

PTA COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 2021
HOMEWOOD SCHOOL

Board members present:

Srini Gorantla, President
Terri Marcus, VP Operations
Tonya Tiffany, VP Issues
Nicole Alston, Treasurer
Brent Loveless, Legislative Committee Chair
Jeff Johnson, Membership Committee Chair
Caroline Bodziak, After Prom Committee Chair

- I. **Call to order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Quorum was established.
- II. **Guest Speakers**
 - A. Kim Pruum and Carl DeLorenzo from the office of the County Executive came to discuss some of the initiatives the office has put forth this year, the upcoming citizens budget hearing and to get feedback from PTACHC Delegates that could be taken back to the County Executive.
 - B. Barb Krupiarz spoke about [Ho.Co. 2-22 bill](#) and the special education process in Howard County. A motion was made and seconded that *"PTACHC supports shifting the burden of proof from parents to the school system."* After discussion the motion passed.
- III. **Legislative report** - Brent presented the [Legislative Report](#) via [Power Point presentation](#) detailing state and local bills relevant to PTACHC. Brent made a motion that *"PTACHC supports the purpose of HoCo Bill 8-22 to authorize an excise tax."* The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Superintendent's office report** - James LeMon encouraged local PTAs to disseminate information about the upcoming December 14th hiring fair. He also spoke about the progress the school system has made in getting a social worker in every school.
- V. **Treasurer's Report** - Nicole reported that 19 schools still owe dues, and our scholarship fund is low. She is hoping more schools send in dues and donations for the scholarship fund as the year continues. The current budget and disbursements are posted on the PTACHC website.
- VI. **Approval of minutes** - The minutes of November 1st General meeting were approved with corrections.
- VII. **Board of Education Report** - Dr. Lu reported that [Policy 8020](#) will be up for review soon. The board will soon be voting on whether to have midterms and finals count for 5% each for the 2021-2022 school year only. Public Hearings on [Policy 2010](#) (Student Representation to the Board) will be held soon. The Board will also be electing a new chair.
- VIII. **New Business**
 - A. **The Former Maryland PTA** - Tonya shared her experience with what is believed to be the former Maryland PTA making fraudulent withdrawals from their PTA bank account and filing for dissolution of their local chapters. PTAs should look for two charges on their account - one for \$98 and another for \$3. Free State PTA is encouraging local chapters to fill out a form to apply to be under the Delaware State PTA to maintain the group exemption status. PTACHC will be sending out an email with instructions on what to do.
 - B. **TikTok** - The President of the River Hill PTA raised the issue of recent TikTok challenges to students and how they have been disruptive to schools. The following motion was made and seconded:
PTACHC condemns the recent spate of videos on platforms such as TikTok encouraging acts of violence and vandalism in school.
 1. PTACHC will write a letter to Free State and National PTA asking them to release a statement publicly condemning the recent spate of videos on platforms such as TikTok encouraging acts of violence and vandalism in school.
 2. PTACHC will ask Free State and National PTA to ask TikTok and other social media platforms to change their algorithms to eliminate videos that prompt vandalism and acts of violence in schools.After discussion the motion was tabled due to no longer having quorum.
- IX. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Prepared by: Angela Shiplet
Angela Shiplet, Secretary

Approved on: January 3, 2022