

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
Ninth General Meeting 6 May, 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. Lisa Soto, CAC Liaison
7. Tonya Tiffany, Legislative Chair

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

Announcements: Brent Loveless reporting. Boardmanship training with MD PTA was held recently. There will be bylaw updates discussed and voted upon at the Maryland PTA convention this summer. A link to the proposed revised bylaws are on ptachc.org. Summary of some proposed changes, including changing state board from council presidents to regional representatives. PTA members are requested to review and provide comments.

Treasurer's Report: Report on April expenses and income. Reminder that the insurance company is offering webinars on insurance coverage.

Secretary's Report: Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Superintendent Report: James LeMon reporting, see HCPSS website for details of upcoming events.

SECAC Report: No report.

HCEA Report: It is Teacher Appreciation Week: the best gift is a note from a student to a teacher. Educators of Color Recruiting event was held last week.

BOE Report: Jen Mallo reporting. Public hearing on Thursday, May 9, 7 pm (see HCPSS BoardDocs). Board work session on Wed., May 8, 4-6 pm and regular meeting on Thursday 4 pm & 7 pm. There are 3-minute slots, call 410 310-7194 to reserve space. Budget status: no decisions yet, but the tentative increase of \$35 million for next year's budget, roughly \$32 million will go to negotiated agreements for faculty and staff. Expecting 850 new students. Expected there will be a shortfall. County Executive currently deciding, and is ultimately made by the County Executive and the Council. Question on who to contact (CE and your local council member on getting funding).

Nominating Committee: Nicole Alston reporting. The committee currently has Brent L. as President, Brett S. for secretary, with Executive VP, VP Operations, VP Issues, and Treasurer open for 2019-2020. Request for more volunteers, who must have been on either a local PTA board or a PTACHC delegate.

Policy Committees: Beth Gettleman, Executive VP. Need PTACHC representatives for upcoming school policy review committees, two of which are scheduled during the next few months.

PTA Costs and Benefits: National dues are proposed to increase from \$2.25 to \$3.75 per member. National PTA to be voting on in June 2019. Delegate, Mayfield Woods MS moved for PTACHC to oppose the proposed national dues increase of \$1.50 as too high. Seconded, discussed and approved by hand vote.

Motion statement: PTACHC does not support the \$1.50 National PTA dues increase. We request that MD PTA not support this increase at the National PTA Convention." Position to be communicated to the State PTA.

Legislative Update: Tonya Tiffany reporting. Update on current legislative status. MD General Assembly has adjourned, with HB 1409 passed and waiting for governor's signature. Locally, CB17-2019 was tabled tonight for next month's meeting. CR49-2019 (DRRA) status after tonight's meeting is unclear.

CB18-2019, to install school bus red light monitoring cameras, was drafted and public testimony will be on May 20. David Ramsey, HCPSS Director of Transportation, reporting (<https://www.hcpss.org/schools/transportation/road-safety/#motorists>). Tonya Tiffany moved that CB18-2019 be amended. Motion seconded and discussed. Amended. Motion passes by voice vote.

Motion Statement: PTACHC would like to continue our support for School Bus Monitoring Cameras now filed under CB18-2019. We would like to see an amendment where the excess revenue of the fines, once the initial costs are paid, are to be directed to student transportation and student safety.

Motion that "PTACHC supports the maintenance or reduction of current student-teacher ratio targets for the 2019-2020 school year." Motion seconded. Discussion. Motion amended and approved by voice vote.

Motion Statement: PTACHC opposes any increases in class sizes and would like to see the Board of Education move toward the target class sizes as stated on the current HCPSS website.

Start School Later: Karen Pang reporting on the promotion of later school times for improvement of student well-being. Alex Horn, a current HS student, provided testimony in support of later times.

OBRC/CAC Report: Lisa Soto and Laurie Ramey reporting. 58,328 students currently enrolled (March 29th report). Fastest growing jurisdiction in the state (over 1,500 new students over 18 months). May 13th, 2019, at 1:00 pm for public testimony. Motion by Mayfield Woods delegate that PTACHC adopt the following position:

Motion Statement: PTACHC requests that the County Council increase funding to the school system at a minimum, to cover negotiated salary increases, to fully fund the Health fund, and to provide enough funding for staff and resources needed for expected enrollment growth so that class sizes do not increase.

Motion seconded, discussed, and passed.

Report May 8th, 4-6 BoE work sessions. May 9th, 4 and 7, BoE. Friday May 10th, County Council work session at 9:30 am.

Meeting adjourned 9:38 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 3 June at 7:30 pm, Homewood School.

Associated Documents: Minutes from 1 April General Meeting. Meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report,

Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary