PTA Council of Howard County

General Body Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Homewood Center Cafeteria

PTACHC Board and Committee Chairs in Attendance: Karina Fisher, Karen Biederman, Laurie Ramey, Levita Lowe, Brent Loveless, Lindsay Unger

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. A quorum was established.

President Report. Karina Fisher announced the return of paper sign-in and voting badges at general body meetings and reminded local PTA presidents to update board contact information annually.

Secretary Report. Levita Lowe moved to approve the prior 9/8/26 meeting minutes. The motion passed by majority vote with two abstentions.

Treasurer Report and Budget. Laurie Ramey presented the proposed 2026–2027 budget. Members discussed the administrative assistant allocation, responsibilities, and staffing alternatives. The financial review is due October 31, 2026, and Form 990 is due November 15, 2026. Levita Lowe moved to authorize recurring Verizon payments by direct bank deduction. Laurie Ramey moved to approve the 2026–2027 budget. Both motions passed.

Board of Education Liaison Report. Meg Ricks reviewed upcoming Board of Education and HCPSS activities, including the October 8 virtual PTA presidents/CAC meeting. Members were directed to the PTACHC website for meeting information.

HCPSS Capital Planning Team and Grimm + Parker Architects. Presenters summarized the Program Sufficiency Study, Educational Suitability Index (ESI), and capital planning process. The ESI assesses how well facilities support educational programs rather than structural condition. Prioritization recommendations were expected October 29, with discussion of the final study report November 12. A Public Private Partnership (P3) report was anticipated in spring 2027. Members asked how assessments inform capital priorities.

Howard County Legislative Delegation. Delegates and representatives discussed possible 2027 General Assembly priorities. Delegate Chao Wu addressed school safety, STEM, cybersecurity, and possible social media age restrictions. Delegate Terri Hill discussed Inspector General records access, responses to behavioral health crises, and technology policy. Delegate Natalie Ziegler discussed litter enforcement and a school P3 workgroup. A representative for Delegate Jessica Feldmark described class-size bargaining, paraeducator development, and contracting safeguards. Delegate Moreno discussed possible legislation allowing 16-year-olds to vote in Board of Education elections.

> **Member Questions and Discussion.** Members raised questions about school calendar holidays, P3 financing and alternatives, AI governance and student data privacy, and access to school restrooms and running water. Discussion addressed financing trade-offs, educational technology transparency, and potential legislation. Members were encouraged to review proposed bills.

Announcements and Next Meeting. The next general body meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2026. Members were referred to the Board of Education candidate forum recording and PTACHC communications. James LeMon was introduced as an HCPSS liaison.

Adjournment. Karina Fisher moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Levita Lowe, Secretary