

PTACHC Meeting 4/1/2019 – Summary Notes by Mike Schmeckpeper

- 1) Presentation from Bright Minds by Lisa Terry (See attachment). Bright minds is a Public School Education Foundation (not-for-profit). On 5/7 at Long Reach HS, they are hosting a night of honor to award 20 teachers, out of over 250 nominees, that have gone above and beyond, as well as a principal and teacher of the year. Tickets are \$15. **Do we (HMS) have any teachers that were nominated? If** so there are packages that they were encouraging PTAs to consider purchasing to honor their winners / nominees.
- 2) The majority of the rest of the meeting was a speech from Dr. Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent. Points made included:
 - a) The focus of the School System is to be responsive to the community
 - b) There are 59,000 students and 12,000 school system employees
 - c) The budget was determined with input from the community (see attachment re proposed budget)
 - d) The Health Care deficit had reach \$50Million, and is now down to \$37Million. Plan is to reduce this to zero in the coming years.
 - e) 85% of the budget is spent on paying employees like teachers, and teachers are a priority of his. He is sensitive to other school systems in the state picking off teachers, if they are paying higher wages. He is looking for top notch teachers. Also, he is implementing a plan with a goal of having the demographics of our teachers match more closely with the demographics of the students, and as such the system is extremely interested in hiring teachers who are part of a minority group.
 - f) Mental Illness is a serious concern, and the budget pays for more school counselors and psychologists.
 - g) Including classrooms provided by portables, all schools in HCPSS are below 110% capacity
 - h) Deferred maintenance of the county's aging schools (Roofs, HVAC etc) is a growing problem and capital budget shortfalls will be an ongoing issue. He encouraged community members to reach out to the County Exec and County Council to voice concerns around keeping our schools great places for students to learn.
 - i) He seemed very sure that redistricting would need to happen, this will likely be a big topic of discussion in the coming months.
 - j) They are still considering adjustments to school start times (later start for HS)
- 3) Legislative committee:
 - a) Regarding APFO in the State Assembly – PTA members were asked to call Maggie Mackintosh (Chair of appropriations committee) at 410-841-3407, and ask her to move

HB1409 for a vote. This bill will allow Counties to adjust (upwards) the amount of fees / taxes charged to developers when they build residential units.

- b) In July of 2019, the school calendars go back into the control of counties, overriding a veto by Governor Hogan. Likely no impact to 2020 school year calendar.
- c) County Bill CB172019 – regarding lengthening time available to redress APFO deficiencies for a school – PTACHC passed a motion in support of this bill
- d) CB492019 – regarding the purchase of land for HS#13, the current contract on the table would allow the developer 500 adjacent acres which would be outside the rules of APFO and other regulations. PTACHC passed a motion in support of the land purchase, but against allowing those 500 acres to be developed outside of existing regulations.
- e) PTACHC passed a motion to support the County Council introducing legislation that would require red light cameras on every school bus in Howard County. There is a major problem currently with motorists not obeying the stop signs that the buses are equipped with.