



PTA Status in Howard County

April 1, 2021

Dear PTA/PTSA Members,

Last night representatives of the National PTA held meetings to update PTA leadership across the state of its intentions. National PTA is dissolving the MD PTA organization and is in the process of reconstituting a new entity. The PTA Council and local units are advised that they are supported by the National PTA organization and to continue performing their activities, such as elections, as specified in the bylaws that were last approved by their local unit membership.

In the near future, National PTA will produce FAQ's to guide units based on questions brought up at the meetings. Some items obviously will take more time for guidance than others in an unprecedented action. Some takeaways from the meeting include a reiteration that local PTA units (and PTA Council) are still active corporate entities that have only been separated from the original Maryland Charter and will be offered to rejoin the new state entity when fully established. This means that units still need to file all tax forms with the IRS and the state of Maryland as required. Please also send a copy of these forms to PTA Council. Local units will also be able to participate in the creation of new bylaws for the new state entity. All local units and councils are still insured with your current insurance provider. Invoices for next year's coverage will be sent out in May and will be due in July.

One item of particular concern is the flow of dues and funds. National intends to retain MemberHub if possible, but for the time being, money that is transferred through MemberHub may go to the former state PTA organization rather than the new entity. Our prior guidance was to continue as normal while both parties were negotiating in good faith. Now that National has signaled their intent to stand up a new entity, local units should consider if they would like to follow alternate interim instructions for dues payments via the following link. <https://files.constantcontact.com/239b5a0b501/99850d64-ec27-4c76-ab4c-43047526a390.pdf>

The PTA Council board would like each local unit to discuss with all of their members the continuance of operations under the new entity supported by National PTA. The Council will ask each council delegates and PTA Presidents in the May meeting to vote on this arrangement to set future direction. The council only has an advisory role in each local PTA decision, but encourages each PTA to weigh the benefits of continuing working together with the support of the National organization.

A new set of state bylaws will be drafted from a clean slate in the near future. Please take time to review your existing bylaws and consider items that you would want to see included at the state level. National is also examining how to form a new governance with parliamentary oversight. If you have an interest in taking a leadership role, please contact the National transition support team at [MDPTA@PTA.ORG](mailto:MDPTA@PTA.ORG).

The good news is the PTA organization that you are familiar with in Howard County is still actively able to advocate for children. There will be some challenges operating with the State PTA in transition that we will have to address. More information will be forthcoming shortly on other items as decisions are made and finalized by National PTA. It is in this time that there are new opportunities to make improvements that should be capitalized on by our active membership. Our work of supporting children has not diminished as schools reopen, budgets are processed, important milestones are reached, and policies are updated. Thank you for your patience and perseverance as we move forward.

Brent Loveless  
President PTACHC  
[president@ptachc.org](mailto:president@ptachc.org)  
[www.ptachc.org](http://www.ptachc.org)