

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
Eighth General Meeting 1 April, 2019

Board Attendees:

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Beth Gettleman, Executive Vice President
3. Matta Zeinali, Vice President, Operations
4. Meg Ricks, Treasurer
5. Lisa Soto, CAC Liaison
6. Tonya Tiffany, Legislative Chair

Meeting was called to order: 7:30 pm. Quorum was confirmed. Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's Report: Meg Ricks, PTACHC Treasurer

Report on March expenses and income. For local treasurers, Personal Property report is due by April 15th. Start preparing for annual audits.

Secretary Report: Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

SECAC Report: Special Ed parent forum is April 6, 2019 at Marriotts Ridge High School (www.howardcountysecac.com).

Announcements: Brent Loveless, PTACHC President

1. Next PTA Council Board meeting is Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 7:00 pm at Old Cedar Lane School.
2. Community Forum on Effective Discipline practices – April 3, 2019 at Wilde Lake High School. Sign-in and networking begin at 6:15 pm, followed by discussion from 6:30 – 8:15 pm.
3. Bright Minds Night of Honor ceremony - Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 6:30 pm, Long Reach High School.
4. Next PTACHC General Meeting is Monday, May 6, 2019 at Homewood School, 7:30 pm.
5. PTACHC is sponsoring Howard County Citizen's Association for their annual community meeting with the County Executive. This will be held on June 11, 2019 at Oakland Mills High School. Watch www.ptachc.org for updates.
6. Brent Loveless is attending the Maryland PTA Bylaws amendment meeting on April 6, 2019.
7. Maryland PTA is offering Conflict Resolution Training on April 13, 2019 and May 18, 2019 in the Glen Burnie office. Both sessions begin at 9:00 am.

PTACHC Nominating Committee: Brent announced that PTA Council needs three (3) members for the Nominating Committee. The following members nominated themselves:

- Felicia West – Gorman Crossing Elementary School
- Nicole Alston – Atholton Elementary School
- Trina Thames – Howard High School

Nominations were closed and a vote was taken. All three (3) candidates were elected by a majority vote.

Bright Minds Foundation: Lisa B. Terry, Executive Director, Howard County Office of Military Affairs

The Bright Minds Foundation works to enhance educational opportunities for all children attending Howard County public schools.

There are 5 major programs:

1. Student support for Jump Start
2. Read With Me Howard County – 400 children are receiving free books
3. Computers for Students
4. Student Scholarships
5. Staff and Teacher Grants

Night of Honor Ceremony honors Teachers and Principals of the year. There were 250 nominees this year. Tickets are \$15 each and the money supports Bright Minds Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. PTAs can support by attending the event or buying banners to sponsor.

Bright Minds also hosted its popular program, “Strutting with the Staff” Dance Contest in March at the Jim Rouse Theater at Wilde Lake High School.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent Howard County Public School System

- Dr. Martirano introduced Dr. Chao Wu, Board of Education member.
- Goal is to maintain the high quality education of Howard County and improve upon it further.
- Budget: receiving lots of input from the community. The budget is \$1 billion; however, we still have a deficit that hampers future efforts. 85% of the budget goes to pay salaries. See [HCPSS FY 2020 Budget](#) on PTACHC website.
- Priorities include:
 1. Compensation for teachers
 2. Diversify work force to look like student population
 3. Recruit people of color
- Initiative: Mental Illness and Health - Additional health workers, psychologists and Pupil Personnel Workers
- Howard County is the highest growing county, so have to address growing population and need to preserve class sizes.
- Capital Improvement Budget – includes 13th high school, Talbott Springs ES renovations, deferred maintenance (need ½ of \$1 billion to take care of all the needs).
- Feasibility Study – still alive and well with adjustments after 2 years. Redistricting must occur at some point but must be equitable. Will study school start times strategically.
- Safety and Security – Tom McNeal is the Director of Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response. Goal is to move away from punitive measurements.

Q: Can you address the capital improvement budget plan?

A: A 10-year plan is being prioritized and addresses systematically, but things have to be postponed due to not having enough money.

Q: How do you convince County Council to purchase land to address overcrowding of schools?

A: Have to get DRRA (Development Rights and Responsibilities) but there is a tight timeline. The allegation of money is state 55% and county 45%. Dr. Martirano has idea of removing Faulkner Ridge and building a 9th grade academy.

Q: How is safety information being disseminated?

A: Control should be at the local level for local issues

Legislative Update: Karen Herren, PTACHC Legislative Committee

HB1409 – APFO Legislation – Stuck in appropriations. Asking delegates to call Delegate Maggie McIntosh (410-841-3990) and ask to get it out.

SB128 – Pertaining to giving control of school calendars back to local authorities. Howard County Board of Ed and Public School system is back in control of its school calendar effective July 2019.

SB653 - We are watching legislation related to state authority for Howard and Carroll Counties to work together on a way to utilize resources across county lines. This is something to keep an eye on at the local level.

Howard County Council

CB17-2019 - AN ACT altering the number of consecutive years a project or phase of a project must be retested each time the County Council adopts new annual housing unit allocations and school capacity charts under the school capacity test of the Adequate Public Facilities Act of Howard County.

Motion made, seconded and passed:

Move that PTACHC support passage of CB17-2019 to alter the number of years schools must be retested from 4 years to 7 years. By passing this vote, we are saying that 4 years is not enough time for our schools to recover needed capacity to allow increases in housing construction.

CR49-2019 - This piece of legislation seeks to finalize the deal to purchase the school site on Mission Road for the next high school.

Please plan to attend/watch/respond to the meeting on April 8 between Council and Board of Education at 8:30 a.m. at the Board of Education building.

Public testimony on both CB17 (on APFO wait times and CR49 (Mission Road Developer Agreement) is April 22nd at 7:00 pm. Please plan to attend, give testimony, and/or send in testimony to Banneker Room of the George Howard Building or via email councilmail@howardcountymd.gov.

Motion made, seconded and passed:

Move that PTACHC take a position in concern of CR49-2019 that the County should continue to pursue acquisition of the Mission Road site for High School #13 without the 25 years of allowances to the developer to operate without appropriate regulations and restrictions that are related to the health and safety of the citizens of Howard County and the children at the adjacent school.

The Board of Education voted to move forward with putting red light cameras on school buses. State legislation has already allowed cameras on school busses. As it stands now, the County Council needs to create some legislation to take this to the next step.

We are recommending at this time that PTACHC should preemptively take a position to support the creation and the passing of said legislation.

Motion made, seconded and passed:

Move that PTACHC send to the County Council a letter preemptively supporting the creation and passing of legislation that will further the goal of placing red light cameras on school buses.

Ready to Read Act of 2019: Marisa McCurdy of Decoding Dyslexia Maryland

SB734 - This act provides universal reading screening each year for students in K and 1st grade. Want to include 1st grade if needed. Funding is provided from grants and is supported by the Kirwan Commission. It will become effective July 2019 for 2019-2020 school year. See handout on PTACHC website, [Legislative Report](#).

CAC Report: Lisa Soto

Next meeting April 10, 2019, 7:00 pm in the Board of Education building

See handout available on PTACHC website, [CAC Overview](#).

Meeting adjourned 9:15 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 6 May at 7:30 pm, Homewood School.