

CES PTA Meeting Agenda
May 21, 2024, at 7:00 pm
In Person - Media Center

Meeting called to order at 7:12 pm

Attendees:

Board Members:

Eileen Brewer (President), Cassandra Christensen (1st Vice President), Mikkola Gomes (2nd Vice President), Carmen Cheng (Secretary), Meghan Nickerson (Treasurer)

Members:

Emily Kroiss, Xinran Li, Bokyoung Shim, Karishma Chengappa, Xin Gao

Non-members:

Stephanie Dunn-Martin, Malini Kishore (guest: CMS PTA President)

CES Administration:

Michael Caldwell (Principal)

1. Reading of Meeting Policies

2. CMS PTA (guest: Malini Kishore, CMS PTA President)

- Open Committee Positions for the upcoming year: 2nd Vice President, Membership Committee, Yearbook Committee, Hospitality, Reflections Committee, Spirit Wear, Year End Picnic, Website Coordinator
- Reach out to PTA President (clarksvilleptapres@gmail.com) with any questions

3. Principal / Assistant Principal's Items

- Field Day was a success, Simulated Congressional Hearing is upcoming
- Staff hiring - there are a few vacancies
- Preparations for next school year (back to school orientation - Friday before first day of school)
- Upcoming BOE meeting (Thurs, 5/23) - will find out which programs would be reinstated (impact to elementary schools: 3rd grade strings, GT)
- Upcoming kindergarten enrollment is currently low

4. President / Vice President Items

- Approval of Minutes - [April](#)
Cassandra Christensen asked for a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. Meghan Nickerson seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Committees
 - PTA will send email to solicit for new committee chairs
 - Outgoing chairs: share description of committee
 - Eileen will send description of 1st VP and Communications Chair to Emily Kroiss for incoming kindergarten parents

- Eileen Brewer asked for a motion to remove the “Sign-up Genius” committee. Cassandra Christensen seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Suggestions
 1. Put “sponsorships” and “restaurant night” under “fundraising”
 2. CES admin and PTA to coordinate efforts (RaiseRight, bookstore)
- Cassandra Christensen asked for a motion to remove the “CES Cares” committee (CES cares will continue but not as a stand-alone committee). Meghan Nickerson seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Room parent liaison: Not many classroom events, no desire for room parent liaison from school standpoint (suggestion to reimagine role)
- Eileen Brewer asked for a motion to rename “Room Parent Liasion” committee to “Grade Coordinator”. Meghan Nickerson seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Eileen Brewer asked for a motion to remove “Cultural Arts”, “Candy for Courageous”, and “Wellness” as committees (will keep as events). Meghan Nickerson seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- New VP - Cassandra Christensen has resigned as 1st VP. Will hold a special meeting before June 30th for voting (need quorum from board and committee chairs)
 - Nominated for VP by Cassandra Christensen on the floor: Evelyn Sommers (not present at meeting), Joshua Sommers (not present at meeting), Emily Kroiss (present at meeting but declined), Eric Pang (not present at meeting)
 - Eileen will follow-up with nominees to notify them of nomination

5. Membership Update

- 181 members
- \$2370 total payment
- \$3500 cougar patrons
- Turn on membership - July 1 (incoming PTA members can be elected, payment by Sept 30)

6. Treasurer Report

- Spring Fling - profit of ~\$2000
- Budget: on target
- Will vote on end of year budget at special meeting
- Still pending reimbursements
- Tax status: called IRS, still pending charity status, IRS recommended to file non-charity (corporation) taxes
 - Last file on record July 2021 (late)
 - Charity status revoked June 2023
 - Tax status needs to be resolved by November 2024
 - Not aligned with Delaware PTA fiscal year

- Meghan Nickerson asked for a motion for the PTA to make payments for insurance, website, and Constant Contact during the summer to be spent beyond the fiscal year that ends on June 30. Cassandra Christensen seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Eileen Brewer asked for a motion for the PTA to add a \$100 budget for Kindergarten Connection to be spent over the summer 2024. Meghan Nickerson seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.

7. PTACHC Report

- See below for April and May minutes from PTACHC meetings

8. Committee Reports

- Cultural Night - Thursday, May 23, 2024
 - 14 countries at display table
 - 10 countries - fashion show / performance
 - Need plates, looking for flags
- End of Year Picnic - with Mr. Caldwell's approval, changed to Sun, June 9, 5:30-7:30 pm
 - Food truck with no minimum or families to bring a picnic meal
 - Kickball, music
- 5th Grade Committee
 - Completing bottle cap art project (will be displayed in cafeteria)
 - Magic show - there will be a special message to 5th graders
 - Hallway decorated for Simulated Congressional Hearing
 - 5th grade picnic
 - Graduation ceremony
 - Meet up at River Hill pool (6/13 afternoon)
- Artist in Residence - no updates
- Cultural Arts - no updates
- Hospitality/Staff Appreciation - Thanks for teacher appreciation week!
- Kindergarten Connection
- Website - no updates
- Yearbook - no updates
- Field Trips - Needs chair - have committee members
- Fundraising - Needs chair
- BINGO - Needs chair
- Spirit Wear - Needs chair

9. Q & A

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm

Upcoming Dates:

Cultural Night - Thurs. May 23

End of Year Picnic - Sun., June 9, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

PRE-MEETING

6:45 PM General Membership Mini Meeting – 5TH/8TH Grade Events

GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM Call to Order; Establish Quorum; Mission Statement

President's Report (Terri Marcus – president@ptachc.org)

- Board of Ed Candidate Forum link is posted on youtube
- 4/13 Award Ceremony for Reflections
- 1:30 pm Central Branch Howard County Library
- Free State – No Meeting
- Convention Early Bird deadline is 4/20
- PTA should have a line item
- July 20-21 Linthicum Heights
- Last year was First year for President attending convention, encourage people to attend
- S. 739 bill did not make it out of committee. Today was the last day for MD General Assembly session. Free State is the new MD State PTA.

School Policies under review:

- 9200 Homeless HCPSS policy Review
- 9400 Student Behavior
- 1020 Sexual Discrimination
- 9250 Weapons

Questions? policy@ptachc.org

- Policy Committee has 3-4 meetings over the next 6-8 weeks
- More information should be in next HCPSS News

Vacancies:

- Hiring New Superintendent
- Hiring Office Manager April 15th
- New Person would start in June

Nominating Committee (Melissa Green-Parker):

- Upcoming nomination process for officers

7:35 PM Executive Vice-President Report (Karina Fisher – executivevp@ptachc.org)

- PTACHC Board of Education Candidate Forum
- Primary Election Early May 2-9
- Election Day May 14
- Capital projects/prioritization
- Prework August
- Capital Budget – Fall
- 5 year Capital Operating
- 10 Year Master plan
- Capital Budget Criterion Working Group
- Those meetings are taking place May 23 Report to be presented, June 6 Public Hearing
- Director of Capital Planning will present the Capital Budget at May PTACHC meeting

7:45 PM Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes (Angela Shiplet – secretary@ptachc.org)

- Approved minutes.

7:50 PM Treasurer's Report (Laurie Ramey – treasurer@ptachc.org)

- Approved Treasurer's Report.

7:55 PM Safety Committee's Report (Lisa Krausz)

- Met with Mr. Rodinski last month to review pamphlet county will provide to students and parents. Policy 3010 that would require having to go through review next year and would go through the Superintendent's policy group.

8:00 PM DEI Committee Activity (Glenda Hernandez Tittle - vpissues@ptachc.org) – No Update

8:10 PM Legislative Report/Positions (Brent Loveless – legislative@ptachc.org
April 16th – Executive Budget Operating Plan for next year – restoration of funding

- Work Session –
 - Watch Us web page Main County Council Page
 - Watch Us Main Board of Education Page
 - MD State YouTube

18th Planning Board will deliver Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) A decade in the making.

Board of Education Candidate forum: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cy-xa9BoYrk>

- Julie Kaplan provided written responses for District 4 – was not able to attend.
- PTACHC is not endorsing any candidate.

HCPSS is waiting for feedback on the budget from County Council and County Executive next.

Hosted an invited guest – Anthony Dibella – Murray Hill Strings Program

- Questions about his conclusions based on numbers in the public domain should be directed to fundhocschools@gmail.com

MD General Assembly prepared 1188 Senate Bills so far and 1523 House Bills so far

- House Bill 1450 / Senate Bill 1186 School funding – through both chambers
- House Bill 1440 / Senate Bill 1132 Passed and on to Governor (committee to examine Public Private Partnerships)
- Due to PTA Advocacy, Howard County 1440 will show on the website when the capital budget plan is different than what is approved by the Board of Education.
House Bill 0538 / Senate Bill 484 would get rid of APFO – APFO protects our schools from overcrowding. It would mean a lot more development; kids need to have seats in our schools.
- Please note: for next year, if bills aren't drafted by July, they won't get through.

The following bills did not go through:

- Public Campaign Finance
- Compensation for Board Members
- Liquidated Damages for Contracts (Transportation Contract)
- Ranked Choice Voting didn't go through either.

8:30 PM Regular Speakers – Updates from Board of Education (Linfeng Chen), HCPSS (James LeMon), CAC (Jonah Hornum), CARY, HCEA (Ben Schmitt), and SECAC (Darria Boyd-Wise)

- Mr. Lemon couldn't attend; mentioned the following updates: Bus Transportation Forms, Howard High School is having a college fair in English and Spanish, April 11th 4-7:30 pm JumpStart at Howard County Community College, Superintendent search – Applications Due April 11, 2024.
- Dr. Linfeng Chen: SMOB elections, Atholton and Wilde Lake students are running; last day of school is June 14, 2024.
- Policy 2080 Academic Calendar – seeking feedback by April 11th
- You may want to come to the Board of Education's Coffee and Conversation. Also recommended attending hearings in person to get subtext.
- Members mentioned Parent's Guide to Howard County is helpful for parents.

9:00 PM Wrap-up; adjournment

IMPORTANT DATES:

Date and Time	Event
4/10/2024	No School
4/11/2024 4 – 10 PM	Board of Education Meeting
4/16/2024 5:30 PM	County Executive's Budget Presentation to the County Council
4/16/2024 6 PM	County Council's Public Hearing on the Capital Budget
4/21/2024	Operating budget due to County Council
4/24/2024 6:00 PM	County Council's Public Hearing on Education Budget
4/25/2024 4 – 10 PM	Board of Education Meeting
5/1/2024 6:00 PM	County Council Public Hearing on Education Budget (if needed)

5/2/2024 7 – 10 PM	Board of Education Budget Hearing (Operating, Capital & CIP) (if needed)
5/6/2024 7:30 PM	Next PTACHC General Meeting
5/9/2024 9:30 AM	County Council's Public Hearing on Operating and Capital Budgets
5/13/2024 7:00 PM	County Council's Public Hearing Operating Budget
5/22/2024	Adoption of Budget Bills

PTA Council of Howard County
May 6, 2024

President's Announcements:

- No School May 14th
- After Primary Election, PTACHC will try to hold a meeting so PTACHC members can ask questions to Senate and District 3 Congressional Candidates. Date TBD.
- Student Member of the Board of Education elected Atholton High School Student James Obasiolu
- SMOB is elected by students in grades 6-12.
- Capital Budget Criterion Standardization Report Presented May 22, 2024
- Public Testimony June 6th
- Board Action June 20th
- Delegation no pending legislation about capital budget
- April 25th Each and every year see a list of schools that will be prioritized.
- Howard County Resolution 1624 In effect 6/1/24 Fair unbiased transparent process delegation passed appropriations unanimously passed senate budget and taxation with 137 votes.
- The Bill ensures transparency on capital budget with intent to hold Board of Education accountable if they vote different from Superintendent. This will report what the differences are and will make it public / why the changes.

Minutes were approved with spelling / grammatical edits

Treasurer's report was approved; Treasurer noted that actual and budgeted amounts weren't matching because Free State PTA returned some fees not used from 2022 to Howard County PTACHC.

Looking for 3 members of PTACHC to review the financial statement

Daniel Lubeley, Acting Chief Operating Officer presented on the Capital Budget.

- \$75.7 M Capital Budget for county Got \$15.6M from the state
- May 22nd to approve at county council level
- May 23rd Board of Ed to approve FY25 operating and capital budget
- Recorded 5 sessions 1.5 hours each and added 1 extra session of 1 hour on Board of Education site
- Criteria for capital project selection were discussed on the April 29th session
- Mr. Lubeley explained state matching funds where County pays 55% of cost but state matches. However state matches parts of the capital project but does not match fees. There is a 10% emergency reserve in the fund. Contracts for construction do have liquidated damages.
- State pays matching funds through the Capital Improvement Program while Howard County pays through bonds (bonds are controlled by County Council / County not Education),
- MD state matching budget is \$285M for 24 counties
- He explained usable life of school building is 50 years. State will not match projects for renovation until a school is 15 years old.

Legislative Report:

- Please pay attention to General Plan
- Comprehensive Rezoning which will be good for 10 years when approved. This could mean that there would be more houses in areas with potential to not have equivalent services.
- Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance – waiting for status on committee
- These will determine how much overcrowding is allowed at our schools
- Policy 5200 Review Committee Update on Student Transportation May 9th.
- Please speak up at hearings; your presence and input at hearings does have an effect.
- Dr. Linfeng Chen from the Board of Education
- mentioned we are \$3.8M short on the operating budget.
- They are keeping school start times the same. Parents generally objected because it means students whose schools start at 9:25 means that parents can't get to work on time.

Howard County Education Association:

- Howard County Teachers don't have a signed contract yet. Other counties have multiyear contracts and they are paying better than Howard County.
- Howard County slipped in pay from 3rd in state to 6th in state last year.
- Schools are taking a 40% cut in school paper supplies next year. They don't have money for paper.