

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
Third General Meeting 4 November, 2019

Board Attendees:

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Trina Thames, VP Operations
3. Lisa Soto, VP Issues
4. Brett Sovereign, Secretary
5. Joseph Griffin, Treasurer
6. Meg Ricks, Chair, Policy Committee
7. Tonya Tiffany, Chair, Legislative Committee

Meeting was called to order: at 7:34 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

Howard County Association of Student Councils Presentation: Cindy Drummond (advisor), Alex Eapen (president), Hannah Whitkin (chief of staff). HCASC is a student-run organization, with meetings open to all students in middle and high school, not just local student council officers, to gain leadership skills and learn about opportunities for community service. HCASC meets monthly, and runs the convention for choosing candidates for student BoE representative. HCASC is looking for more delegates at the upcoming convention, particularly from middle schools. See <https://hcasc.hcpss.org/> for further details, meeting notices, and recent news.

Annual Survey: Trina Thames, VP Operations reporting. Request each PTA to fill out the survey at [PTA Survey of Priorities 2019-2020](#) on requirements before the end of November. The results will help guide PTACHC meetings and priorities.

BOE Report: BoE member Jen Mallo reporting. There will be a November 21st decision on redistricting. Public testimony is accepted until November 19th and may be sent to redistricting@hcpss.org. Public hearing Thursday, November 7th on Policy 720 (Nepotism) <https://www.hcpss.org/board/> 2020-2021 Academic calendar vote (two proposals, starting August 25th and August 31st). Feedback on Academic calendar can be sent to boe@hcpss.org. See [Howard County Board of Education website](#) for meeting schedules and details.

SECAC Report: SECAC is Howard County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC), and advises the school system on the needs of students with disabilities. See [SECAC site](#) for details.

CAC Report: No report.

2020 State Delegation: Delegates Terri Hill, Clarence Lam, Vanessa Atterbeary, Courtney Watson, Jen Terrasa, and a representative from Delegate Ebersole's office. This year's bills for the local area have not all been made public. Delegate Lam spoke on two redistricting-related state bills in response to issues that arose during the current redistricting process. Delegate Atterbeary spoke on bills she is working on for capping enrollment at over capacity schools. Delegate Watson spoke on the Kirwan commission recommendations that need to be codified into law, and mentioned that 2020 BoE elections are important and candidates are needed. Delegate Hill spoke on a set of bills to set standards on concussion and injury for school sports below the high school level. Question and Answer session with PTACHC audience. See [Howard County State Delegation website](#) for details on proposed local bills and public hearings as they become available.

Junior Achievement of Maryland: Diana Emerson spoke on local entrepreneur programs in class and after school for students in the area. [Junior Achievement of Central Maryland](#) for more information.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Joseph Griffin reporting. October report of expenses.

MD PTA Report: Sarah Mugo, Maryland VP for Membership reporting. Memberhub pilot (electronic ID card system) is online. Please submit local contact information if information has not been received yet. Maryland PTA vacancies, VP for leadership and training. MD PTA is looking for nominees for parent representatives to the state BoE — details will be emailed soon.

Policy Committee Report: Meg Ricks, Policy Chair, and Lisa Soto, VP Issues reporting. Jen Mallo spoke on Nepotism policy being considered on 7 November.

There is a concern from Lisa Soto on Policy 4030 (School Activity Funds). The policy review committee passed a revision (not yet seen by the BoE) which indicates that money donated for school activities can be used for the benefit of any student in HCPSS, unless specifically earmarked for a specific purpose by the donor. This could potentially impact local PTA grants to their school; although Maryland PTA has always advised that the purpose of PTA grants should be clearly indicated. Cash Encounters has a sample form for grants agreement until such time as the County provides an alternative.

PTACHC now has representatives for all current policy working groups. See <https://www.hcpss.org/board/policies/> for a comprehensive list. Contact Meg Ricks at policy@ptachc.org if interested in becoming involved in the future. There are public hearings for all school policies where all can testify.

Legislative Updates: President Brent Loveless and Legislative Chair Tonya Tiffany reporting. CB 42-2019 on impact fees was being considered at the Council at the same time as this meeting, including six amendments introduced last week. See separate report from President Loveless and Chair Tiffany.

For the State bills that impact local education, PTACHC will probably not be able to create a position for initial testimony due to timing, but will attempt to inform the membership when bills are published.

The Legislative committee needs volunteers to help attend and monitor local and state meetings contact the chair if interested.

Meeting adjourned: 9:23 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 2 December, 2019 Homewood School at 7:30 pm

Associated Documents: Minutes from 2 October General Meeting, Meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report. CB42-2019 Legislative Update.

Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary