@gmail.com) if you are interested. The committee will be voted in at the April meeting. Information on the nominating committee can be found [here](#). The slate of candidates provided to the board by May, and voted on at the final general meeting in June.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:08 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 1 April at 7:30 pm, Homewood School.

**Associated Documents:** Minutes from 4 March General Meeting. Meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report, HCPSS FY 2020 Budget Summary, Tips On Advocating for Your School.

**Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary**