

**PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 8, 2021 (rain date)**

Board Attendees:

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Tonya Tiffany, Vice President of Issues
3. Nicole Alston, Treasurer
4. Tasha Vanterpool, Secretary
5. Meg Ricks, Chair, Policy Committee
6. Jeff Johnson, Chair, Membership Committee
7. Sarah Mugo, Chair, Scholarship Committee

General Meeting

Call to Order: The (in-person, outdoor) meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm at the Homewood School. Quorum was confirmed by Secretary with 36 attendees.

Scholarships – Sarah Mugo, Chair Scholarship Committee

▪ PTA Council Scholarship Recipients: There were 37 applications; this year only had funds to select six (6) recipients.

Announcements – Brent Loveless, President

- Leadership Training Seminar - August 2, 2021 (Tonya Tiffany, PTACHC VP Issues, Felicia West, PTACHC Executive VP)
- Effective Meetings Workshop – Caroline Bodziak (president@mthebronptsa.com) - Tentative date is July 28, 2021.

Reports

➤ Secretary Report – Tasha Vanterpool, PTACHC Secretary

May meeting minutes read into record and motioned to approve – motion accepted and approved by general membership.

➤ Treasurer Report – Nicole Alston, PTACHC Treasurer

- Provided a summary of expenses year-to-date
- Breakdown of actual expenses and what was projected for 2021
- Some units who have unpaid dues may be due to lack of contact information.
- Out of 74 local units, 70 local units have paid their dues
- May have experienced delays due to closing of schools in Spring 2020
- Current income to date: \$12,750
- Budget is current and accurate with regard to projected amount for expenses.
 - Taxes:
 - Former treasurer did not pay state and federal taxes resulting in penalties and interest.
 - Previous FY tax balance came up to about \$2000.00.
 - Tax balance for current year is \$1700.00 (which is normal)
- There were (3) outstanding payroll filings that were missing.
- Currently hold \$1,400.00 in reserve: \$12, 900.00 in checking account and \$5,000.00 in savings account – minus scholarships leaves approx. \$8000.00 in checking account. The amount of \$1400 will come off the account due the taxes we had to pay this year.
 - Expenses - PTACHC office needs a new computer (will consider direct donations if not funded directly from the PTACHC account)
- Dues typically remain the same. Any fluctuations will be due to non-payments.
- Scholarships and Salary
 - These values tend to stay the same – no big influxes. It would be ideal to garner more scholarship donations to increased scholarship opportunities to our HS seniors.
 - PTACHC proposes increasing office administrator's salary to update it according to the COLA.

- Michele Weinberg (Reservoir HS) suggested asking the local units for donations prior to July when the new FY budgets for local units starts over.
- PTACHC Policy Chair, Meg Ricks – Motioned to allow payment of bills over the summer until our next entities are set up – Laurie Ramey seconded; Voted unanimously – motion passes by consensus.

➤ SECAC Report – Colleen Morris - Teachers Union – N/A

➤ CAC Report ▪ BOE is currently reviewing their bylaws; communicate with BOE now to suggest any changes you would like to see.

➤ HCEA Report – N/A

➤ BOE Report - N/A

➤ State PTA Report - The temporary board will be voted out by the new BoD

- Still a lot of unknowns – budget, interface with Member Hub
- National PTA is still supporting Free State PTA
- PTACHC recently hosted (2) informational forums.
- The Free State PTA is a legitimate entity and is in the process of awaiting for approval of 501c3 nonprofit status so that locals can be under their umbrella.
- There should be no calls from the former MD entity to relinquish funds from local units.
- Free State PTA – let them know what you like and do not like (i.e. MemberHub, etc.)

Q: Terri Marcus - *Can locals make their own contracts with MemberHub?*

A: PTA funds do not stay in MemberHub accounts; dues are transferred from MemberHub to your local PTA Account. Local units should manually mail their dues to the National PTA.

➤ Motion from Brent Loveless to create a position for the PTACHC to be affiliated with the new State PTA.

▪ *“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.”*

▪ Motion seconded by Secretary Tasha Vanterpool; Motion passed - 27 yes /1 no /2 abstained.

➤ Financial Review Committee appointed: Laurie Ramey, Amy Morrison Baker, and Melrose Beneker

➤ Policy Report – Meg Ricks, Policy Chair

- Policy 6010 Redistricting - June 10th – All PTA members are encouraged to be involved
- No redistricting will be set for next year
- Standards for redistricting will start this fall
- Lisa Soto stated that summer is the time when changes can be made.

Q: Michelle Wineberg (Reservoir HS): *Since we are getting more portables, how many students will be designated to each portal?*

A: It depends on the grade level and the actual size of the portals.

Q: Michelle Wineberg (Reservoir HS): Directory question – *How can we revise the rules on how we can access our school directories? Had to cut and paste 1800 emails to create a distribution list.*

A: Mr. LeMon will speak to Brian Bassett to see if that can be changed and will get back to us.

➤ HCPSS Report – James LeMon, Executive Director of Community, Parent and School Outreach

- There were over 4500 students who graduated in-person SY21
- The final principal’s meeting was held today in preparation for the close of the academic year.
- The Digital Education Center (DEC) – Updates will be discussed at meeting on June 10th.
- Feasibility Report is on Board Docs and will be presented on Thursday. We are trying to get resources so we can increase funding.
- PTACHC Policy Chair Meg Ricks represented PTACHC on Policy 3030 (Research Policy)

Q: *Will principals be moved this year?*

A: Mr. LeMon: Every year, a few personnel are moved and it may happen at Thursday’s meeting.

Q: Michelle Wineberg (Reservoir HS) – EMS system – *Received notifications that PTAs can now reserve spaces. Can access the EMS system, but it will only allow reservations from August and after. There is no opportunity to reserve during the summer (which impacts Special Ed., drivers ed., and other programs that we promote over the summer).*

A: Mr. LeMon will confirm if the EMS system is open for summer reservations.

➤ Membership Report – Jeff Johnson, Membership Chair

▪ As local units go through board/officer transitions and elect new members, please forward the updated information to PTACHC.

➤ Reflections Report – Meng Zhu, Reflections Chair – N/A

➤ Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC) Report – Lisa Soto, OBRC Chair

- Thursday night 6/10/21, BOE will draft a charter (re-chartered annually in June)
- Over the years, over 99 recommendations have been made to the BOE. Final report due end of June.
- OBRC is a committee of the BoE – could always potentially be unseated at the BOE.
- Budget - Used a lot of the fund balance, but still have money that cannot be touched.
- Currently reviewing the development of current budget and will inform PTACHC if there are any additional sources of 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) –There is a \$36.7M differential. Should not consider taking away from teacher/staff salaries. Cannot afford increased class sizes or program cuts. We should not be dependent on federal funding to fill the gaps. The next two weeks is critical in getting funding for our schools. Locals should advocate for your local schools and numbers.
- Lisa Soto has served on OBRC for 3 years. Advocacy is critical – beyond demanding more money. Encourages others to support.

➤ Legislative Report – Brent Loveless, president

- Howard County Budget Summary
- General Plan Update
 - Next Steps
 - Housing opportunities
 - Equity-Land Use

➤ Training Opportunities

- National PTA –*Zooming Into Membership Webinar* – teaches your PTA how to organize and host Zooming Into Membership events. Register for a session: June 8th (1pm or 7pm) or July 14th (1pm or 7pm)
- Financial Training – Nicole Alston, PTACHC Treasurer – Virtual Training Dates: starting at 7:00 pm on June 24th, August 26th, Sept. 9th, and Oct. 7th (all will be virtual sessions)

Q: *Will this training count toward the mandatory training?*

A: Yes, and certificates will be offered/earned.

➤ National PTA Convention – June 17-26, 2021 (virtual)

➤ Nominating Committee Report: Presented by Terri Marcus, PTACHC Nominating Committee Chair

- Presented the 2021-22 Nominees
 - President – Srinu Gorantla
 - Executive Vice President – Open
 - Vice President of Operations – Terri Marcus
 - Vice President of Issues - Tony Tiffany
 - Secretary – Open
 - Treasurer – Nicole Alston

▪ Presentation of Candidates:

Each candidate gave a brief introduction with explanation for why they should be elected.

- Nominee for President: Srin Gorantla – 3 years involved; Mt. Hebron; joined PTA when daughter was in elementary school and remained involved when daughter moved on to HS; profession – software engineering; hobbies – public speaking. Started an internship program at Mt. Hebron HS. Owns his own IT company and turned it into opportunity for the students by helping them build computer software.
- Nominee for Vice President Operations: Terri Marcus – Has been actively involved with PTA since February 2013; served as PTACHC rep, a VP, as well as in all PTA officer roles. Served as PTACHC Delegate for Howard HS; Hospitality Chair for committees. Was a lawyer before being a full-time at-home parent. Ms. Marcus is the mother of two children – one of whom has special needs so she is also involved with SECAC.
- Nominee for Vice President Issues: Tonya Tiffany - She is the mother of a 10th grader. Served as VP of issues when her child was in 2nd grade; took some years off to devote time to child who has special needs, and recently came back to serve with PTACHC. Ms. Tiffany has helped to build the legislative committee; and is strong supporter of advocacy.
- Nominee for Treasurer: Nicole Alston - She has been a HoCo resident for 10 years; feels being a part of the larger body is fulfilling and a part of her purpose. Nicole Alston stepped into the PTACHC Treasurer role last year because there was a need. Currently, Ms. Alston also serves as PTA President at Hammond MS and served as treasurer for ES Atholton ES for 3 years. Her husband is an accountant whom she can rely on for professional guidance and support when needed. Nicole Alston is experienced with keeping detailed notes, organized financial records, and guarding the funds she is entrusted to manage with integrity as if they were her own.

▪ Floor Nominations

- Tonya Tiffany nominated from the floor for President; she declined nomination.
- Angela Shiplet nominated from the floor for Secretary; she accepted nomination. She will serve as the incoming Elkridge ES PTA President; has been involved with PTA and currently serves on her HOA Board as Secretary.

▪ Call to Vote

- President – 27 yes/0 opposed/1 abstained
- Executive Vice President – No nominations; new board can appoint someone
- Vice President Operations – 29 yes/0 opposed/0 abstained
- Vice President Issues – 28 yes/0 opposed/0 abstained
- Secretary – 27 yes/0 opposed/0 abstained
- Treasurer – 28 yes/0 opposed/0 abstained

➤ Incoming PTACHC Board of Directors roles will commence July 1, 2021.

Reminded general members of remaining open roles and other standing committees that need to be filled, including Special Committees.

➤ Current PTACHC Board of Directors received acknowledgement for 2020-2021 service.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Next PTACHC General Meeting: Monday, August 30, 2021 at 7:30 pm

Please check www.ptachc.org for updates

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm

Meeting Minutes taken by Tasha Vanterpool, PTACHC Secretary