



September 4, 2020

On Tuesday, September 1, 2020, the PTACHC held its first outdoor general meeting in order to fulfill its obligation for continuing the business of the PTACHC by conducting proper notice and in-person voting per by-laws; and abiding by social distancing requirements while HCPSS school buildings are unavailable. The ability for PTACHC and local units to conduct meetings with HCPSS authorization in this manner is not ideal; but has allowed elections, bylaws updates, budget approval, and position votes to move forward without further delay. Ideally, the issue of in-person voting or gathering will be resolved shortly, but in the meantime, there are options available to continue our important mission.

Those delegates and presidents that attended the (intentionally) brief event and informational session held afterward were made aware of the current status of the Maryland State PTA. For those unaware, there have been several official communications from the State PTA, as well as, media coverage and social media releases of information regarding several issues within the organization. Ironically, one of the larger issues has revolved around the State bylaws requirement for in-person voting during the Covid-19 pandemic. Suffice it to say, people working on the resolution of that issue have included parties at the Individual, Local, Council, State and National PTA levels with the assistance of legal counsel. In addition, several other issues ranging from budget to makeup of the State PTA board have been called into review.

As each of these entities have weighed in on these matters with different methods, PTACHC is monitoring all information and will provide its members relevant actionable official information as it comes available. Be mindful that the entire PTA is operational and relies on its reputation as an advocacy organization to be effective now and in the future. Please forward concerns and communications about this topic professionally through the organization with this in mind. PTACHC's next scheduled update from the National PTA is next week after school starts. Any information National PTA teams provide to share with locals will be disseminated soon afterward.

On that note, we would be remiss not to acknowledge that our education-focused members are about to start a school year in pandemic conditions with many new and old requirements of all. Thank you to all that have faced this challenge together and demonstrated the ability to provide the best opportunities for education under the circumstances. PTACHC and its local units have the challenge to make sure they maintain compliance with elections, budget updates, membership, training, local support, and tax reporting while continuing advocacy efforts on school reopening, operations, election information, budget impacts, school policy, and much more. As always, the level of volunteerism directly impacts the level of service we can provide. Please consider expanding your role to assist education efforts at the countywide level alongside your local support.

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