

PTA COUNCIL of HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024

Board Members present:

Terri Marcus, President

Karina Fischer, Executive Vice President

Angela Shiplet, Secretary

Laurie Ramey, Treasurer

Brent Loveless, Legislative Committee Chair

Lisa Loveless, Policy Chair

Meg Ricks, ORBC Chair

I. **Call to Order** - the meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Quorum was established.

II. **President's report** - Terri Marcus gave the president's report.

A. Free State is hosting a Legislative Advocacy Day (8 am to 5 p.m.) and a Legislative Advocacy Reception (6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) in Annapolis on February 15, 2024.

B. Free State's virtual month PTA President's Roundtable is January 29, 2024, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Registration information is on the Free State Website. Terri Marcus reported she will be attending the PTA Council Roundtable.

C. PTACHC will be hosting candidate forums this spring. The deadline for candidates to file is February 9th.

D. Corrine Happel has been appointed by the board to serve on the review committee for Policy 5200 Transportation.

III. **Secretary's report** - Angela Shiplet presented the minutes from the last general meeting which was held on December 4, 2023. *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved.*

IV. **Treasurer's report** - Laurie Ramey presented the [Treasurer's report](#). Six PTAs have still not paid their dues.

V. **After School Activities Committee** - Laurie Ramey solicited support for the Afterschool Activities Committee. There is a guide on afterschool activities for PTAs that is still in draft form. Committee members are needed to update the guide. Committee members do not need to be PTACHC delegates, they only need to be a PTA member of a local unit.

VI. **Guest Speaker** - [Tim Guy the HCPSS Director of Assessments and reporting discussed the Maryland Blueprint](#) and took questions from the audience.

VII. **Legislative Report** - Brent Loveless presented the [Legislative report](#). Membership discussed and voted on several positions on proposed legislation for the 2024 Maryland Legislative session.

A. Brent Loveless made a motion that *"PTACHC SUPPORTS a commercial excise tax for deferred Maintenance."* *The motion was seconded and passed (36 votes for approval, 0 votes against approval, 0 abstentions).*

B. Brent Loveless made a motion that *“PTACHC SUPPORTS A Private/Public Partnership workgroup that comprehensively compares PPP’s ability to traditional delivery to resolve long term, sustainable systemwide needs. PTACHC requests representation on this workgroup.”* The

motion was seconded and passed (45 votes for approval, 0 votes against approval, 0 abstentions).

C. Brent Loveless made a motion that *“PTACHC SUPPORTS clear, consistent evaluation of school capital needs and funding availability. PTACHC requests representation in this process.”* The motion was seconded and passed (36 votes for approval, 0 votes against approval, 1 abstention).

D. Brent Loveless made a motion that *“PTACHC SUPPORTS 1-24 Public Campaign Financing for the HCPSS BOE.”* The motion was seconded and passed (34 votes in approval, 1 vote against approval, 7 abstentions).

E. Brent Loveless made a motion that *“PTACHC SUPPORTS A BOE Compensation Commission.”* The motion was seconded and passed (41 votes in approval, 0 votes against approval, 3 abstentions).

F. Brent Loveless made a motion that *“PTACHC DOES NOT SUPPORT BOE Term Adjustments Listed in 2-24.”* The motion was seconded and discussed. Angela Shiplet motioned to amend the motion to strike *“Listed in 2-24”* and replaced it with *“that result in a term longer than 4 years.”* The amendment was seconded and passed (30 votes in approval of the amendment, 1 vote against the amendment, 9 abstentions). The new motion, *“PTACHC DOES NOT SUPPORT BOE Term Adjustments that result in a term longer than 4 years”* passed (28 votes in approval, 3 votes against approval, 10 abstentions).

G. Brent Loveless made a motion that *“PTACHC SUPPORTS 6-24 ranked-choice voting for BOE elections.”* The motion was seconded and passed (25 votes in approval, 2 votes against approval, 12 abstentions).

VIII. Solicitation of feedback on Policy 5200 Transportation - Corrine Happel will be representing PTACHC on the Policy Review Committee for Policy 5200. She took a number of straw polls and solicited feedback. A majority of those in attendance favored the positions that bus stops should be no more than a ½ a mile from a student’s home, walk distance should not be measured from property line to property line, and that implementation of the revised policy should begin by August of 2024. People interested in providing feedback to Corrine about the policy can reach her at Corinne.Happel@ptachc.org.

IX. Board of Education Update - Dr. Chen provided an update from the Board of Education. Bill Barnes will be serving as acting superintendent while a nationwide search is conducted. Policy 5200 is being reviewed. Dr. Chen reported that the budgeting process will be very difficult. There will be a public hearing on January 25th at 7 p.m.

X. Superintendent’s report - Mr. LeMon provided the [superintendent’s report](#).

XI. **Adjournment** - the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.