

PTA Council of Howard County NEWSLETTER

November 20, 2019



Well Done WildeCats!!

Congratulations to the Wilde Lake High School boy's soccer team for winning the 3A State championship and the Wilde Lake girl's soccer for making it to the State finals. Congratulations to the team, coaches, and the entire Wilde Lake community! #OhanaProud

* Please note, with 77 schools in Howard County, we cannot highlight every fabulous thing that has happened in the last month around the county. We will try to rotate around and shine the spotlight on at least one school each month. If you have something to share with us for future publications, please email Executive VP Karen Herren at executivevp@ptachc.org.

Movie Licensing Information

For those of you who are thinking about planning a movie night at your school, a movie license is required. Again this year, Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) has bought a license from Swank for all of its school buildings. The [Swank website](#) has all the fine print and the studios covered, as well as many resources for promoting events. One thing to note is that it is an indoor license only. Movies cannot be shown outdoors in courtyards or fields at school sites. If events are publicized through public media, the movie title and the studio name cannot be included in that press.

HCPSS Policy 8040 outlines the Selection of Instructional Materials and does cover videos but only in relation to instruction. If a movie is to be shown during the school day, it must abide by that policy. PG movies are not to be shown to elementary or middle school students without specific principal approval. If a movie is shown after school hours, it is up to the PTA to ensure it's appropriateness and at the discretion of individual parents to allow their child(ren) to participate. You should always consult the principal or other administrator in the selection of the title.

For movie licensing FAQs: https://prodswankstorage.blob.core.windows.net/prod-media/159946/170824mlusa1591-k12-faq-fact-flyer_4.pdf Also, visit the [Resources page](#) on Swank website, for tips to help you pick, plan and play movies in your school. If you want to get a movie from Swank, you must have a customer number, which you can get by calling Swank. You can rent or purchase movies from anywhere, but it has to be legal.

National and State PTA News

- MemberHub is officially up and running. Participation this year is optional; however, it is a good chance to get familiar with the new system before it becomes mandatory in the next school year. Early adopters will be eligible for incentives coming in December from the State PTA.
- The National PTA Legislative Conference (LegCon) early registration is open. The event is March 10-12, 2020 at The Westin Alexandria Old Town in Alexandria, VA. Go to www.pta.org for more information.
- This Giving Tuesday (Dec. 3), the National PTA is focusing on raising awareness about gun violence prevention. Go to www.pta.networkforgood.com for more information.

Fundraising Ideas

- Interested in hosting the Harlem Wizards for a fundraiser at your school? Learn more by visiting www.HarlemWizards.com or email Todd Davis at td@harlemwizards.com
- The Silver Diner has a school fundraising program that aims to improve nutrition and fitness programs. Their "Eat Well, Do Well Rewards Program" gives a percentage of sales to the school each time a cardholder dines with them. They also have a Run the Diner Fundraiser Night

program to raise funds for the Health and Wellness programs within the school. For more information, please contact Brenda Orozco at borozco@silverdiner.com.

*Note, PTACHC provides these fundraising ideas as a courtesy to our members, but does not advocate for or recommend any particular program. If you ever have a concern with any of the programs listed please contact PTACHC at executiveVP@PTACHC.org with details.

Volunteers Needed

The Maryland Optometric Association received a Healthy Eyes Healthy Children Grant and have partnered with Howard County Health Department and the Public School System to launch Beyond 20/20, a vision outreach program that will provide free comprehensive eye exams AND GLASSES to students who fail mandatory school vision screenings. Clinics are scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 29; Sunday, March 1; Saturday, March 7; and Sunday, March 8. Interested in volunteering and/or know of a provider that can commit to seeing Beyond 20/20 patients one day a month, please contact Catherine Carter at Let Them See Clearly LTSC at LTSCCampaign@gmail.com or 301-693-4469.

HCPSS News

Regarding Boundary Adjustments:

“We know that transitions can be difficult for children and some struggle more than others. Adjusting to a new building, meeting new classmates, and having new teachers can cause anxiety. HCPSS welcomes nearly 1,000 new students to our schools annually, and school administrators and staff in every school are prepared to support students in adjusting to a new school. They will make every effort to ensure this transition is as easy as possible for you and your child.

Schools will ensure that every child continues to receive the same level of care and service at their prior school and we have plans in place to help make this transition smooth. We also know that many families rely on services – either through the Free and Reduced Meals (FARMs) program, pupil personnel workers, or the many community groups that support our school communities. School administrators and staff will work with each school to ensure a continuity of care.

What to expect if your child moves schools as part of redistricting:

- School administrators and staff in your child’s new school will collaborate closely with staff from the previous school to cover all considerations regarding class placement, accommodations, supports, and any other information that will help your child thrive in their new school.
- Parents and guardians will participate in the transition process and can assist the new school’s staff in welcoming and supporting your child.
- Students and parents will have multiple opportunities to visit the school and meet staff before the beginning of the 2020–2021 school year.

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- Your new school will host an open house for all new students and families, and will plan events, activities, and accommodations for transitioning students so they feel welcome and become comfortable in their new environment.
 - School administrators, counselors and other support staff will be available to answer any questions once any redistricting is announced.”

Please go to <https://www.hcpss.org/school-planning/boundary-review/moving-schools/> for more information about support through this transition.

OTHER HCPSS NEWS:

- **HCPSS seeks additional members for the Science Advisory Committee.** Interested candidates should submit an online application by Friday, December 13, 2019. Contact Mary Weller for more information at Mary_Weller@hcpss.org or 410-313-6616.
- **Policy 8050 Public Hearing Pre-Registration Open through December 4.** Members of the public may sign up to testify at the Board of Education December 5 public hearing on Policy 8050 Teaching Controversial Issues. Individuals who do not pre-register may sign up at the time of the public hearing.

Student Programs

The Maryland Association of Student Councils’ mission is to foster a statewide environment for students to express and exchange opinions, develop leadership skills, and promote student representation. They send students to testify to the Maryland General Assembly and host several events throughout the year in which trained students facilitate engaging workshops. Reach out to the Howard County Association of Student Councils’ student liaison Jayshree for more information. Jayshreesrinivasana@gmail.com or 443-561-8288.

Legislative Committee Notes

We would like to thank all of the educational advocates who testified in person and via email to our State Delegation, as well at the county council, to raise the school surcharges on new residential developments. CB42 passed earlier this month and all monies raised will go directly towards creating new seats in the schools. This was a multi-year effort and we are pleased to see some progress. The Legislative Team will now be turning our efforts toward County Housing Allocations, some of the State Delegations proposed bills and of course The Kirwan Report. We look forward to working with our elected officials. Interested in helping attend meetings, monitor legislation, and/or provide testimony on behalf of PTACHC? Please join the Legislative Committee by contacting Tonya at legislative@ptachc.org.

New State Legislation

Proposed Local Bills for the 2020 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly relevant to PTACHC's mission to advocate for children and families. For more information, click on the links below and/or visit <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/About-HoCo/State-Delegation/2020-Session-Proposed-Local-Legislation>.

For PTACHC voting members (delegates and local PTA presidents) please take some time to review the below legislation prior to the December General Membership meeting.

Bond Initiative Requests:

[Howard County Ellicott City Sidewalks and Streetscapes, Ho. Co. 27-20](#)

By: Howard County Delegation

[Howard County Long Reach Head Start Center, Ho. Co. 35-20](#)

By: Howard County Delegation

Local Bills:

[Howard County – Board of Education – Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Areas, Ho. Co. 1-20](#)

By: Senator Lam

FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education to annually calculate the program capacity of certain schools on or before a certain date; requiring the county board, if the student enrollment at the school is less than or greater than a certain percentage of utilization of the program capacity for that type of school, to either redetermine the geographic attendance area of a school on or before a certain date or to submit a certain report to the General Assembly and the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the redetermination of geographic attendance areas of permanent school facilities in Howard County.

[Howard County – Residential Property and New Home Construction Advertisements – School District Information, Ho. Co. 2-20](#)

By: Delegate Ebersole

FOR the purpose of providing for the purpose of certain provisions of law; prohibiting a certain real estate broker, associate real estate broker, or real estate salesperson from including the name of a certain school district in an advertisement for the sale or rental of certain residential property in Howard County; providing that certain provisions of law do not prohibit a certain real estate broker, associate real estate broker, or real estate salesperson from including the name of a certain school district in a certain written communication; requiring the State Real Estate Commission to enforce certain provisions of law; prohibiting a registered home builder or a registered home builder sales representative from including the name of a certain school district in a certain advertisement for the construction of a new home in Howard County; providing that certain provisions of law do not prohibit including the name of a certain school

district in a certain written communication; requiring the Home Builder and Home Builder Sales Representative Registration Unit to enforce certain provisions of law; defining a certain term; and generally relating to school district information in advertisements for residential property and new homes in Howard County.

[Howard County – School District Boundary Changes and Sales of Residential Real Property - Notices, Ho. Co. 4-20](#)

By: Senator Lam

FOR the purpose of requiring a contract for the sale of single family residential real property in Howard County to contain a certain notice concerning school district boundary changes; authorizing a purchaser to rescind a certain contract within a certain period of time after receipt of a certain notice; entitling a purchaser to the return of certain deposits under certain circumstances; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to notices of school district boundary changes in Howard County.

[Howard County – Board of Education – Reporting on Demographics and Reduction of Academic Disparities, Ho. Co. 6-20](#)

By: Delegate Hill

FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education, on or before a certain date each year, to submit a report to the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly detailing certain demographic information on the students in each public school in the county; requiring the report, beginning with a report submitted on or before a certain date and every 2 years thereafter, to include recommendations on how the Howard County Delegation and the General Assembly could assist the county board in certain efforts to reduce academic disparities in public schools in the county and a description of certain actions taken and plans to reduce academic disparities in public schools in the county; and generally relating to reporting by the Howard County Board of Education.

[Howard County – Moderate Income Housing Unit Requirements – Prohibition Against Fee-in-Lieu, Ho. Co. 11-20](#)

By: Delegate Atterbeary and Delegate Terrasa

FOR the purpose of prohibiting Howard County from authorizing payment of a fee-in-lieu of a requirement under local law that a developer provide moderate income housing units in a new residential development project under certain circumstances; and generally relating to moderate income housing unit requirements in Howard County.

[Howard County – Public School Program Capacity – School Board and Planning Commission, Ho. Co. 13-20](#)

By: Delegate Atterbeary

FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education, beginning in a certain school year, to annually calculate the program capacity of each public primary and secondary school in the county and

to prohibit a public primary or secondary school in the county from enrolling a number of students that is greater than a certain percentage of the school's program capacity; authorizing the county planning commission in Howard County to reject a certain real estate project if a certain school in a certain area is projected to have student enrollment greater than a certain percentage of the school's program capacity after the project is complete; defining a certain term; and generally relating to public school program capacity in Howard County.

[Howard County – Education – Report on Deferred Maintenance, Ho. Co. 19-20](#)

By: Delegate Atterbeary

FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Council of Howard County to impose a certain excise tax; requiring the County Council of Howard County to specify the types of buildings subject to a certain excise tax; authorizing the County Council of Howard County to impose different tax rates on certain construction; requiring the excise tax to be deposited into a certain fund to be used only for a certain purpose; requiring the Howard County Board of Education to submit a certain report on or before a certain date to the County Council of Howard County, the Howard County Executive, and members of the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly; requiring the County Council of Howard County and the Howard County Executive to submit a certain report on or before a certain date to the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly addressing certain recommendations made by the Howard County Board of Education; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to deferred maintenance in the Howard County Public School System.

[Howard County – Public Campaign Financing – Board of Education, Ho. Co. 22-20](#)

By: Senator Lam

FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body of Howard County to establish, by law, a system of public campaign financing for elected members of the county board of education; making conforming changes; making a technical correction; and generally relating to public campaign financing in Howard County.

[Howard County – Public Schools – Reporting of Student Data, Ho. Co. 23-20](#)

By: Delegate Feldmark

FOR the purpose of requiring each public school in Howard County, on or before a certain date each year, to submit a certain report to the Howard County Board of Education that contains certain student and teacher data; requiring each elementary school and each high school in the county to provide certain additional data; requiring a certain report to present certain data in a certain manner; requiring the county board, on or before a certain date each year, to submit a certain report to the State Board of Education, the Howard County Executive, the Howard County Council, and the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly; and generally relating to reporting student and teacher data from public schools in Howard County.