



June 24, 2020

Dear PTA Council Members,

On Friday, June 19, 2020, the governor released an updated announcement of what is open and closed. Maryland PTA forwarded the announcement to all local PTA/PTSA's. Unfortunately, neither the Governor's proclamation nor the PTA announcement gave specific instructions for group meetings. Instead, they passed some of the responsibility to local county governments for a response.

After PTA Council Board reviewed the guidelines, it was found that it does not restrict gatherings of 10 or more; however, it does not endorse public gatherings either. There are many examples where large groups have been authorized to gather, as well as many cautionary restrictions on gatherings at places such as HCPSS and the County Government buildings that will extend for months.

There are several items that need to be considered with these gatherings, particularly continued social distancing; implied permission for use of school fields and parking lots or other non-HCPSS facilities, storms; "rain day" cancellation procedures; access to facilities; and most specifically, proper notice and adherence to local bylaws for valid elections.

PTACHC has been in contact with HCPSS about the use of outdoor facilities, e.g. parking lots, for elections and meetings. HCPSS requested PTACHC to develop a set of plans and guidelines for all local units to be approved by the Chief Operating Officer for this use. Work is underway on that item currently.

Even with implied agreements, a single nomination from the floor could create a contested position requiring availability of anonymous ballots. Please take all of these items into consideration while preparing and use your best judgement how to proceed from here. PTACHC's role is advisory; therefore, voting activities cannot be denied or authorized by PTACHC Board of Directors.

PTACHC also needs to convene its own nominating committee and board to determine when and how it will provide notice, and conduct its own elections at a general membership meeting in front of all delegates and PTA/PTSA Presidents.

Sincerely,

Brent Loveless
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