

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
(Virtual) General Membership Meeting – Monday, February 1, 2021

Board Attendees:

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Felicia West, Executive Vice President
3. Tonya Tiffany, Vice President, Issues
4. Nicole Alston, Treasurer
5. Tasha Vanterpool, Secretary
6. Meg Ricks, Chair, Policy Committee
7. Jeff Johnson, Membership Committee
8. Meng Zhu, Chair, Reflections Committee
9. Sara Mungo, Chair Scholarship Committee ??????

Meeting was called to order: at 7:03PM. Quorum was confirmed by the President, Brent Loveless and Secretary, Tasha Vanterpool. Approx. 75 attendees total.

Business Items & Announcements:

Brent opened with a welcome and overview of topics. Board members have been attending various state and local county events. We are an advocacy organization and strive to use our resources to advocate for children. We have more things to advocate for than we have people to advocate for. We need more volunteers to achieve goals.

Treasurer's Report

- Presented by Nicole Alston, PTACHC Treasurer; presented current overview of budget
 - Checking account approx.. \$13,000
 - YTD
 - Scholarships and Office Maintenance and P/T employee (Sarah R.)
 - Checking account balance \$13, 114.60 and Savings account \$5,005.27
 - Scholarships balance at \$3,625
 - Dues currently at \$7820 (should be approx. \$12,000 at 100% submission rate)
 - Some PTAs have not paid dues yet; still have approx. 10 local units with outstanding dues.
 - Brent reiterated MD PTA expectations for compliance.

Secretary's Report

- Tasha Vanterpool, PTACHC Secretary motioned to approve minutes; Brent Loveless seconded.
- Tasha Vanterpool, PTACHC Secretary reviewed January 2021 monthly General Meeting Minutes
- All membership in favor of approving minutes via chat box responses; minutes were approved and have been posted on the PTACHC website.

Policy Committee Report

- Presented by Meg Ricks, PTACHC Policy Committee Chair
- Budget hearings coming up; check the BoE website for the listing.
- Invited members to contact her if interested in policy at policy@PTACHC.org

- The Policy Office is currently seeking a representative from your stakeholder group to serve on a policy advisory committee.
- The following policies will be chartered on March 11, 2021:
 - Policy 4070 Fund Balance
 - Policy 4100 Investment
- These two policies will meet as one committee so please assign only one person to represent both policies. Tentative virtual meeting dates for this committee are as follows:
 - Wednesday, March 24
 - Wednesday, March 31
 - Wednesday, April 7
 - Wednesday, April 14

Reflections Committee Report

- Presented by Meng Zhu, PTACHC Reflections Committee Chair
 - We had 55 entries across 6 categories; 4 grade divisions have been selected by a judge panel of 10 professionals to represent Howard County in the National PTA Reflections Program.
 - Reflections Award Ceremony on evening of February 23, 2021. Will showcase all of the submissions from the County. There will be (2) segments: ES and MS/HS.

*Brent encouraged an interactive exchange with PTA attendees.

Advocacy

- Presented by Erin Camp Mansour, Legislative Aide to State Legislator Clarence Lam and incoming Mount Hebron PTSA President; introduced by Caroline Bodziak, current PTSA President at Mount Hebron HS.
- Erin Camp Mansour did an advocacy training for PTACHC to provide insight on advocacy works within the state legislative process (how to get engaged, the process, and how to use the websites). Voting session are available to everyone now (both live sessions and recorded sessions).
- General Assembly has features to help citizens be active participants in the legislative processes. Zoom meetings for advocacy; also sending letters and request meetings with representatives / staff representatives.
- Priorities for constituents to focus on: Serve as additional observers or the process and liaise with your constituents to gather feedback and get back to representatives with recommendations to changes to the bills. the MyMGA System to submit written testimony or email to members of your representative's committees.
- Inquired whether PTACHC had legislative positions on any of the open items; Brent addressed affirmatively. We need more volunteers to meet our advocacy needs.
- Workshops available via PTACHC website – on how to engage and develop skills on how to use the tools; how to develop an advocacy team.
- Brent reiterated all members' rights to advocate as individuals or local unit.
- Member Laurie raised question on whether PTACHC has a position on whether the student member of the BoE having a vote. President Brent Loveless recommended she bring her concern to the PTACHC Board and discuss potential verbiage for a formal position and what could be presented to the Council to vote on as a delegation.
- Bring positions to Board for review and discussion; prepare and ask your local units for opinions / feedback.

Howard County Delegation on Local Bills

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Meetings/Day/02032021?budget=show&cmte=other&updates=show&ys=2021rs>

- President Brent Loveless presented on by the delegation; weekly meetings to vote on bills that would get passed on to the General Assembly.
 - Fees for Deferred Maintenance; concern around verbiage (deferred maintenance vs. deferred replacement of equipment); up to \$500M in deferred maintenance. Bills for commercial charges.
 - SRO Intervention was discussed but not voted on. Includes a bill (HoCo 1021)
 - Bill for Fee and Lieu - Failed
 - Allows Affordable Housing To Be Provided Off-Site
 - Directly relates to Policy 6010 efforts to normalize FARMS through redistricting.
 - Several waiting on Housing Opportunities Plan which drafts recommendations for Council to review.
 - State delegation issues for local Howard County can be found on the MD General Assembly website under "other meetings" previously recorded events can be viewed or on YouTube: MGSHouseGov
- 05-21 Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Areas is the reporting option that initiates the HCPSS 6010 process. Policy 6010 is currently being updated; not finalized yet. PTACHC President Brent Loveless was on the Policy 6010 Committee; advocated for the setting standards for the thresholds of school overcrowding. If enacted, by the BOE when they update Policy 6010 it will directly impact Policy 6010 and will change the thresholds. Recommendations will go to the state delegation. Target utilization – what initiates the redistricting process. Target utilization does not necessarily mean the "accepted utilization" (often misinterpreted).

Enrollment BLIP

- Virtual instruction impacted student enrollment across the state.
- State funding is based on a per-pupil basis; Pre-K and 1st grade enrollment decreased while HS enrollment increased. Indicates that parents opted for learning alternatives for early education. Enrollment rates effect our budget.
- Fall 2020 dip equates to less funding in next budget regardless of actual enrollment. A "hold harmless" freeze of funding levels is promised - but is still not yet official. May be a major factor in the upcoming county budget if the funding does not come from the state. Overcrowding projections will not have a "hold harmless" provision.
- Not going to change the way they account for student projections based on the temporary reduction in enrollment. The reduction in enrollment will be projected in the enrollment projection rates; this will be reflected in the case for overcrowded schools as a by-product (underuse of schools, low occupancy, etc.)
- Upcoming Feasibility Study (March-April 2021)

Vice President of Issues Report

- Tonya Tiffany, PTACHC VP of Issues reported that during the last BoE Legislative Committee Meeting, BoE Member Vicky Cutroneo proposed a new discussion and legislative committee made an agreement to consider whether to give input to the zoning board on potential developments that would deeply impact enrollment and capacity issues. These directly impact Howard County schools, and this will be discussed at the next Legislative Committee Meeting.

FY 2022 HCPSS Budget Proposal

- Total FY2022 Proposed Budget: \$932.4M
- The Board of Education holds work sessions and public hearings to gather feedback on and revise the Superintendent's proposed budget. Upcoming work sessions:
 - Work Session & Public Hearing - February 2, 2021, 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m., respectively
 - Work Session Agenda
 - Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Operations and Capital Budget
 - School Construction
 - Food & Nutrition Services
 - Jim Rouse Theatre
 - Work Session - February 4, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
 - Work Session Agenda
 - Academics
 - Academics – CIA
 - Work Session - February 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
 - Work Session & Public Hearing - February 16, 2021, 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m., respectively
 - Work Session (Inclement Weather Date) - February 18, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
 - Adoption of Operating and Capital Budget Requests - February 25, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC) Report

- PTACHC OBRC representative Lisa Soto updates Council; reports there are many unknown items currently. Congratulations to Ms. Lisa Soto on new family addition!

Maryland State PTA Announcement

- Treasurer Training (free of charge) currently being offered. Financial Management of PTA/PTSA; this training is for you. This webinars will be conducted by Bruce Butz, State Treasurer.
- The trainings will be conducted via webinars on the following dates:
 - February 3, 2021,
 - February 17, 2021,
 - **March 3, 2021**
 - **March 17, 2021**

School Reopening

- <https://www.hcpss.org/2020-2021/spring-planning/#planning-docs-presentations>
- PARENT DECISION SURVEY – DUE 4PM Friday, Feb 5th
- <https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2021/01/decision-on-instructional-preference-for-remainder-of-2020-2021-school-year>

PTA Return to In-Person Indoor Meetings

- Currently, guidance for online meetings has been updated by the Maryland PTA (posted on the PTACHC website)
- New guidance for online meetings is provided by MD PTA.
- Any switch will require HCPSS authorization for their facilities – unknown timeframe.
- Local units will need to consider their own "hybrid" model hosting online and in-person.
- Meetings will still need to follow National/State/County and National/State PTA requirements

- Melissa Gifford, PTA President of Ilchester ES – raised concerns on behalf of parents regarding decision-making with limited information. Raised concerns on behalf of HCPSS faculty who are also concerned. President Brent Loveless affirmed her sense of advocacy and explained the importance of parent needing to know where to find the pertinent information; also the implications of highly polarizing items such as this. First wave of hybrid instruction will begin as of March 1st.
- Tasha Vanterpool, PTACHC Secretary forwarded concerns from PTA delegation in the meeting chat box to Dr. Yun Lu and the Board of Education members at BOE@hcpss.org.
- Tonya Tiffany encouraged local unit to reach out to school principals to coordinate informational sessions for parents.
- When PTACHC will reopen is still unknown. We will continue to follow state and local guidelines and remain within the standards of compliance.
- Melissa Major, Burleigh Manor MS PTA Delegate raised a question regarding whether PTACHC has been thinking about incorporating a permanent bylaw amendment to provide provisions for electronic functioning in the future. PTACHC President, Brent Loveless explained the process for approval of such proposal; MD State PTA bylaws are updated annually at the MD PTA Convention. Local units or our Council will need to draft the proposed language and delegates state-wide would need to vote on it. Invited Melissa Major to join the PTACHC Board meeting.

PTACHC Survey

- A survey went out to all our members; designed to collect feedback to share with legislators, bring awareness to issues currently being worked on, as well as to recruit volunteers for needed support.
 - Validate ongoing initiatives.
 - Bring awareness to new important issues.
 - Mechanism for recruitment of volunteers

Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) - Howard County General Plan

- https://www.hocobydesign.com/planning-themes/survey_tools/planning-themes-survey
- Midnight Feb 8th Survey cutoff; please express your concerns. Education is frequently discussed and there is often pushback. Comments such as, "We should sell off school sites to provide more land for residential development" are conveyed. PTA members need to stay engaged and aware.
- Pat Marshall, Wilde Lake HS PTA Delegate addressed concerns as a member of the Planning Advisory Committee; added that the PAC is comprised of 90 representatives from Howard County and Howard County BoE members. Countered that the comment regarding "replacing schools with farmland is not representative" of the entire PAC; adding that there is a cross section of the County and constituencies represented on the PAC. The PAC invites all constituents to complete the survey. PTACHC President Brent Loveless added that PTACHC was denied membership to the PAC.

PTA Legislative Conference (March 9-11, 2021)

- Register by this Thursday, Feb. 4 for the National PTA Legislative Conference that occurs Mar. 9 - 11 for \$50.00. <https://www.pta.org/home/events/National-PTA-Legislative-Conference>

Next PTACHC Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 3, 2021– Brent invited PTA members interested in joining us.

Next General Meeting will be Monday, March 1, 2021 – Dr. Calving Ball, Howard County Executive has been invited to join us. The CARES Act will be discussed as well as the County Budget.

Meeting adjourned: 8:41PM

Next General Meeting: Monday, March 1, 2021 (Virtual) at 7:00PM

Associated Documents: N/A

Minutes taken by Tasha Vanterpool, PTACHC Secretary

DRAFT