

Highlights from Community Advisory (CAC) Meetings

January 2023

The Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) presented at the January meeting. This student organization brings together students across the school system to talk about leadership and government in HCPSS

HCASC is open to all middle and high school students.

Oliver Song (President) led the discussion, along with other student leaders Abisolya Ayoola (SMOB representative – also a former PVMS student), Christel Annan (Second VP – and current PVMS student), James Obasiolu (Secretary), and others.

They opened up the discussion with an ice-breaker. They spoke about the goals of HCASC, their challenges (increasing awareness of HCASC among students and staff, their bulky name), and changes they are implementing to increase inclusion and diversity (rotating monthly meetings to different schools, having hybrid meetings so students can attend online, and sending a weekly newsletter to Canvas).

They encouraged us to 1. Listen to student voices, 2. Encourage youth to participate and engage with HCASC, defend student voting rights on the BOE, 3. Spread the word about HCASC.

It was an engaging presentation, and our student leaders are extremely impressive.

For more information on HCASC – go to <https://hcasc.hcpss.org/about>

We should all encourage our students to get involved with this association, and ask for marketing support from staff and parents. They hold monthly assemblies open to all students where they focus on leadership training, guest speakers, and or student. Previous meeting slides/agenda can be found on their website, along with upcoming meeting dates.

Their next upcoming event is the Annual SMOB Convention to be Held March 21, 2023

“HCASC will host its annual Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB) Convention Tuesday, March 21. Organized and led by HCASC members, the event will bring together 138 delegates representing all HCPSS middle and high schools for a series of activities designed to familiarize them with the candidates competing to become the 2023-2024 SMOB. (Note: this event is open to designated HCPSS students and staff only, and is not open to the public.)

Additional information about this year’s SMOB convention can be found on the Student Member of the Board Convention Portal.”

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February 2023

The presentation was by Brian Nevin from the HCPSS Office of Transportation. Here are some of the highlights:

1. They were able to increase the number of staff to reflect the growth of the student population which will enable them to better serve the community. Up until this point they had the same number of staff from 2001. In 2001, there were about 44,000 students and the 23/24 school year there is expected to be 69,000.
2. They changed their RFP methodology, and due to those changes, we will have a national vendor providing our bus transportation on 2023/2024 school year. Currently, the bus transportation system is provided by local independent school bus contractors.
3. They are increasing the distances that qualify students for bus transport. The changes are as follows – ES – students have to live $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the school in order to be eligible for bus transport. Next school year ES students will have to live 1 mile from the school to qualify for bus transport. For MS – it changes from 1 mile to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. For HS it changes from $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to 2 miles. He also stated safety will be a factor in the final decisions. For example, if a MS student lives 1 mile from the school but does not have a safe walking route, that student may be eligible for bus transport.
4. Parents will now have to OPT-IN for bus transportation. They will be sending a form either in Feb or March. All parents are encouraged to complete the form if they need bus transport because this is what they will use for planning.
5. Another bus solution they are exploring are AV Models (alternative vehicle models). Essentially smaller bus vehicles that do not require the driver to have a commercial license. They could possibly use these buses for routes that do not have as many riders. They are just starting to look into this so it will not be for 2023/2024 school year.
6. They have new ridership management solution software which will be a great improvement and they are phasing out the old technology. They are also looking for technology that will help track students as they enter/leave bus – but that will be in the future not for this upcoming year.

7. The policy that reflects all these new changes is Policy 5200. It will be impacted by the new school start times that are currently being decided on by the BOE.

In addition to the presentation, BOE member Jackie McCoy mentioned that the board will soon be discussing the name of HS#13, school start times, and school budget. So parents/community members should be paying attention.

If you want more information on Policy 5200 -

<https://policy.hcpss.org/5000/5200/>

It is separated in two parts – policy and implementation. Be sure to read both. Policy 5200 was effective as of July 2022.

The next board meeting is February 23rd and the following is what is listed on the agenda page. Note, the school start times are listed on this agenda, as well as the academic calendar for next school year.

[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/CNSRKP6D1161/\\$file/Jan%20Mar%202023%20BOE%20Qrtly%20Agenda%20-%20Rev.%206.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/CNSRKP6D1161/$file/Jan%20Mar%202023%20BOE%20Qrtly%20Agenda%20-%20Rev.%206.pdf)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 – PROGRAM MEETING

(Documents due Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 9 a.m.)

4 PM PUBLIC FORUM

REPORTS –Student Representative (Howard HS), Student Board Member, and Superintendent

APPOINTMENT

Howard County Education Association (HCEA)

CONSENT AGENDA (Restricted*)

Operating Budget Financial Report (Darin Conforti/Sandra Austin) R CADMO

COVID Relief Grant Budget to Actual Report (Jahantab Siddiqui/Darin Conforti) R CADMO

Closed Meeting Minutes A BOE

CONSENT AGENDA

Donations (Anissa Dennis) A CSMIL

Meeting Minutes A BOE

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Proclamation: Employee Appreciation Week (Allison Whitney) A SUPT

Proclamation: National Irish American Heritage Month (Judith Jones) A CHRPD

Proclamation: National Women’s History Month (Judith Jones) A CHRPD

Proclamation: National School Breakfast Week (Brian Ralph) A COO

*Bids and Contracts (Robert Bruce) A COO

School Start Times: SY 23/24 Final School by School Bell Time Report

(Brian Nevin/Tom Platt) A COO

Legislative Report/2023 General Assembly (BOE) A BOE

Approved – December 15, 2022 February 6, 2023 - Rev. 6

6

General Educational Specifications for New Middle Schools

(Daniel Lubeley, Andrew Jinks) A COO

Modification to the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

(Brian Bassett/Monique Lamar) A DS

2024-2025 Proposed Academic Calendar

(Brian Bassett/Monique Lamar) A DS

7 PM PUBLIC HEARING II

2024-2025 Proposed Academic Calendar Public Hearing II

(Brian Bassett/Monique Lamar) PH DS

PUBLIC FORUM

APPOINTMENT

Howard County Association of Supervisors and Administrators (HCASA)

Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC)

Community Advisory Council (CAC)

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA (continued)

Modification to the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

(Brian Bassett/Monique Lamar) A DS

2024-2025 Proposed Academic Calendar

(Brian Bassett/Monique Lamar) A DS

REPORTS (Continued) – Board Member Reports

INFORMATION ITEM

Legal Fees Monthly Report (J. Stephen Cowles) | SUPT

Food and Nutrition Service Financial Report (Brian Ralph) | COO

FY 2022 Fund Raising and Donations Activity Report (Sundeep Patel) | CADMO

PSAT Participation and Performance (Jenny Novak/Tim Guy) | CAO/DS