

PTAC HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2023

Homewood Cafeteria

Board Members present:

Srini Gorantla, President

Terri Marcus, Vice President of Issues

Korin Sharp, Executive VP Operations

April Riche, Treasurer - not present

Angela Shippet, Secretary

Brent Loveless, Legislative Committee Chair

Lisa Loveless, Policy Chair

Meg Ricks, OBRC

I. Call to order- The meeting was called to order at 7:30. Quorum was established.

II. Announcements:

A. PTACHC is looking for members to serve on the nominating committee for the 2023-2024 Board of Directors. The nominating committee is responsible for putting together a slate to fill each board position.

B. The Board of Directors authorized a temporary special committee focused on school safety initiatives.

C. Members are needed for the nominating committee.

III. Minutes were approved from the last meeting.

IV. Guest Speaker, Jahantab Siddiqui, the Chief Administrative Officer of HCPSS - Mr. Siddiqui informed the delegation about the budget and the budgetary process. Dr. Martirano was also in attendance; both Dr. Martirano and Mr. Siddiqui took questions from the audience regarding the budget. An overview of the budget can be found [here](#).

V. Guest Speakers, Traci Tatum and Reg Avery from Free State PTA - Ms. Tatum and Mr. Avery provided an [overview of MemberHub](#).

VI. Board of Education Report - Dr. Chen could not attend but sent a written report.

A. Superintendent's Proposed FY24 Operating Budget- Total \$1,140,934,509, representing a 10.5 percent increase over the FY 2023 Operating budget. There was a budget work session on February 6th. Additional sessions are scheduled on February 14th and 16th. The budget will be adopted on February 16th. Forty-four percent (44%) of the growth is due to increases in compensation. The budget priorities fall into six major focus areas:

1. Employee Compensation (326.6 new positions were added)
2. Strategically Investing in Student Achievement
3. Crucial Needs for School System Management and Operations
4. Financial Obligations and Commitments
5. Opening High School #13
6. Enrollment Commitments

B. The Board of Education will vote on the name of High School 13 on February 9th.

C. There will be a work session on February 15th on school start times. This will be voted on February 23rd.

VII. Operating Budget Review Committee Report - Meg Ricks described some of the things the OBRC had been discussing. Items of interest included; i) school start times, ii) not increasing class sizes, and iii) non-public placements for students in special education. The school system has also added positions focused on mental health. The OBRC voted to make a recommendation for the student to counselor ratio at elementary schools to be brought in line with the secondary school ratios.

VIII. Legislative Report - Brent Loveless presented the [Legislative Report](#).

IX. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned.