

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
Fifth General Meeting 6 January, 2020

Board Attendees:

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Karen Herren, Executive Vice President
3. Lisa Soto, Vice President, Issues (late arrival)
4. Brett Sovereign, Secretary
5. Meg Ricks, Chair, Policy Committee
6. Tonya Tiffany, Chair, Legislative Committee

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

Announcements: There will be financial training, January 23rd and February 13th at 7 pm Old Cedar Lane School. There will be an announcement shortly to confirm.

Treasurer's Report: No report. December report of expenses attached. Financial training is promised (see above).

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.

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

Superintendent's Report: James LeMon reporting. An elementary school student died in a pedestrian accident. **Liz Walsh, County Council District 1:** Spoke on CB1-2020, extending the four-year waiting period to seven years for APFO. Support for this across the council is not certain and needs support. January 21st is the public hearing. Contact for the entire council email is councilmail@howardcountymd.gov with subject line regarding CB1 -- email becomes part of the public record.

BOE Report: Jen Mallo reporting. BoE Thursday night unveiling the Superintendent's budget proposal. While its contents are currently unknown, we do know that we will be underfunded relative to needs and student population growth. The first public hearing (HCPSS website → about BoE) will be January 16th at 7pm). If you want to send your concerns to the entire seven (7) voting members of the Board of Education and be part of the public record, send email to boe@hcpss.org. Otherwise, send emails to individual BoE members.

MD PTA Report: Legislative Night is Thursday Feb 13, 2020 House Office Building 6 Bladen St, Annapolis MD doors at 5:30 pm, program at 6:30 pm, RSVP to info@mdpta.org.

Policy Update: Meg Ricks reporting. Reports on policy 9010 (Attendance) and 4030 (School Activity Funds) will be presented at the Board of Education meeting 1/9/20. Public hearings for both of these policy updates will be held at the meeting on 2/13/20. The fundraising and donations policy report will now be presented on 3/12/20, with the public hearing on 4/16. There is a meeting of the Board of Ed with PTA presidents and the CAC scheduled for March 3 at 7:30pm at the BOE. The Effective Discipline Work Group will hold a community forum on April 20th from 6:30 - 8pm at Wilde Lake HS.

Legislative Updates: Brent Loveless, President, and Tonya Tiffany, Legislative Chair, reporting. Local bills have been officially proposed for the state legislature this upcoming year. Bills are available at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/About-HoCo/State-Delegation/2020-Session-Proposed-Local-Legislation>
The following PTACHC positions were discussed, voted on by the members present, and adopted:

- Howard County – Board of Education – Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Areas, Ho. Co. 1-20
Position: PTACHC does not support this bill as written due to the increased frequency of redistricting without addressing factors such as stability and net resources like system wide capacity.
- Howard County – Board of Education – Reporting on Demographics and Reduction of Academic Disparities, Ho. Co. 6-20
Position: PTACHC supports this bill and encourages improvements in analyzing achievement gap data and dissemination of that information to legislators as well as advocates seeking effective solutions. However, we recommend amendments that will discourage duplicative reporting efforts.

- Howard County – Moderate Income Housing Unit Requirements – Prohibition Against Fee-in-Lieu, Ho. Co. 11-20
Position: PTACHC does support this bill because it reduces the potential for concentrations of poverty and also reduces the potential for more frequent redistricting.
- Howard County – Public School Program Capacity – School Board and Planning Commission, Ho. Co. 13-20
Position: This position reaffirms a prior position on this subject. PTACHC supports non-discretionary safeguards to keep any overcrowding protections at permanent facilities of each local school that exceeds 100% utilization.
- Howard County – Education – Report on Deferred Maintenance, Ho. Co. 19-20
Position: Due to the inadequate sources of revenue from the development community, PTACHC recognizes the shortfalls of existing capital funding and supports the granting of authority to fund the completion of deferred maintenance among all HCPSS facilities.
- Howard County – Public Schools – Reporting of Student Data, Ho. Co. 23-20
Position: PTACHC is concerned about student privacy and duplicative data retrieval; therefore, we do not support this bill.
- Howard County – Transfer Tax – Rate Increase Authorization, Ho. Co. 26-20
Position: Due to historic shortages in county finances for school funding, PTACHC supports necessary funding to acquire school sites when and where they are needed to meet and maintain educational standards without compromise of resources.
In addition, the following proposed local education-related legislation was discussed, and no official PTACHC position was taken:
 - *Ho.Co. 35-20 – Provides Matching Funds to CAC to renovate a site at Long Reach Village Center for four classrooms each with 18-20 children ages 3-5 who are eligible for Head Start or Pre-K.
 - Howard County – Residential Property and New Home Construction Advertisements – School District Information, Ho. Co. 2-20
 - Howard County – School District Boundary Changes and Sales of Residential Real Property - Notices, Ho. Co. 4-20
 - Howard County – Public Campaign Financing – Board of Education, Ho. Co. 22-20

Meeting adjourned: 9:34 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 3 February 2019 Homewood School at 7:30 pm.

Associated Documents: Minutes from 2 December General Meeting, Meeting agenda, Treasurer’s Report. Proposed PTACHC positions on Howard County State Delegation proposed legislation.

Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary