

# PTA Council of Howard County General Meeting

OCTOBER 4, 2021

HOMEWOOD SCHOOL

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## Board members present:

Srini Gorantla, President  
Terri Marcus, VP Operations  
Tonya Tiffany, VP Issues  
Nicole Alston, Treasurer  
Brent Lovelace, Legislative Committee Chair  
Jeff Johnson, Membership Committee Chair  
Meg Ricks, Policy Committee Chair

- I. Call to order - The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established.
- II. Address by the Howard County Delegation of the Maryland Legislature. Two Maryland State Senators - Eric Ebersole and Clarence Lam, and 6 delegates- Vanessa Atterbeary, Eric Ebersole, Jessica Feldmark, Terri Hill, Jen Terresa, and Courtney Watson - were present to provide a legislative update and answer questions.
- III. Treasurers' Report - Nicole Alston stated there is a little over \$5,000 in the checking account. Invoices for PTACHC dues will be distributed soon and are due on November 1, 2021.
- IV. Approval of Minutes- *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2021, meeting. The motion passed.*
- V. Organizational Reports
  - a. Board of Education - Dr. Lu discussed policies that will be under review and took questions from the audience.
  - b. CAC - no representative was present
  - c. HCEA - no representative was present
  - d. SECAC - no representative was present
- VI. Guest speaker- Caroline Bodziak, the current First Vice President of Mt. Hebron High School PTA, presented about PTSA accomplishments and lessons learned. Slide show available on PTACHC website.
- VII. Legislative Report - Brent Loveless reported on four Council Bills (CB 59-2021, CB 63-2021, CB 68-2021, CB 81-2021) and three Council Resolutions (CR 144, 145 and 154) and issues to watch at the State level.

CB 59-2021 - expanding internet services contract to double the bandwidth with an outside provider - passed on 10/4/21 during meeting, with membership informed.

CR144 and 145 - affordable housing exemptions to APFO school overcrowding for two projects in the Bryant Woods attendance area were tabled on 10/4/21, (to be voted on in November) – Noted how these may affect future overcrowding and redistricting actions.

CB 63-2021 - electronic meetings for boards and commissions was being discussed concurrently at the same time as the PTAC meeting. Noted how these affect education advocacy.

New bills have been submitted by the County Council for October with public testimony and a November vote pending.

CB 68-2021 – bonds – The issuance of debt affects future debt limits for educational issues.

CR154-2021 – a resolution approving the Board of Education's capital improvement program request for fiscal years 2024-28 for the purpose of submission to the Interagency Commission on School Construction, which includes renovations of Oakland Mills Middle and High Schools, Patapsco Middle school, and Jeffers Hill Elementary school. Keep in mind being on the list does not mean that funding is ensured for those projects. HCPSS still has a net deficit of capacity.

CB 81-2021 – re increasing the minimum wage. PTAC will likely not take a position on this, but membership should be aware of residual effects. A change in the minimum wage may have socio-economic impacts in redistricting, shifts in schools' Title 1 status, and shifts external grant thresholds.

Items to watch at the state level include redistricting, SROs, pre-K, charter schools, local funding, and the Built to Learn Act. Brent encourages everyone to watch the BOE meeting held on September 14, 2021 at 4:30 because it is must see TV to get good information on what may be the basis for future state legislation and school funding.

- VIII. Policy Report – Meg Ricks announced several policies and discussed upcoming things to watch.
- a. The Board of Education will be voting on the Revision of Policy 6010 in November. *A motion was made and seconded that “we affirm that 100% is the maximum allowable capacity at Howard County Schools. PTACHC expects no school to be beyond 100% capacity utilization.” The motion passed unanimously.*
  - b. *A motion was made to “request the Howard County Delegation to use the University of Maryland and/or other members of academia to provide analytical support related to redistricting.” The motion passed with two abstentions.*
  - c. Items to watch for were presented; these items included the re-naming of schools, libraries, roads and parks, HoCo by Design and revisions to APFO.
  - d. A PTACHC representative is needed to serve on the Operating Budget Review Committee (ORBC).
- IX. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Shiplet, Secretary &  
Terri Marcus, VP of Operations

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_