

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019
PTACHC Meeting

- 1) Superintendent Martirano gave commentary, he was very excited about day 1 for our 58,000 students and 300 newly hired educators. He mentioned that his primary concerns for the school year included Vaping / Jouling in schools and Bullying. He wanted to remind all students and parents of the “see something, say something” rule when it comes to any sort of online threat. He also mentioned that, if parents feel like they are able to just walk into schools, they should say something to the principal, because that should not be the case. He then fielded questions most of which centered around the redistricting proposal. He mentioned that there were 2 primary reasons why we are redistricting. #1 is to work to increase the % of schools that are in the 90% - 110% utilization range (while also providing relief to overcrowded schools. He mentioned that Ho Co is the fastest growing school district in the state of MD, and that we needed to fill as many of our schools as possible to get approval for state funding of the sought after HS # 14. Reason #2 was to even out the % of FARM students in County schools, he mentioned that in the 73 county schools, the % of FARM students ranges from a high of 68% to a low of 1%. I asked when this became a focus of redistricting and he said it had materialized during discussions with Board members and County Council members over the preceding months. See the first 2 pages of the attachment on this subject – regarding a resolution that will be discussed by the County Council in a 9/16 meeting.
- 2) PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT TOPIC – the County Council will also be voting on a resolution (see page 3 of attached) to increase the School Facilities surcharge, paid by developers from \$1.32 / square foot to \$6.80 / square foot. This is a result of all of the discussion around Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance – and would provide a lot of money towards funding New Schools in the County. PTACHC passed a resolution re-confirming our support of increasing this surcharge in order to provide additional funding for School construction, but if our members could supply additional support for this measure that would be wonderful.
- 3) PTACHC passed its annual budget, no material changes from prior year.
- 4) They reminded all local PTAs to please be sure we are in compliance with state requirements, apparently a few locals were unable to vote in the State PTA meeting due to non-compliance.
- 5) Last page of attachment, SECAC requested attendees to the meetings outlined on page 4 of the attached, with particular focus on parents of students with an IEP or 504. See attachment for additional detail of what SECAC advocates for.