

Summary of PTA Council of Howard County meeting held 1/4/2015 – notes by Teiko Campbell

1) **Superintendent's Report** – (John White, HCPSS Communications Director)

- Thursday 1/7/16 @ 4pm the proposed operating budget will be presented at the Board of Education Mtg; parents are encouraged to watch live
- Friday 1/15/16 @ 12pm- 1pm a live budget forum taking questions from the public will be available on the website and TV (Verizon ch.42 and Comcast ch.95) You can send in your questions via twitter (#hcpssinsight) or email [insight@hcpss.org](mailto:insight@hcpss.org)
- Citizen's budget guide will be available in print this week
- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and careers "PARCC" information session to help interpret the scores and guide parents on helping children at home; schedule below:  
Tuesday 1/5 from 7pm-8pm at Atholton Elementary cafeteria  
Wednesday 1/6 from 7pm-8pm at Steven Forest Elementary cafeteria  
Monday 1/11 from 7pm-8pm at Clarksville Middle cafeteria  
Tuesday 1/12 from 7pm-8pm at Oakland Mills Middle cafeteria
- NOTE: Nominations for Washington Post's Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year are due Friday 1/8/16. Friends of Education (award for businesses) deadline is Friday 1/29/16.
- Decision on the student calendar will be made Thursday 1/14/16.
- Copies of the book Mindset were distributed to delegates that wanted one.

2) **HCPSS Strength Finders session** – (Scott Ruehl, Director of Leadership Development, HCPSS)

- Every October Q12 question is presented to staff by the Gallup Poll to determine level of engagement
- 45% of HCPSS teacher are engaged, 47% are not engaged, 8% are actively disengaged this is better than the national average.
- Staff engagement yields student engagement which yields student achievement
- Principals and Assistant principals take the test in *Strength Finders 2.0* by Tom Rath
- Concerns about labeling which included 15 minutes of debate ensued when the presenter mentioned that 6<sup>th</sup> graders take a student version that identifies their top 3 strengths. President Avery proposed brining a representative from Student Services however the motion was not seconded.

3) **Discussion topics that will be the focus for the PTA Council of Howard County** - (Reg Avery, President PTACHC) Based on input received from the delegate small group sessions in December:

- Overcrowding
- Redistricting
- Capital budget
- Outreach to different community groups (Liaison for diverse groups)
- Lice Policy
- PTA training for local unit officers