

**PTAC HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023**

Terri Marcus, President  
Karina Fischer, Executive Vice President  
Glenda Tittle Hernandez, Vice President of Issues  
Angela Shiplet, Secretary  
Laurie Ramey, Treasurer  
Brent Loveless, Legislative Committee Chair  
Lisa Loveless, Policy Chair  
Sarah Rehling, Office Administrator

- I. **Call to order** - the meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and quorum was established.
- II. **President's report**
  - a. Free State news
    - i. Terri Marcus attended a roundtable on 11/28. Free State is continuing to work on fixing any rejected 990. They are considering increasing the amount of Treasurer trainings and dividing them into four sessions: Basics, Setting Budget, Financial Reviews, State and Federal Requirements. One would be mandatory. They are looking for local unit feedback.
    - ii. State convention July 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. Last year it was entirely virtual, they have not said whether this year would be virtual or in-person.
    - iii. The state currently has 508 local units. Free State is trying to increase this number by 100. They are going to continue focusing on outreach.
    - iv. Free State's legislative agenda was just approved. They will share it soon.
    - v. Give Backs training is still in the works, it will be coming in early 2024.
  - b. Terri Marcus also attended advocacy training. It was mentioned that everyone needs to advocate for money.
  - c. We still have not heard about our request to have a seat on the APFO task force. **Local units are encouraged to email the County Executive's office advocating for PTACHC to have a seat.**
  - d. Terri Marcus attended the graduation of Multicultural Parent Leadership Program. There will be another graduation in early 2024.
  - e. On November 30<sup>th</sup> Brent testified on behalf of PTACHC to the Howard County Delegation on upcoming State Legislation.
  - f. December 11<sup>th</sup> is the County Executive's Resident's Budget Hearing. **It is a virtual hearing. You can sign up to speak or submit testimony. Even a few short sentences by a large volume of people would be extremely helpful.**
- III. **Secretary's Report** - Angela Shiplet presented the minutes from the November 6, 2023 General Meeting. *A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed.*
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - Laurie Ramey presented the [Treasurer's report](#). As of last week, 11 PTAs have not paid their dues.
- V. **Safety Committee Report** - Lisa Krausz presented the [Safety Committee Report](#). The school safety report is now on the PTACHC website. Lisa Krausz met with HCPSS officials to go over the school safety report. They provided her with updates with some of the initiatives they have been working on. The committee is asking for the Board to vote on and change Policy 3010. It would be an addendum to the policy. They are asking the board to provide education and training to parents and students. They have recommended language: "The HCPSS will develop education training materials for parents and students to be distributed

- prior to the beginning of each school year. These materials will provide information and guidance to students and parents regarding school safety and emergency response.” Dr. Perry has shared the document with the school system’s General Council. The committee is trying to move this through to the Board of Education. **Lisa Krausz provided some action items for the delegates.**
- a. **Review the next two recommendations in the report.**
  - b. **Read about the types of possible training materials and issues to be addressed, such as guidance on best practices for cell phone usage during a threat.**
- VI. **Superintendent’s report** - Mr. LeMon presented the Superintendent’s report.
- a. [Career Academy Info Session, December 12, 2023 →](#)
  - b. [High School Advanced Research Program Information Night – Dec. 11, 2023 →](#)
  - c. [Apply for JROTC, through Jan. 5, 2024 →](#)
  - d. [Federal Impact Aid Forms Due by Dec. 14, 2023 →](#)
  - e. [Road to Kindergarten Workshops Begin Jan. 18, 2024 →](#)
  - f. [Black Student Achievement Program \(BSAP\) Saturday Math Academy Spring 2024 Program →](#)
  - g. [Canvas Features that Support Families →](#)
  - h. [HCPSS & The Council of Elders Virtual Community Academies, 2023-2024 School Year →](#)
  - i. [HCPSS Class of 2024 Graduation Window, May 20-31, 2024 →](#)
  - j. [HCPSS Announces Completion of FY 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report \(ACFR\) and Annual Audit With No Internal Control Findings →](#)
  - k. [HCPSS Presents Fiscal Outlook for FY 2025 Operating Budget; Launches Redesigned Budget Site →](#)
- VII. **Legislative Committee Report** - Brent Loveless presented the [Legislative Committee Update](#). **Brent Loveless is requesting that delegates go back to their local PTAs to discuss the possible positions that PTACHC could take on state legislation so that we can vote on positions in the January general meeting.** The Legislative report includes possible positions PTACHC could take, delegates were encouraged to discuss with the locals positions they would like to take.
- VIII. **Guest Speaker - Jahantab Siddiqui** - Jahantab Siddiqui, HCPSS Chief Administrative Officer and Darin Conforti Executive Director of Budget, were in attendance to talk about the budget process. Mr. Siddiqui gave a quick overview of the budget process and described how the budget process will be different this year. **Mr. Siddiqui is asking people to watch the Oct 26, 2023 4 p.m. Hybrid Meeting of the Board of Education of Howard County (swagit.com) and play close attention and stay engaged when the budget becomes available.** If local units are interested in what they could be advocating for at the state level, they can view the Board of Education’s Legislative Platform.
- IX. **Reports from regular reporting bodies**
- a. **Dr. LinFeng Chen presented the Board of Education Report-** this month only one regular meeting. He presented three items.
    - i. Dr. Martirano announced retirement on 1/10. The Board will appoint an acting superintendent. Then there will be a search for a new superintendent.
    - ii. For the FY25 Capital budget and 26/30 and Capital Improvement Program there was a motion to add Dunloggin Middle school to 2026.
    - iii. Transportation- on the agenda for February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 is a review policy 5200.
  - b. **CARY Report** - Ying Matties presented the CARY report. She provided information about the formation and function of Centennial High School’s Rainbow Committee.
  - c. **Benjamin Schmitt presented the Howard County Educators Association report-** Mr. Schmitt presented the HCEA report. **He encouraged parents to advocate for funding and took questions from the audience.**
- X. **Adjournment** - the meeting adjourned at 9:27