

PTA COUNCIL HOWARD COUNTY MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024 HOMEWOOD

Board Members present:

Terri Marcus, President

Karina Fischer, Executive Vice President

Glenda Title Hernandez, Vice President of Issues

Angela Shiplet, Secretary

Laurie Ramey, Treasurer

Brent Loveless, Legislative Committee Chair

Lisa Loveless, Policy Chair

Meg Ricks, ORBC Chair

- I. **Call to order** - Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. quorum was established.
- II. **Superintendent's Report** - James LeMon presented the Superintendent's report. He thanked everyone who attended the PTA President/Board of Education Meeting and announced that the window for graduations will be May 20th to May 31st. The exact dates for each school will be announced within the next week or two.
- III. **President's report**
 - A. Bellows Springs Elementary is one of the eight Maryland schools to earn the Purple Star Designation. There were three schools from Anne Arundel County, two from Queen Annes County, and one each from Calvert and St. Mary's County.
 - B. Terri Marcus and the PTACHC Safety Committee met with Mr. Rudinski, the school system's Safety and Security Program Manager to work on language for the training materials that will be provided to parents and students and on HCPSS Policy 3010 which will up for review next year.
 - C. PTACHC will be holding a candidate forum on Saturday, March 16, 2024.
 - D. Terri Marcus will be speaking at the Multilingual Parent Leadership Graduation Ceremony on March 19, 2024 to explain PTA and build interest in joining.
 - E. Terri Marcus and Karina Fischer attended the Free State Legislative Advocacy Night in Annapolis on February 15, 2023. At the session they learned that those who attended during the day were announced on the floor of the General Assembly and were able to meet with Legislators in their office.
 - F. Terri Marcus reported that she will be presenting to the Board of Education on April 11, 2024 about what PTACHC has been doing.
 - G. Free State will be offering major rounds of training in the fall, winter, and spring. Trainings in the summer will be during the State Convention. Councils can supplement with their own trainings. PTACHC will be looking to provide some trainings this spring. There will be a key change in trainings, where now the Treasurer and the President will be required to attend trainings. This is a change from the previous requirement of the Treasurer and one other board member. Free State is looking to post more treasurer resources on its website and to start quarterly treasurer calls.
 - H. The Annual Free State PTA Convention will be held in person on July 20th and July 21st at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights. Early bird registration is \$85 and in effect until April 30th. Those interested in attending can visit the Free State website.
 - I. Terri Marcus announced that Sarah Rehling, the PTACHC Office Manager for the past 7 years, is retiring. PTACHC will be looking to fill her position. The position pays minimum wage and involves approximately 10 to 15 hours of work a week. Anyone interested in the position should contact Terri Marcus.
- III. **Executive Vice President's Report** - Karina Fischer reported that the PTACHC Board of Education Candidate's Forum will be Saturday March 16, 2024, 12:00 p.m. at Howard High School. She also discussed the work group that has been formed to examine how projects are prioritized for the capital budget. The work group has been formed to develop a standard and transparent process. The work

group will hold five public meetings. Individuals will have the opportunity to testify on this issue on June 6th.

- IV. **Secretary's report** - Angela Shiplet presented the minutes from the last general meeting. *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2024 General meeting; the motion passed.*
- V. **Treasurer's Report** - Laurie Ramey presented the [Treasurer's Report](#). There are three PTAs who have not yet paid their PTACHC dues for 2023-2024. PTACHC has been provided with a list of local units who are not in compliance with the state of Maryland. She will be reaching out to the units who are not in compliance.
- VI. **Guest speakers - Deb Jung, Chair of the County Council and District 4 Councilperson and Liz Walsh, District 1 Councilperson** - Councilmembers Jung and Walsh spoke to the delegation and took questions from the audience. They provided information about the county council's role in the approval process of the school system's operating budget. They reported that testimony on the budget can be sent to the County Executive at Budgettestimony@howardcountymd.gov, and to the County Council at councilmail@howardcountymd.gov.
- VII. **Board of Education Report** - Dr. Linfeng Chen presented the Board of Education report. There will be information coming out soon about the search for the new Superintendent. A survey will be released prior to spring break. Candidates will be visiting in May.
- VIII. **DEI Activity** - The DEI Committee conducted an activity with membership designed to assess their strengths and needs with regard to diversity and inclusion in their local unit.
- VIII. **Legislative Report** - Brent Loveless presented the [Legislative Report](#).
 - A. Brent Loveless moved that "PTACHC supports SB739," the motion was seconded and passed.
 - B. Brent Loveless moved that "PTACHC supports HB74," the motion was seconded and passed.
- IX. **Policy Committee Updates** - Corine Happel presented an update from the Transportation policy committee. The committee has finished their meetings. Individuals can testify on the proposed revisions to the policy on May 9, 2024.
- X. **HCEA Report** - Ben Schmidt provided a report from the Howard County Educators Association. He thanked everyone who took their time to come out and testify on the proposed budget.
- XI. **Adjournment**- The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.