

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)  
(Virtual) General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 3, 2021

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**Board Attendees:**

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Felicia West, Executive Vice President
3. Tonya Tiffany, Vice President of 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

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM. Quorum was confirmed by the President, Brent Loveless and Secretary, Tasha Vanterpool. Approx. 75 attendees.

**Committee Reports:**

*\*Guests Mr. Carl DeLorenzo, Policy Director - Howard County Executive Office and Dr. Michael Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent attended to present budgetary and HCPSS reports.*

- Capital Budget and Operating Budget (Carl DeLorenzo, Policy Director, County Executive Office)
  - Capital Budget and Operating Budget
    - County proposed capital budget funding in the amount of \$52M to fund (3) priority projects:
      - The HS 13; Hammond HS; Talbott Springs ES
      - Systemic maintenance, and roofing projects, technology, relocatable classrooms, etc. (approx. \$12.5M)
      - State-funding portion (\$33M)
        - Intended to fund those capital projects.
    - Operating Budget – proposed county operating budget for HCPSS totals approx. \$631M for FY22. Includes one-time funding (approx. \$10M) to address the deficit in the health and dental fund (HCPSS benefits for employees).
    - BOE requests totaled over \$670M; County Executive made some adjustments to that request based on student enrollment projections (FY20 slight decline 2.5%) and based as well on the State Maintenance of Effort rates.
  
- Dr. Michael J. Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent
  - \*Greeting BOE and Members of PTACHC*
  - Operating Budget FY22 Facts & Figures
    - \$960.3M combined all levels of resource
    - \$41.6M (4.5% increase) increase from FY21; includes:

- \$18.7M (one-time, nonrecurring funds) to eliminate health fund deficit
    - \$941M for ongoing operations (2.5% increase annually)
    - Supports anticipated enrollment growth (including both general and special education); initially declined but now steadily increasing.
    - Maintains current service levels for class size.
    - Pandemic supports and security mechanisms that must be maintained (Chromebooks, software, etc) as well as compensation increases for all employees.
  - 86% of budget goes to fund salaries and staff; 14% covers buses and transportation.
  - Maintenance of Effort calculations; in ongoing discussion with County Executive
  - MD House Bill 1372 (enacted April 9, 2021) modified the calculations of maintenance of effort to exclude the impact of the pandemic enrollment decline; will increase the State MOU for FY21 from \$602M to \$620M. Yet to be determined; advocacy is important.
  - \$10M is being added to the remaining approx. \$8M – funds saved through the pandemic.
    - *Initially was approx. \$51M and got it down to \$37M. Now down to \$18M and with the \$10M from County brings balance to \$8.7M. We were able to save money (the \$10M) during pandemic from the operating budget and there are plans to apply those funds to eliminate the deficit and fully fund the healthcare obligations and create a fund balance (Dr. Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent).*
  - Wants to buildup a fund balance so that we are never in a deficit.
- Q & A Session with Mr. DeLorenzo, Policy Director and Dr. Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent
- Brent Loveless – Brought up Covid funding and how we can address gaps between the operating and capital budgets (ie. air quality, learning gaps, etc.).
  - DeLorenzo – Explained that CARES funding was the first stream of income that streamed into local government. Funding came to local jurisdictions quickly with specific deadlines and specific categories for use. A second wave of federal funding is coming to us; currently preparing (County Goal= \$63M and will come in phases). Qualifications around the use of funding are ambiguous; will seek clarification on the funds and most effective use of those funds. Seeking clarity on the timeline and use of this stream of funding with the HCPSS being the primary beneficiary.
  - Dr. Martirano – Emphasized that all these funds are is one-time funds with varying timelines for phase out.
    - Some of these funds will go up until FY24
    - Using instructional data to assess where our students are to determine growth and address learning gaps and acceleration that needs to occur.
    - There are designated areas to provide relief to the capital budget (ie. deferred maintenance projects)
    - Kirwan funds from the State of MD is another consideration.
  - Brent – Membership is concerned about gaps in operating in capital budget – how will these gaps be handled by the Council and the BOE and what specifically will be affected?
    - Vicky Cutroneo added – air quality and mold; different maintenance projects may be considered to address those concerns. Roofing will also be included.
    - Chat Question – Special Education; Will there be budget increases to accommodate growing needs?

- Dr. Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent addressed – we allocated additional funds for special education needs based on staffing and the needs of our special education students. Also have funds for the advancement of additional training and supports.
- Chat Question – Virtual Learning; Is there a possibility to continue virtual learning that is not under the new/current digital learning model?
  - Dr. Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent addressed – We will move to a 5-day model and create a virtual digital education center. Additionally, we also learned that this may be an opportunity for students in home and health hospital to use virtual learning as a resource. There will not be a dominant virtual learning component but rather that we will leverage the technology being used. Also, the possibility to shift to a digital learning platform on snow days to recoup school days. We will leverage the advantages of virtual learning to meet needs.
- Chat Question – Are there school-specific air quality reports available?
  - Dr. Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent addressed - We are the only school system in MD with an IEQ; there are currently no reports right now as far as the actual air quality.
  - Vicky Cutroneo, BOE – added that there is maintenance and settings for HVACs and Co2 monitoring on how well air is exchanged in classrooms. Will follow-up regarding air quality as new reports.
- Chat Question - Will there be student outdoor seating during lunch next year?
  - Dr. Martirano addressed – the BOE investigated boarding tents using the federal funds to allow for outdoor seating for eating during lunch to facilitate in creating an environment that is safe for our children.  
Updates pending
- Chat Question – Questions about Digital Education Center (DEC); Will there be both an in-person and virtual format in the fall? Funds are needed for DEC. Will there be registration for the virtually learning / digital environment?
  - Dr. Martirano, HCPSS addressed – The digital learning platform/instructional approach is funding dependent, but Martirano is committed to making it happen if it contributes to the success of our students. The intention for the fall is to resume full 5-day instruction with no concurrent teaching. This will continue to be a part of discussions in the budget process. We are building as if it is going to occur.
- Chat Question – Will this be something that will continue after the learning recovery period? Also, is there a certain threshold of number of students we need in order to move forward with the DEC and will it be separated by ES, MS, and HS or will it be separated by level?
  - Dr. Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent addressed - This is something that we want to build into around our school system, based on the need generated from the community and the level of success it affords some of our students. It will be K-12 with a capacity of approx. 1200-1300 students – and the format can vary including blending students across levels based upon ability. Open to all possibilities.
- Chat Question - Will teaching staff be using the same exact curriculum or will they be employing third party vendors?

- We are a standard-based instructional program based upon the state of MD and all of our students who are in the virtual program as well as the normalized educational program all need to adhere to those standards and same level of quality to meet educational standard and requirements. This will not be delivered by a third party – it will be a Howard County curated model taught by Howard County educators.
  - James LeMon, HCPSS – Added that we do have a partnership with a local children’s board and through their funding we offer academics in the morning as well as a SEL program for several of our HCPSS schools.
  - Mr. DeLorenzo – Added that they are held across the county at 4 sites.
- Chap Question – Will and can pay be revisited for staff? Is there any desire for categorical transfers this year and how does the proposed pay affect other items in the budget?
  - Mr. DeLorenzo, Policy Director, County Executive Office addressed – Raising this issue is especially important; encouraged constituents to make these points known to the HCPSS and the County. There are work sessions and budget hearings on the schedule – come to those and make this concern know.
  - Dr. Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent addressed - We are a collective bargaining state and there is a process for negotiations; County is currently in negotiations. There is a placeholder in the budget for compensations and the goal is to recruit and retain the absolute best and part of that is to remain competitive with our salaries.
  - Brent Loveless, President – Attended Operating Budget meeting; raised concerns about our transfer taxes and school surcharge tax (only covers 20%). As we go into the new budget cycle, looking into new revenue options and efficiencies without cutting into anything that effects our students, teachers, customized learning. How would you feel we should best advocate for our children based on what we know currently?
    - Dr. Yun Lu, Mr. DeLorenzo, and Dr. Martirano all addressed – How should we best advocate for our children based on what we know?

Responses:

**Dr. Lu** – There will be a public hearing this week on Thursday; we can advocate to county council to ask for more funding for our BOE or email the BOE.

**Carl DeLorenzo** – Remarked that the revenue side of the budget is critical; the restructuring of the taxes is one. There are multiple revenue streams that support the county. How do you and PTACHC effectively advocate for the budget going forward? There are supplement streams for revenue funding available to us as. The Spending Affordability places restraints on how much debt the county can accrue. Also, how we use federal funding streams such as federal stimulus dollars; ensuring that we maximize use of those funds to prevent long term strains on our system. Focus on maximizing the opportunities from one-time funding resources.

**Dr. Martirano** – We must continue addressing the pandemic and continue to move forward; he would like to encourage PTACHC to be more forward thinking about how we can keep up with the demands of our students and how we find new funding sources/revenue streams.

## Committee Reports (cont.)

- Secretary Report (Tasha Vanterpool, Secretary)  
Approval of Minutes (April 2021)
  - Tasha Vanterpool, Secretary read April meeting minutes into record and motioned to approve – motion accepted and by consensus, minutes were approved by general membership.
  
- Policy Report (Meg Ricks, Policy Chair) –
  - May 11<sup>th</sup> BOE Meeting will discuss Policy 5200 Pupil Transportation and Policy 9020 Student Rights and Responsibilities
    - signup online to participate (register 48 hours in advance)
  - June 10<sup>th</sup> Policy 6010 Redistricting – All PTA members are encouraged to be involved in updates will be presenting report on 6010 in June General Meeting.
  
- Reflections Report (Meng Zhu, Reflections Chair)
  - Still awaiting instructions from state. Will notify members once information is received. Sarah Rehling, Office Administrator has delivered certificates of participation to all participants to acknowledge their efforts.
  
- Membership Report (Jeff Johnson, Membership Chair)
  - Membership Committee is still working on nominations.
  - Wellness checks continue to occur. Mostly concerns about the former MD entity.
  - PTO/PTA/PTSA discussions occurring.
  
- Treasurer Report (Nicole Alston, Treasurer)
  - A complete 2020-21 year-end budget overview and annual budget comparison will be reviewed at the June 2021 General Meeting.
  
- Scholarship Report (Sarah Mungo, Scholarship Chair)
  - Scholarships are currently being worked on. The Scholarship Committee Review has been completed and have awarded (6) scholarships totaling \$4.5k. Two (2) academic scholarships at \$1k each and one (1) teacher education scholarship for \$1k and (3) Dr. Charles Ecker Scholarships for community service at \$500 each.
  
- Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Report (Mai Hall) –
  - They have an upcoming meeting May 19<sup>th</sup>; meetings are every third Wednesday. Next topic will be about nominations and elections. Email: [SECACChair@gmail.com](mailto:SECACChair@gmail.com) for the Zoom links.
  
- CAC Report (N/A) -
  
- HCEA Report (N/A) –
  
- HCPSS Report – (previously reported)

- BOE Report (Dr. Yun Lu) –
  - Superintendent issued a statement about the Fall 2021-22 year; we intend to resume full 5-day in-person instruction. Survey is due by Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>
  
- Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC) Report (Lisa Soto) –
  - Lisa Soto has been in meetings all year reviewing the development of current budget.
  - Will inform us if there are any additional funding coming forth. Discussed advocacy for our school system and our budgetary needs.
  - Dr. Wu, (BOE) asked for a list of priority items (ways to cut budget) – Soto does not think PTACHC is able to present any cuts. We have a \$36.7M differential – that is an unbelievable amount to cut or take away from our teachers / staff. Cannot afford increased class size of program cuts. We should not be dependent crisis federal funding to fill the gaps. The next two weeks is critical in getting funding for our schools. Locals should feel enabled to advocate for your local schools and numbers.
  - Next public testimony opportunity for parents is at 9:30am tomorrow 5/4/21.
  
- National PTA Update (Brent Loveless, President)
  - Legacy MDPTA charter has been revoked.
  - All local units are covered by National PTA.
  - Local units should continue to use bylaws last approved by your membership.
  - New bylaws and proposed bylaws amendments will be developed for new state entity.
  - Continue with your elections according to your current bylaws and continue to advocate for children according to our mission.
  - See ARTICLE IV—Constituent Associations Section 1. Constituent Associations. Constituent Associations of National PTA (Referred to as 50 “Constituent Associations”) (refer to slides or National PTA website)
    - Our local PTA Council may continue to operate under the National PTA without the existence of a state PTA until a new entity is established.

➤ **Motion to create a position for the PTACHC Affiliation.**

- Brent Loveless, President read the following proposed motion.
  - PTACHC Position - MOTION: *“TO CREATE A 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.”*
- Brent Loveless, President un-tabled motion to vote; seconded by Jeff Johnson; motion moved to the floor for deliberation.
  - Laura Ramey – In favor of a countywide entity not affiliated with the State PTA
  - Kalpana Vijay – What if we join the new MD PTA and some of our bylaws clauses do not align, are we expected to revise our bylaws all over again?
    - Brent addressed – advised to continue using most recent, valid bylaws approved by our local members. Any clauses from the former legacy state entity may no longer be valid. There are several local PTAs that are frustrated because they went through all the process before this situation.
    - Reiterated that the advantages of staying with this organization outweigh not staying.

- Insurance – need to verify; it varies based on the state and national criteria; local units are considered covered.
  - Jeff Johnson – Who is driving the decision to make us make the decision about how we are going to be affiliated – is it Nationals making the decision about when and how we are going to affiliate or is this for us to get members in alignment? We do not have all the information about how this new entity is going to be formed and by whom in order to make this decision.
    - Maryland has officially announced that is has officially severed its charter with the former entity. We are now all considered covered under the National PTA.
    - Jeff Johnson advocating for more deliberation about this decision; local units should be provided ALL of the information in order to inform best decisions.
      - Tonya Tiffany – Asked additional information do the locals need to make this decision.
      - Terri Marcus – Feels the organizational structure will be the same. Delaying the vote will prolong the state of limbo we are in right now. Feels it can create problems as some local units
      - Michelle Wineberg – still looking for a PTA (HS) President; MemberHub money – still using it because they use it for all three fundraisers – is there a cut-off date for that? Don't want to lose funding – any guidance on that?
        - Brent - National PTA and MemberHub provided governance; When national cut ties with legacy PTA ....
        - MemberHuB shared information about how to redirect your funding to National PTA through MemberHub. National is negotiating how to align with the newly established MD State entity.
        - Korin Sharp (Forest Ridge) – finds National PTA to be unbelievably valuable. Received grants; attends trainings and meetings.
- Brent Loveless – if local units decide to break away from National PTA or local PTA – who will those local units and/or our Council be affiliated with. The vote tonight helps with long-term planning as an organization.
  - We have a high level of involvement/and collaboration with our local county government. Would not like to see competing entities out there in our County. Best as a united entity. Asked local reps to give us feedback soon so that we can move forward and it is best to set our direction
  - Brent moved to retable the vote on this position until next month – motion was seconded. Motion was accepted.

➤ Nominating Committee Updates (Terri Marcus, Nominating Committee Chair)

- Each local unit should have received a flyer.
- Interest in committee chair positions – chosen by the Executive Board.
- To date, the slate only consists of one candidate for each board position.
  - Deadline is May 21<sup>st</sup> to determine the slate.
  - [NominatingCommittee@PTACHC.org](mailto:NominatingCommittee@PTACHC.org) email if interested.

- Elections will take place at the June 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting
- Budget Updates – (Brent Loveless, President)
  - \*Refer to associated document for detailed budget comparisons and the budget timeline.
  - As it stands, our capital budget is still not sufficient to meet all our needs. The capital budget is competing with the operating budget.
  - Current proposed budget is temporary until the County Council votes on it.
  - Reference Board Docs to see difference between the current budget – the recommended budget – and the BOE budget.
  - Maintenance of Effort budget was \$ 602M now \$620M
    - Per pupil expenditure has declined
  - We are to advocate for what is needed for the school system.
  - The BOE will start discussions for what can be added and cut by May 6<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing.
    - May 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM meeting
    - Sign-up by May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM
    - Signup for the email if you cannot make the meeting (it will go into official record)
- Legislative Updates (Brent Loveless, President)
  - APFO (Redistricting and New Regulations over the next 2–3-year period)
  - Budget is being filed tonight. The council has the authority to “restore” funds up to BOE submitted values.
  - General Plan –update team completed input for “growth choices”. There was significant input from education advocates. Columbia new town 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
  - May 11, 2021 – HCPSS releases yearly APFO School Capacity charts

#### **General Announcements & Updates:**

- National PTA Convention
  - UPCOMING DATES: June 17 – 26, 2021
  - PTACHC typically pays for a contingent to attend. This item was not budgeted this year due to Covid-19. Expectation that funding will be restored for future years.
- Leadership Training Seminar Summer 2021 – (Tonya Tiffany, Felicia West)
- PTA “Open House” Sessions – May 19 (Felicia West)
  - Elementary schools PTA reps - 5:30 pm
  - Middle school PTA reps - 6:30 pm
  - High school PTA reps - 7:30 pm
  - Address requests to have more communication between members 3 sessions, split by grade level (elementary, middle, high school sessions)
- *Effective Meetings* –Summer Session (Caroline Bodziak) bodziakpresident@mthebronptsa



**Scheduling:**

- The next PTACHC General Meeting will be held on Monday, June 7, 2021 (virtual) – Requested an indoor meeting at Homewood (IN JULY OR LATER!!!!) It may be on online meeting; but until otherwise noted, the meeting is intended to be an IN-PERSON OUTDOOR MEETING.
- The next PTACHC Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **(June 2)** June 9, 2021.

**Addendum:** The June 2021 PTACHC General Meeting will be held on Monday, June 7, 2021 **(IN-PERSON)** outside at the Homewood School.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm

**Associated Documents:** [PowerPoint Slides May 3, 2021](#)

**Minutes taken by Tasha Vanterpool, PTACHC Secretary**