

PTAC HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2023

Homewood Cafeteria

Board Members present:

Srini Gorantla, President

Terri Marcus, Vice President of Issues

Korin Sharp, Executive VP Operations

April Riche, Treasurer

Angela Shiplet, Secretary

Brent Loveless, Legislative Committee Chair

Lisa Loveless, Policy Chair- not present

Meg Ricks, OBRC

I. **Call to order**- the meeting was called to order.

II. **HoCo By Design**- Brent Loveless [presented information on HoCo By Design](#), the current iteration of the Howard County General Plan. This plan will go to the Planning Board on March 9th; the deadline to sign up to testify in front of the planning board is 24 hours prior to the meeting.

III. **Approval of the [minutes from the February 6th meeting](#)**- *Brent Loveless motioned to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2023 General meeting as presented. The motion was seconded and it passed.*

IV. **[School safety subcommittee report](#)**- The committee had three deliverables for the end of May. The deliverables are 1. Action Step Template, 2. School Safety Summary Report, 3. School Safety Policy Recommendations Report. There will be a zoom call associated with each step; the focus of the zoom session would be knowledge sharing. A summary of the Working Group's efforts will be presented at the Monday, June 5th General Meeting. If you would like to participate in the zoom calls, contact Lisa Krausz for information.

V. **[Treasurer's Report](#)**- April Riche presented the Treasurer's report. Six schools have still have not paid their dues. Approximately 45 schools have not donated to the scholarship fund.

VI. **Committee reports**- no one was present from HCEA, CAC, or SECAC.

VII. **Board of Education Report**- Dr. Linfeng Chen presented a Board of Education Report.

A. The board adopted the superintendent's budget on February 16th. There will be a work session on April 27th. The school board will take a position on May 25th.

B. High School 13th has been named Guilford Park High School.

C. The new bell times were passed. High schools are at Tier 1. An audience member asked the question of whether the specific schools on each tier has remained the same. The answer was it was the schools are "pretty much the same." Dr. Chen was asked for date for final bell schedule will be out. He was not sure, but he will ask. The times will be +/- 10 minutes of their respective tiers.

D. Walking zones have changed by policy. The range has changed but that does not mean everyone in that radius will walk, it depends on the infrastructure. Question of whether

changing walk zones will impact times because more parents will be dropping off and picking up children. There was no answer provided.

E. The 2023-24 Academic calendar has been modified. August dates have been adjusted due to the new employee orientation, and the day of the primary election is now a day off.

F. Annual SMOB convention is on March 21st. There will be 18 candidates representing 8 high schools.

G. Questions from audience- A question was asked about the new opt-in transportation policy. Dr. Chen did not know the answer to that question. He was also asked if a date for graduations was set. The answer was not yet. Mr. LeMon said they are actively reaching out to Merriweather. Several questions were asked about the new opt-in transportation policy. The answers to these questions are still unknown.

VIII. Superintendent's report- James LeMon presented the Superintendent's report.

A. Graduation dates will be posted soon.

B. Graduation rate went up. 94.95% in Howard County; state average is 86%.

C. Three important dates- 3/24, Friday from 9 to 3: Educator of Color Recruitment event. It will be at the Wilde Lake Center. On March 28th Community Awareness event on substance use and abuse. April 19th Mental Health Community Awareness event day. More information about these events will be coming out.

D. Mr. LeMon thanked the School Safety Committee. He discussed how there is a policy and the implementation plan. It is easier to change the implementation plans than it is this policy.

IX. New Business

A. Training programs- Srinivas mentioned that we used to have advertised training meetings. Moving forward we will have more training sessions. These will be targeted for the summer once new boards are installed.

B. If you have new things you are doing at your local PTAs we invite you to share with the group (Board@ptachc.org).

C. Nominating committee- *A motion was made to nominate Glenda Tittle from Mount View Middle School, Ingrid Headlam from Harper's Choice Middle School, and Amanda Muchmore from Thunder Hill Elementary, the motion was seconded and passed.*

X. [Legislative Report](#)- Brent presented the legislative report. The delegation discussed HB0598. *A motion was made to support HB50598 with an amendment recommending to hold harmless Covid enrollment numbers from the prior 3 years. The motion was seconded and passed 24 in favor, 1 abstention.*

XI. Adjournment- the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.