

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)  
Seventh General Meeting 2 March, 2020

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**Board Attendees:**

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

**Meeting was called to order:** 7:37 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

**Secretary's Report:** February meeting minutes will be reviewed and approved at April meeting due to absence of Secretary.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joseph Griffin, PTACHC Treasurer, gave report of expenditures for February 2020.

**SECAC Report:** Howard County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) announced meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month for anyone interested in attending. See [SECAC site](#) for details. Next meeting is April 15th and is open to all.

**CAC Report:** Lisa Soto, PTACHC VP Issues, gave report for Community Advisory Council. Nominations for Board of Directors are being accepted. Next meeting is March 11, 2020, 7:00 pm, and the speaker will be HCPSS Transportation Director, Dave Ramsey. See [CAC website](#) for more information.

**MD PTA Report:** No report.

**BOE Report:** Jen Mallo reporting.

- Kindergarten registration is March 9-13, 2020. See [HCPSS website](#) for information on what documents are needed.
- HCPSS is offering free meals during spring break (Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>).
- Research In Science and Engineering (RISE) Conference will be held March 11, 2020 at Centennial High School. The goal of the conference is to educate and inspire high school and middle school students who are interested in STEM.
- Council of Elders will be presenting program on Healthy Relationships and Dating Dangers on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at Oakland Mills High School.
- BoE had working sessions on bullying. The bullying report was studied, but there are many inconsistencies due to inaccurate data being reported about false allegations. The program has redesigned how data input is analyzed and categorized.
- County Executive Calvin Ball has a public hearing scheduled on March 12<sup>th</sup> on the budget. Show up and advocate if you want education to be fully funded.
- If a person leaves Howard County employment, the position is not being filled immediately. The money is accumulated in the general fund and used to decrease the deficit. Deferred maintenance has \$500 million in the fund and the bill is in limbo.
- HCPSS is working with Howard County Health Dept. to prepare for the Coronavirus.
- [Howard County Arts Council Artist in Education \(AIE\) grant](#) is available for PTA/PTAs to apply. Title 1 schools do not need matching funds; other school PTAs provide half of the cost. Deadline to apply is June 4, 2020.
- Beyond 20/20, a program that delivers comprehensive eye exams to students who either failed the state-mandated screening or were referred by a teacher or specialist proved to be successful. See [CBS tv news report](#) for full story.

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace:** Chuck Scudder, Co-President presenting. Charity dedicated to providing beds for all children in Howard County who need one. Talked about their mission and answered questions.

**HoCo Counts:** Stephanie Adibe presenting. Power point presentation of HoCo Counts Census 2020. Online census opens March 12<sup>th</sup> and questionnaires will be mailed on April 1<sup>st</sup>. After five attempts to contact household with no answer, there will be door-to-door canvassing.

**Policy Update:** Meg Ricks reporting. BoE meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> on Policies 7120 Coaches and Advisors of High School Extracurricular Activities, 1080 Educational Equity, 4010 Donations, and 4020 Fundraising. The public hearing on Policy 4030 School Activity Funds may be rescheduled.

**Nominations:** Trina Thames, VP Operations reporting. PTACHC needs three (3) volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee. Membership will vote to approve committee members at April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Fundraising:** Tonya Tiffany, Legislative Chair and Joseph Griffin, Treasurer reporting. There are equity discrepancies in some schools and PTACHC wants to advocate to facilitate understanding. Horizon Foundation provides grants, which some PTAs have received. There will be a meeting to address this topic on April 1<sup>st</sup> prior to general meeting starting at 6:30 pm.

**Legislative Updates:** PTACHC Legislative Committee is tracking the following:

**Howard County State Delegation Bills:**

- HoCo 1-20 Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Areas – PTACHC opposes; has passed the local delegation; Hearing scheduled on 3/10 at 1pm before the Appropriations Committee.
- HoCo 6-20 Reporting on Demographics and Reduction of Academic Disparities – PTACHC supports; did not pass local delegation.
- HoCo 11-20 Moderate Housing Unit Requirements - Prohibition against Fee-in-Lieu - PTACHC supports; local delegation has not voted yet.
- HoCo 13-20 Public School Capacity – PTACHC supports; local delegation has not voted yet; this bill would halt development in over capacity school districts. Need people to call and/or write delegates to support it at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/About-HoCo/State-Delegation>
- HoCo 19-20- Commercial Building Excise Tax for New Construction - PTACHC supports; Delegation has not voted on this bill.
- HoCo 23-20- Reporting of Student Data - PTACHC opposed; did not pass the local Delegation.
- HoCo 26-20 Transfer Tax- Rate Increase Authorization - PTACHC supports; passed the local Delegation; it is now HB 1454 with Hearing on March 3, 2020 at 1pm Ways and Means Committee.

**County Council Bills:**

- **CB 1-20** – Howard County Code change to pause construction, in areas where the schools capacity tests are over capacity, from 4 to 7 years. At meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, it was removed so bill may be extended for another work session.
- Council Bill 14-20 Prefiled - Each year the county rolls over any Housing Unit Allocations not used into the following year. This bill would cap that amount to 10% of the available allocations.

**HCPSS Budget Overview:** Lisa Soto, VP Issues, reporting. There will be a work session on CB-1 on March 20th at 9:30 am. There is a call to provide testimony. Click [here](#) for more information.

**HCEA Report:** Colleen Morris, President. Howard County Educators Association (<https://hceanea.org/>) is the union representing most of the teachers in HCPSS. Power point presentation given about budget. Looked at county funding over 10 years and concluded that the amount from Howard County has decreased; per pupil spending has increased but due to inflation, the trend is flat.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:31 pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 1, 2019 Central Office building at 6:30 pm.

**Associated Documents:** Minutes from February General Meeting, Meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report. HoCo Counts Census 2020 presentation, HCPSS FY 2021 Operating Budget report, HCEA presentation on analysis of HoCo budget, Sleep in Heavenly Peace charity presentation.

Minutes taken by Sarah Rehling, PTACHC Office Administrator

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