

OMMS PTSA
PTACHC Delegate Report 3/7/2017

Homewood/ARL PTACHC hospitality support:

There was discussion of raising dues, someone raised an option to add a special fund, and add an option to the annual PTACHC invoice to allow schools to donate. Some schools may find the \$30 a hardship while some intend to provide more. Also discussion of starting a PTACHC Board Committee to administer funds and organize local PTAs to provide hospitality support.

There was a motion to increase annual dues by \$30 to \$200. First vote 22 yes, 22 no. More discussion and another vote 23 yes, 24 no. There was then a motion after much discussion to add an optional line to the annual invoice and have the funds go into a budget line. It was pointed out by the PTACHC Treasure that this could not be done legally. This point seemed to be lost on the organizers and this motion was voted down 15 yes to 25 no. The subject was then tabled to a future meeting.

Legislation Committee:

There is a bill before the state legislature to change how Howard County's School Board is selected. If you have opinions about this issue it would be best to express them to our representatives quickly.

Bus presentation:

Our busses are very safe. Showed statistics on national student transportation deaths and bus riding is by far the safest way to get to school.

We have a major shortage of bus drivers and will be needing a lot more in the near future. This is part of a national shortage. Please refer anyone you may know who may be interested.

The school budget has gone from the Superintendent, to the Board and is now with the State. It will then go to the County and then become final. We should expect substantial cuts. One item pointed out is that all the individual school websites, under the current budget plan are to be eliminated.

PTA Money problems:

There has been a rash of thefts by Treasurers and some Presidents of PTA funds. Presidents and Treasurers, PLEASE do your duty and check politely on each other. Letting a questionable situation continue is stealing money from all our children.

2017-18 School Calendar is out.

Hilights: School starts for students on 9/5/17. Ends on 6/14. Winter Break 12/24 to 1/1. Spring Break 3/30 to 4/6. Weather days include 6/15, Presidents day, and 3 days of Spring Break.

School start times:

Beginning in 2018/19 our school board has declared that all schools will begin between 8 AM and 9:25 AM. The details are still to be worked out. Currently High Schools begin at 7:25 AM, Middle between 7:40 and 8:25 AM and Elementary between 8:15 and 9:25 AM.

This compresses the start time range by 35 minutes and thus will present a transportation challenge.

Bullying is still a major issue for HCPSS:

There is a presentation scheduled about the HCPSS Bullying Policy on March 25th.