

## PTA COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING

**Monday, May 4, 2026**

Location: Homewood School Cafeteria

- I. Call to Order at 7:32 PM, quorum established. Board members and committee chairs in attendance:
  - Cat Carter, President
  - Karina Fisher, Executive Vice President
  - Ruth Cung, Secretary
  - Brent Loveless, Legislative Committee Chair
  - Laurie Ramey, Treasurer
  - Jamel Riley, Policy Committee Chair
- Cat Carter presented the President's report, informed membership that the 2026-2027 school year PTACHC general meeting day will move from the first Monday to first Tuesday of the month, announced open positions (Secretary, VP of Operations, Policy Committee Chair), provided the important FY 2027 timeline dates, and promoted the Free State PTA convention held in Linthicum, MD in July 2026.
- II. Ruth Cung presented the minutes from the April 2026 General Meeting.
  - Motion to approve April 2026 General Meeting minutes.
    - Abstained: 1 member
    - Disapproved: 0 members
    - Approved: All other members
    - Adopted
- III. Laurie Ramey presented the Treasurer's report. There are now only seven PTAs that have not paid dues. PTACHC has filed the Annual Return with the SDAT and the application to the IRS for group exemption is in process. An email has been sent to local PTAs that want to be covered under this exemption (IRS requires an opt-in). The Treasurer's report will be updated to include the group exemption cost.
- IV. Karina Fisher presented the Executive VP report with an overview of PTACHC representation for SY26-27 Policy Advisory Committees and provided a sign-up sheet at the meeting. In SY25-26, all meetings were in September/October. Karina will provide the contact information of interested members to HCPSS. Policies up for review are: 4010 Donations, 4020 Fundraising, 7020 Nepotism, 7120 Selection of Coaches/Advisors, and 8050 Teaching of Controversial Issues.
- V. Lindsay Unger, PTACHC Technology Committee chair, presented a motion to the membership and requested local PTAs to distribute the Student Technology Survey by stand-alone email, posts on social media, and in newsletters.
  - Motion: PTACHC advocates for technology use for all students in HCPSS that 1) is safe 2) prioritizes wellbeing, and 3) effectively improves their learning outcomes.
    - Abstained: 1 member
    - Disapproved: 0 members
    - Approved: All other members
    - Adopted

- VI. Guest Speaker, Delegate Chao Wu, presented on HB525/SB0928 Phone-Free Schools Act. This is in effect on 7/1/2026 and requires each county to develop and implement a ban on cell phones from bell-to-bell in one year or less or by SY27-28.
- VII. Guest Speaker, Senator Katie Fry-Hester, presented on SB0720/HB1057 AI Ready Schools Act & SB0601/HB0957 Cybersecurity – Standards and Compliance – Alterations
- AI Ready Schools Act: This bill requires the MD Department of Education to provide guidance on safe and effective use of AI for schools, including guidance on student privacy, accessibility, academic integrity, appropriate use, and communication with parents. The bill also requires updates for career readiness standards with AI literacy, AI tool evaluation, and establishes an AI Collaborate statewide stakeholder work group to review best practice, learning outcomes, and provide recommendations.
  - Cybersecurity – Standards and compliance – Alterations: This bill requires that all school systems certify they are compliant with cybersecurity standards and establish a cybersecurity POC that reports back to the state. The MD state office will provide the MD National Guard cybersecurity force for support.
- VIII. Guest Speaker, Carolyn Walker, provided information on the released survey for Policy 8020 Grading and Reporting: Middle & High School regarding midterms/finals. She requested that the survey be spread to the wider HCPSS community. Dr. Walker also presented on James LeMon's behalf and requested participation in the food and nutrition services survey, informed that SECAC nominations are still open, and previewed that there will be major changes to the MD math curriculum. There is a new framework with integrated Algebra (impacts Algebra 1, 2, Geometry) and increased instruction for math in middle schools.
- IX. Brent Loveless presented the Legislative Committee report including:
- County Council education related bills: Public hearing 5/18 with Council vote on 5/20, including CR-74, CR-79, and CB-33.
  - PTACHC Motion: PTACHC requests the County Council review and report School facilities surcharges as a budgetary resolution topic, including inflation adjustments and square footage assessed for each category and exemption enacted. Each year the resolution will be available for public testimony in the same manner and frequency as the CR-94-2026 resolution for building excise taxes (roads)
    - Abstained: 1 member
    - Disapproved: 0 members
    - Approved: All other members
    - Adopted
- X. Karina Fisher presented the Budget Committee Report and emphasized that HCPSS received full Capital budget ask, and PTACHC and its membership was part of that accomplishment! The HCPSS FY27 Operating Budget timeline is still in process with BoE public hearings and work sessions; Karina presented on PTACHC's behalf at the 4/27/26 budget public hearing that PTACHC supports full funding of the BoE FY27 Operating Budget request and to do so, that means closing the current gap of approximately \$6.2M. She requested that the membership at the meeting send the following email to the County Council to fully fund HCPSS FY27 Operating Budget [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov):
- Email Subject: FY 2027 Operating budget for HCPSS
  - Email Body: Dear Council members: I support BoE efforts to obtain sufficient funding such that the requested fiscal year 2027 Operating Budget can be implemented without using fund

balances below recommended levels. \*Add personal discussion after this, name, school you represent\*

XI. Adjournment: 9:12 PM