

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
(Virtual) General Membership Meeting – Monday, April 12, 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, Chair, Membership Committee
8. Meng Zhu, Chair, Reflections Committee
9. Sara Mugo, Chair Scholarship Committee

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM Quorum was confirmed by Office Administrator, Sarah Rehling and Secretary, Tasha Vanterpool. Approx. 67 attendees.

PTACHC Reports:

- **Policy Report (Meg Ricks, Policy Chair)** – Looking for someone to represent PTACHC on Policy 3030 Policy Review Committee in May. Members from your PTA can join; send an email to Policy@PTACHC.org. Date for the Policy 3030 on 5/17, 5/24, 6/3, 6/8.
 - Policy 3030 – Employee Research
 - Policy 6010 – Redistricting June 10th review meeting date
- **Reflections Report (Meng Zhu, Reflections Chair)** – Finished County level. Awards and ribbons have been granted to all county winners. For State and National level – still awaiting directives for how to proceed. All local PTA Reflections Chairs will be notified.
- **Membership Report (Jeff Johnson, Membership Chair)** – Membership and Wellness Check; conversations with local units regarding dealings with (former) MD State PTA (dues). Reiterated to local units that they should continue to function and govern by their existing bylaws. Questions about dues can be addressed by the Mr. Johnson or any members of the Membership Committee.
- **Treasurer’s Report (Nicole Alston, Treasurer)** – All of payroll has been paid for the first quarter (Jan-Mar. 2021). Dues – have reached out to local units with outstanding dues to PTACHC (not state); still on-going. Will meet with Office Administrator to review. Local units should feel free reaching out if assistance is needed with financial review. Ms. Alston has offered to be a third member of any local units’ financial review committees.
- **SECAC Report** – No Rep. / Updates
- **CAC Report** – No Rep. / Updates; President Loveless encouraged involvement with CAC and the election process.

- **HCEA Report** – No Updates; Colleen was available to address questions.
- **HCPSS Report** – Mr. Lemon provided updates. Discussed the commencement of the hybrid model. Over 27, 600 students in the school and over 29,000 remaining virtual. HCPSS and Howard County Government collaboration for infrastructure enhancements to sustain the hybrid model to increase the internet bandwidth for schools. CDC guidelines – we are currently at Phase IV. HCPSS received 5,757 vaccines have been provided for all our faculty and staff. Over 99% of staff received the vaccine. Parents can now provide consent for voluntary K-12 Covid-19 testing program. Summer program registration opens on April 15th (BSAP Summer Institute; G/T Summer Institute; Innovative Pathways; Chinese Language Summer Camp). Preparations for upcoming 2021-22 Academic Year – plans for full return to in-person instruction.
 - Questions addressed by President Loveless and Mr. Lemon –
 - Teachers were in Tier III (99% of 9300 staff received the vaccine)
 - Mobile Testing Lab that Howard County Government is providing; a flier can be sent out to PTAs (Mobile Testing 3-7PM Mondays at LRHS; Wednesdays at Normandy; Oakland Mills Rd.; North Laurel Community Center; Elkridge elderly center by Dayton Oaks); Colleen will forward info to PTACHC.
- **BOE Report** – Dr. Lu provided updates; April 14th survey will be sent via Synergy for the Digital Education Center. Survey is only for intent to attend all virtual learning next year (not commitment); please encourage parent feedback. Next BOE Meeting will be April 15th (will be discussing school start time). Addressed question about senior graduation dates – last day for seniors is May 28th. Mr. Lemon shared that HCPSS is working with Merriweather on Commencement plans; information will be shared soon.
- **OBRC Report** – No Rep. / Updates; President Loveless received updates from Ms. Soto.

PTACHC Announcements & Updates:

- Leadership Training Seminar Summer 2021 – Tonya Tiffany, Felicia West – Originally were attempting to work with (former) MD PTA; now looking to review the National PTA Training videos and will provide an update next month. Summer 2021 Dates TBD
- PTA “Open House” Sessions – Felicia West – Review of the previous survey; the Open House will cover how to engage stakeholders with an emphasis on the underrepresented. Title 1 schools will be part of the focus. Q&A facilitated discussion; proposed date – Wed. May 19th - all on the same night - ES 5:30 / MS 6:30 / HS 7:30 (30-45 min. sessions).
 - Address request to have more communication between members.
 - 3 Sessions, Split By Grade Level
 - Elementary, Middle, High Sessions –www.ptachc.org
- Summer Session: *Effective PTA Meetings* - with Caroline Bodziak, Mount Hebron PTSA President
 - Admins from HCPSS will be available to address questions.

- Other Updates – (former) MD PTA Updates March 30, 2021 (President Loveless) – National PTA Update. (Legacy MD PTA) has been declared null and void by National PTA. National PTA maintains coverage and support of all local PTAs. There is a new state PTA entity being established. National PTA requests that local units continue to function according to current bylaws that were approved by your membership. Continue with local PTA elections and advocacy efforts for children. There is a MD PTA team working to reconstitute our state PTA entity.

- MemberHub (President Loveless) – PTACHC paid dues through MemberHub to National. After the Legacy MD PTA was revoked, local PTAs were directed to send membership dues directly to National PTA. National representatives will direct dues to the newly developed state PTA entity once established. All local units should refer to the National PTA guidance and MemberHub.

- **PTACHC Position** – (Brent Loveless, President)
 - Brent Loveless, President moved to create the following position for PTA Council of Howard County Affiliation: “The PTA Council of Howard County Membership Votes to Continue Its Affiliation with The National PTA Organization. The PTACHC Intends to Be A Member of The New State Entity Created by The Maryland PTA Support Team.” Communicate with your local units. A vote To Occur at May 2021 General Meeting
 - Seconded by Tasha Vanterpool, Secretary
 - Brent Loveless, President suspended vote until the May 2021 General Meeting; all local units should discuss the pros and cons with and notify your delegates for vote at the May General Meeting. Addressed questions –
 - Nicole Alston, Treasurer: What would be the reasons to fall under National PTA and not become an individual organization? Should PTA consider becoming an individual local PTA as opposed to operating under the National PTA organization.
 - Brent Loveless, President addressed – PTACHC has almost 100% participation across the county. The resources that are made available to local units by remaining under state and national.
 - Marla Posey-Moss (former President elect until September 2020), former leader at the State Council level. Addressed question – added that the branding of PTA is significant at both the national and state level and county council level. There are myriad certificated training opportunities and leadership opportunities. This is an opportunity to start anew with the establishment of the new state entity, which will be created by us all as members. Bylaws - National will provide a blank slate of bylaws and as members we will create the framework for the new entity.
 - Nicole Alston, Treasurer – reiterated to local unit that by being a part of the National PTA, local units receive discounts and substantial supports.
 - Brent Loveless, President reiterated that the motion to be voted on is not a matter of local units remaining under the National PTA but that our PTA Council will remain affiliated under the National PTA. Reminded local units to gather feedback from constituents.

- National PTA Update
 - National PTA Conference will be held June 17-26, 2021.
 - PTACHC typically pays for a contingent to attend the conference; however, this item was not budgeted this year due to Covid-19 with an expectation that funding will be restored for future years.
 - National Guidance for Maryland: *"Since the revocation of the state constituent association in Maryland occurred prior to the April reporting deadline, National PTA is providing a one-time extension to the local PTAs in Maryland. The deadline for dues to be received by National PTA in order to be counted in the calculation for delegates is no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern on Monday, April 19, 2021."* This is the deadline to vote at the National Convention.

- 202-22 Nominating Committee (Membership – Jeff Johnson, Membership Chair)
 - Brent Loveless, President discussed upcoming PTACHC Officer Position opportunities. Presented floor to Jeff Johnson, Membership Chair to present the members of the Nomination Committee as a full slate. A minimum of three candidates is required. The following three members have agreed to fulfill the roles of the PTACHC Nominating Committee. No additional volunteers from the floor presented.
 - **Deeshanae Brown, Rockburn ES PTA**
 - **Heather Tom, Bonnie Branch MS PTA**
 - **Terri Marcus, Howard HS PTA** (Nominating Committee Chair)
 - Sarah Rehling, Officer Administrator verified electronic vote; verified majority vote – PASSED by majority vote.
 - Jeff Johnson, Membership Chair thanked new Nominating Committee members for their service. Encouraged members to consider running for PTACHC positions. Nominating Committee will be presenting the 2021-22 Candidates at the May 2021 General Meeting and the election will take place at the June 2021 General Meeting.
 - ALL positions are open.

- Budget Update (Brent Loveless, President)
 - Local PTAs should be active in advocating for appropriate funding for our local school system to ensure needs are met.
 - The capital budget is now available. The BOE has presented an initial budget which is currently under review by county governance.
 - Comparison of projected budget for FY22 from 2020 and 2021.
 - School System (-17,078,000)
 - Project: E1024-FY2019 HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION/ADDITION -16,441,000
 - Project: E1035-FY2019 NEW HIGH SCHOOL #13 +12,069,000
 - Project: E1043-FY2019 TALBOTT SPRINGS ELEM SCHOOL REPLACEMENT +2,221,000
 - Project: E1044-FY2019 SYSTEMIC RENOVATIONS -8,177,000
 - A 50% decrease in maintenance of schools
 - Project: E1046-FY2019 ROOFING -4,000,000
 - Project: E1048-FY2019 TECHNOLOGY -2,750,000
 - Variable based on CARES Act budgeting

- All these projects are currently in-process.
 - Hammond HS and Talbot Springs ES Projects
 - Both are multi year projects that are receiving state funding.
 - Hammond was originally bid at approx. \$120M to be renovated; currently down to approx. \$97M. The project will be completed.
 - The MD Interagency for School Construction will match 55% for building projects in HoCo. They may be contributing \$5.6M may be going to Hammond HS. The state is currently not able to match what our county will be funding.
 - Systemic Renovations
 - \$8M decrease from 2020 proposed budget (\$16M)
 - School Surcharge Fees (new construction) – are supposed to go toward school capacity but is currently going toward maintenance/construction.
 - Original sources of funds need to remain with their intended purposes.
 - MOE – maintenance of effort; does not include inflation adjustments.
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 - Upcoming Budget Meetings
 - Thursday, April 15th, 2021 4:00pm: Board of Education Meeting
 - Monday, April 19, 2021 6:30pm: County Executive Budget Presentation
 - Tuesday, April 20, 2021 6:30pm: County Council Public Hearing on FY 2022 Capital Budgets Requests on Education
 - Monday, April 26, 2021 6:30pm: County Council Public Hearing FY 2022 Operating Budgets Requests on Education
 - Thursday, April 29, 2021 7pm: FY 2022 Operating and Capital Budget & FY 2023-27 Capital Improvement Plan-BOE Work Session
- Legislative Update
- CB-24-2021 – To Prevent Council Rezoning While General Plan Is being updated –Passed with a provision to protect Council’s ability to continue to rezone at any time regardless of General Plan Update
 - General Plan – Update team completed input for “growth choices”. There was significant input from education advocates. Columbia Zoning input is next.
 - Housing Opportunities Plan – Final consultant recommendations to be added to General Plan. Includes advice for “Targeted” changes to APFO (school overcrowding protections and more) following the General Plan update.
 - Racial Equity Task Force holding sessions. See Council website
 - Spending Affordability Report calls for more growth, less capital spending.
 - MAY 11, 2021 – HCPSS releases yearly APFO School Capacity Charts

- Additional Legislation Updates
 - “Hold Harmless” per student funding offered for FY22
 - Kirwan 2.0 awaiting Governor – No change for Howard County
 - State Local legislation HOCO 11-21 to fund systemic school maintenance from increased commercial development – “dead on vine” did not proceed for a vote
 - SRO Status– HB 1189 “dead on vine”
 - Redistricting Report - HB1190 – Passed, On to Governor
 - Redistricting Testimony – HB1142 – Passed, On to Governor

- PTA Positions
 - PTACHC – positions on items; the more volunteers the more items can be covered.
 - When positions are raised, they must be:
 - Must be Non-Partisan.
 - Cannot conflict with parent organization positions.
 - Should follow PTA guidelines, cautioning gray areas
 - Even If there is no parent organization position
 - Should be applied at appropriate advocacy level
 - “No position” may be due to factors listed above
 - Information for individual advocacy welcomed.
 - A main motion can be made at our General Meetings.

- Camp Ilchester – Nature Conservancy run by the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
 - The potential selling of the property may impact our local county Girl Scout units and other local entities (summer camps).
 - Ilchester ES PTA President – added the *Love for Camp Ilchester Coalition* link to the PTACHC Facebook page.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30PM

Next Meeting: Monday, May 3, 2021 (Virtual)

Associated Documents:

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/Position-Statement-Teacher-Negotiations-Sanctions-and-Strikes>

https://diphi.web.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2645/2012/02/MSG-ROBERTS_RULES_CHEAT_SHEET.pdf

Minutes taken by Tasha Vanterpool, PTACHC Secretary