

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)  
Fourth General Meeting 2 December, 2019

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**Board Attendees:**

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Karen Herren, Executive Vice President
3. Lisa Soto, Vice President, 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:** 7:34 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

**Let Me Run:** Presentation by Dara Glen from “Let Me Run.” After school running program for boys from 3rd-8th grade. Started in Howard County around 2015, and is now in 6 schools in the county. The cost is \$140 and it ends in a timed 5k race. See <https://howardcounty.letmerun.org/> for more information.

**Announcements:** CB 42-2019 passed November 4th. Although less than needed, it will provide funding for capital improvements. Training, Survey: Response rate has been low so far. Fundraising policy for the County is being revised and PTACHC will be providing guidance (based on the MD PTA Cash Encounters), Redistricting.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Joseph Griffin reporting. November report of expenses. Looking to hold financial training 19 December, with further training in January.

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

**SECAC Report:** Howard County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) advises the school system on the needs of students with disabilities. See [SECAC site](#) for details. SECAC has a monthly meeting, the December meeting is on the 11th from 7-9 at Wilde Lake HS and will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions.

**CAC Report:** Lisa Soto reporting. Discussion on Wednesday, December 11th at the Board of Education offices on operating budget for next year. Proposed budget from the Superintendent will be issued on December 17th.

**BOE Report:** No report.

**Superintendent’s Report:** James LeMon reporting. After the redistricting vote, there is now ongoing meetings with schools and parents to prepare for the changes. Further details will be provided shortly. Look to <https://www.hcpss.org/school-planning/boundary-review/> for current information and assistance.

**BOE Report:** No report.

**MD PTA Report:** No report.

**Kirwan Commission:** Sean Johnson MSEA, Maryland State Educators Association (<https://www.marylandeducators.org/>) presenting. Discussed the reasons and processes behind the

Kirwan Commission five policy initiatives and recommendations for improving schools. Initiatives include:

1. Full day Pre-K for 3-4 year olds, using private providers to increase capacity (with accreditation).
2. Teacher recruitment and retention incentives along with training and preparation.
3. College and career pathways involving tutoring, advanced placement, and other career ready standards.
4. Funding formula adjusted for concentration of poverty, increase funding for students with disabilities and English learners.
5. Blueprint accountability with reviews to prevent waste fraud and abuse.

See <https://www.marylandblueprint.org/> for more information. The Kirwan Commission didn't consider school construction funding, but Maryland legislature is considering Bill Number 1 (called "Built to Learn") to address this area.

**Horizon Foundation:** Rashel Taylor presenting. The mission of the foundation to increase health and wellness in HC, giving over \$50 million over 20 years to 50 plus organizations.

<https://www.thehorizonfoundation.org/> Provide mental health therapists to currently 30 HC schools. Last year's Mental Health Film Festival 2019 outreach ended up with close to 35 HC PTAs getting grants to promote a mental health film screening and discussion.

Streets for All initiative: <https://hcstreetsforall.org/> pushing for better bike and walking access throughout the county.

**Policy Update:** Meg Ricks reporting. 8050 policy updates, December 5th at 7 pm.

<https://www.hcpss.org/board/policies/>. There will be a meeting with PTA/PTSA Presidents and Board of Education members on Dec. 16, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Board of Education building, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

**Legislative Updates:** Local bills have been officially proposed for the state legislature this upcoming year. Brent Loveless reporting with three members of the local delegation also commenting, Delegate Erin Ebersole, Delegate Jessica Feldmark. Senator Katie Fry-Hester came to the meeting for a short period.

Bills are now available at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/About-HoCo/State-Delegation/2020-Session-Proposed-Local-Legislation> for review.

A list of the education-related bills and proposed PTACHC positions will be posted to <http://ptachc.org>. PTACHC Delegates were requested to report to their PTA and then provide input to the PTACHC board before the next general meeting, where they will be discussed and voted on.

**Meeting adjourned: 9:14 pm.**

**Next Meeting:** Monday 6 January 2019 Homewood School at 7:30 pm.

**Associated Documents:** Minutes from 4 November General Meeting, Meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report.

**Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary**