

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
Sixth General Meeting 3 February, 2020

Board Attendees:

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Karen Herren, Executive Vice President
3. Lisa Soto, Vice President, Issues
4. Joseph Griffin, Treasurer, Late arrival.
5. Brett Sovereign, Secretary
6. Meg Ricks, Chair, Policy Committee
7. Tonya Tiffany, Chair, Legislative Committee

Meeting was called to order: 7:35 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

Announcements: Training, February 13th financial training (on website), sign up at https://www.ptachc.org/?page_id=3732.

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

SECAC Report: Howard County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) advised the school system on the needs of students with disabilities. See [SECAC site](#) for details. Next meeting is February 12th and is open to all.

HCEA Report: Howard County Educators Association is the union representing most of the teachers in HCPSS. <https://hceanea.org/>

Superintendent's Report: Pat Saunderson reporting. February 18th will be the BoE student representative election.

BOE Report: Jen Mallo reporting. Currently working with next year's budget proposal from Superintendent Martirano, with the next Board budget work session on Thursday, 5 February, and expect to approve a budget for presentation to the County Executive on February 13th. As usual, the request will almost be reduced, and the BoE accepts community input on prioritizing budget items.

Send feedback to boe@hcpss.org, which all voting BoE members will receive. See <https://www.hcpss.org/about-us/budgets/fy21/> for timeline and documents.

MD PTA Report: No report.

PTA Survey Update: Trina Thames reporting. 86 people participated in the online survey on ranking educational concerns that PTACHC should address. Highest concern was increasing the operating budget for education, with school overcrowding being the second highest.

Treasurer's Update: Joe Griffin reporting. There will be audit training at the end of the year. Report of January transactions. Gift card and online payment policy and guidance change is coming from MD PTA, and will be communicated when it's available.

Policy Update: Meg Ricks reporting. BoE meeting on the 13th on school activity funds and non-school curricular activities and take action on teaching controversial issues. March 3rd BoE meeting with PTA Presidents and CAC.

Board of Education Candidates Update: Tonya Tiffany reporting. This year will be the first year where BoE members will be mostly district based with two at-large members, and five by-district members. Primary is April 28th, with 19 candidates, with ten total for the general election (two per district). See the flyer at <https://www.ptachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BOE-Election-Flyer-2020.pdf>, which also includes a list of currently scheduled forums. Reminder that PTA boards cannot, in their official capacity, endorse specific candidates. PTACHC is planning to produce a candidate questionnaire and post received answers. Input on contributing questions is welcome -- legislative@ptachc.org.

Reflections Results and PTACHC Scholarships: Sarah Rehling reporting. Background on the Reflections Program at https://www.ptachc.org/?page_id=379. The County level winners are at <https://www.ptachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/PTA-CHC-Reflections-Results-2019-20.pdf>.

The scholarship committee chair is looking for help in reviewing applications for this year's PTACHC scholarships. Contact scholarship@ptachc.org if interested.

By-laws update: Brett Sovereign reporting. PTACHC is required to review and revise its bylaws by the end of this academic year (all PTAs and Councils must do this at least every 3 years). If you are interested in helping with this process, contact secretary@ptachc.org.

HCPSS Budget Overview: Lisa Soto reporting. Background on the budget approval process, including timeline, players, and issues. See ptachc.org for the briefing slides.

Legislative Updates: Brent Loveless, President, and Tonya Tiffany, Legislative Chair, reporting. State delegation meeting February 13th at George Howard Building to discuss state legislation (see minutes from the previous month).

Meeting adjourned: 9:02 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 2 March 2019 Homewood School at 7:30 pm.

Associated Documents: Minutes from 6 January General Meeting, Meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report. Flier on Board of Education elections 2020, HCPSS Budget Presentation.

Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary