

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)
Fifth General Meeting 7 January, 2019

Board Attendees:

1. Brent Loveless, President
2. Beth Gettleman, Executive Vice President
3. Matta Zeinali, Vice President, Operations
4. Meg Ricks, Treasurer
5. Brett Sovereign, Secretary
6. Lisa Soto, CAC Representative
7. Sarah Rehling, Office Administrator

Meeting was called to order: 7:34 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

President's Announcements: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory committee representative from PTACHC needed. Please contact the board.

Treasurer's Report: Report on December expenses and income.

Secretary Report: Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Superintendent Report: James LeMon reporting. There are public hearings Tuesday January 15th and 29th on the proposed budget for next year.

BoE Report: Jen Mallo, one of four new BoE board members, is the new liaison to PTACHC. She provided more information on the Superintendent's proposed budget (boe@hcpss.org for questions and feedback). Each BoE member has a cluster of schools to focus on, and should be used as initial BoE POC for specific school concerns.

SECAC Report: No report.

HCEA Report: Colleen Morris, President of HCEA reporting. March 11 rally at Annapolis in support of Kirwan Commission. <https://hceanea.org/> Request PTACHC support for adequate equitable school funding by the state (through Kirwan -- funding formula and other recommendations). Moved by Murray Hill ES delegate and seconded. Discussion on what Kirwan Commission means. Motion to table the vote until the next PTACHC meeting by Laurie Ramey, seconded, and approved.

State Legislative Update and Feedback: Terri Hill, Clarence Lam, Courtney Watson, Eric Ebersole, Katie Fry Hester to discuss upcoming local and statewide educational bills and initiatives. Reiteration that there is a work session this Saturday January 12th on the local bills. In addition, some status on Kirwan Commission work (Lam) has recommendations already, but the commission is working another year on the issue of the roughly 10% increase in funding required. Legislation on 529 as fall out from last year's federal tax bill (529 college fund accounts now can be used for K-12 private schools) to add penalties for use of the 529 college savings plan to offset the loss in revenue to the state. Background -- Kirwan was established to revisit the funding formula, but also looked into best practices elsewhere. Other possible legislation possible pending at the state level, policies and authorities for superintendent hiring and firing. Question from panel to delegates: should we allow County school boards to determine the start date (rather than after Labor Day, per governor's order). Other work on mental health and security. Last year, state Board of Education membership change (adding teachers and a parent) was vetoed.

Question from delegates: what is the status of the bill on developer contributions -- it's on hold as it was sponsored by Flanagan in previous session, but will be reintroduced.

Discussion and Vote on PTACHC Position on Impact Fees Legislation:

Clarksville delegate moved for PTACHC to endorse the following position:

The PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) generally supports the increase of the School Facilities Surcharge for new construction in Howard County as proposed in Ho. Co. 03–19 (see draft bill at [Howard County Bill Drafting Link](#)) with the following caveats:

- The proposed bill increases the Surcharge from \$1.00 per square foot to \$4.00 per square foot. While PTACHC considers this a step in the right direction, it is concerning that there has been no market-based analysis. PTACHC believes that the 5-year review of the rate and impact should include such an analysis, to compare to neighboring counties that have an impact fee, and to assess how the rate corresponds to new and expanded school construction needs in the County.
- The proposed bill has a requirement that Surcharge revenue can only be used for improvements/repairs or new schools that serve the construction area. PTACHC believes that this is excessively restrictive, would not adequately serve county residents, and would be difficult to maintain in the face of redistricting. Because of these reasons, PTACHC believes this locality requirement should be removed.

Discussion of the position followed. The Oakland Mills MS delegate moved that language requiring the market-based analysis be done prior to implementation rather than being left to the 5 year mark. Seconded. Discussion that the draft language was imprecise led to rescinding the motion and changing the amendment. Motion to amend failed. Motion to adopt position with original language passed unanimously. .

OBRC (Operating Budget Review Committee) Liaison Report: Laurie Ramey reported on the Superintendent's proposed budget. There will be a special PTACHC meeting in January to consider the budget and provide feedback in a timely fashion as it is worked. Information on time and place of the special meeting will be communicated to the local delegates and Presidents.

Meeting adjourned: 9:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 4 February at 7:30 pm, Homewood School.

Associated Documents: Minutes from 3 December General Meeting. Meeting agenda (including draft position and Treasurer's Report).

Minutes taken by Brett Sovereign, Secretary