

Baltimore County Council

PTA[®]

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PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc. | Established 1950

<https://www.bcptacouncil.org> Free State PTA: <https://www.fspta.org> National PTA: <https://www.pta.org>

MAY 2024 | BULLETIN

President's Letter

It's May, another school year is coming to an end, and this is our last bulletin until next September. Thanks to everyone who attended our March and April General Meetings! See the Health & Safety section in this bulletin for information on the great presentations offered in March. Elections took place at our April meeting. The following were elected:

- ✓ President: Leslie Weber
- ✓ Area VP Southeast: Will Feuer
- ✓ Area VP Northwest: Ryan Coleman
- ✓ Treasurer: Jayne Lee
- ✓ Secretary: Andra Broadwater

We have vacancies for VP, VP for Leadership, and Area VPs (Central, Northeast, Southwest). If you're interested in serving as an officer, please reach out to our Nominating Committee at legislation@bcptacouncil.org!

If your role at a local unit is ending (or if you want to get involved at the County level while also serving your unit), consider putting your experience and knowledge to good use by joining a Council committee. You're needed! We have an amazing team of volunteers working together to better BCPS and our community.

Here's a quick rundown of our upcoming events:

- **BCPS-PTA Leadership Roundtable with Superintendent Dr. Rogers and Chief of Staff Ms. Charley-Greene, Monday, 6/3, 6:30pm via Zoom; presidents will receive an email invitation**
- PTA Council Board of Directors' meeting, Thursday, 6/6 at 7pm via Zoom
- Leadership Training, Monday, 6/10 at 7pm, West Towson ES Cafetorium; attend workshops for Presidents, other officers/committee chairs, Treasurers, and Reflections. Scholarship winners will also be recognized.

Every child. One voice.

The end of the school year is time for you to:

- Hold elections (based on your bylaw requirements)
- Transition to your new leadership team; discuss what went well and what didn't and set some reachable goals
- Close out your books for the 2023-24 fiscal year and plan your year-end financial review
- Work on your 2024-25 budget and PTA calendar
- Meet with your principal to set common goals and review the PTA calendar

THANK YOU for your leadership -- you've truly worked to make every child's potential a reality.

Every child. One voice,

President

Leslie Weber, President president@bcptacouncil.org 410-227-7631

Update from PTA Council's Reflections Chair



The Council's Reflections Art Exhibition and Awards Ceremony was held on April 7, 2024 at Towson University's StarTUp at the Armory in downtown Towson. It was wonderful to see the students' amazing artwork and have students, families, educators, and PTA leaders gather to celebrate. Of the nearly 200 Baltimore County entries, we were pleased to be able to send 90 entries for award consideration by Free State PTA. Of those, eleven of the Baltimore County entries won awards and were sent for consideration by National PTA, and one of those, from **Charlotte Evans, 5th grader from Rodgers Forge Elementary School**, went on to win the Award of Excellence from the National PTA in her grade division for her dance choreography titled, "Feel the Music."

Out of 45 state PTA congresses, her entry was chosen for her interpretation of the theme, creativity and her technique, based on the work itself and her artist statement.

Her artist statement is as follows:

"I'm inspired by music. At my lowest times, music makes me feel hopeful. That's why I picked a really uplifting song called 'Put Your Records On' because to me the song means to keep going no matter what. The song reminds me that I will always find my way."

She will receive \$200 Young Artist Scholarship, a Silver Medal, a Certificate of Excellence, and her work featured in the National PTA virtual exhibition.

To view the full list of winners at the national level, please visit [National PTA Reflections](#).

Every year, National PTA hosts its annual Reflections Theme Search Contest to select one student theme to inspire student artists as they participate in a future PTA Reflections program. The winning student will also receive a \$100 award and national recognition.

2024-2025 Theme: "Accepting Imperfection"

2025-2026 Theme: "I Belong" from Ben Morgan from Lewis and Clark Middle School PTSA in Idaho.

The first week of November 2024 is the deadline to submit a theme for 2026-2027!

Website: <https://bcptacouncil.org/resources/reflections>

Facebook: @bcreflect ~ Twitter: @bcptareflec



Leaders' To-Do List

MAY

- Continue to pay National PTA and Free State PTA dues (more info [here](#))
- Elect PTA officers for next school year; see your bylaws for correct election month

JUNE

- PTA Council Virtual Board Meeting, June 6, 7pm
- Leadership Training, June 10, 7pm, West Towson ES Cafetorium
- End of PTA fiscal year, close books
- AIM Insurance coverage ends June 30

JULY/AUGUST

- Prepare final report for previous fiscal year
- Plan for financial review, prepare budget
- Choose PTA committee chairs, fill remaining board positions
- Treasurer transition; complete signature cards at PTA's bank
- Upload financial review into GiveBacks or send to soa@fspta.org.

Standards Of Affiliation (SoA)

In addition to paying member dues and providing officer contact information to Free State PTA (FSPTA), you must take care of the following:

- ✓ **BYLAWS:** Bylaws need to be reviewed at least every 3 years and submitted to FSPTA for approval. If you still need to do this, use the template here: <https://www.fspta.org/bylaws>.
- ✓ **FINANCIAL REVIEW (AUDIT):** All PTAs must conduct an annual financial review (due 10/30) and email a copy to FSPTA at soa@fspta.org. Refer to Free State PTA Financial Guide in the Finances section of our website for a sample report.
- ✓ **INSURANCE:** Every PTA unit in Maryland must have insurance coverage through AIM. Enrollment forms were emailed to all PTAs. Coverage runs 7/1/24 to 6/30/25. See the PTA Council website's Finances/Insurance section for details.
- ✓ **IRS 990:** Every PTA must file annually by 11/15. If annual gross income was \$50,000 or less, you can submit the 990N e-postcard via the IRS website. It only takes minutes! Provide a copy of the 990 filing to FSPTA by uploading into GiveBacks or emailing to soa@fspta.org. More details here: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits>
- ✓ **MARYLAND CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS ACT UPDATE:** As a charitable organization soliciting in Maryland, your unit must file documents with the Office of the Secretary of State. Registration is required prior to the commencement of solicitations (for new units) and an annual update is required. <https://sos.maryland.gov/Charity/Pages/Registering-Charity.aspx>
- ✓ **INCORPORATION/MARYLAND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RETURN:** All local PTAs must be incorporated in Maryland. To maintain your incorporation status, a Personal Property Report must be filed by April 15 each year **if your PTA owns any property or not**. It only takes minutes to do and is **SO IMPORTANT!** Upload a copy of your filing into GiveBacks or email to soa@fspta.org. Check your status here: www.dat.state.md.us. If your unit is not incorporated or the incorporation needs to be revived, contact us.

For all shared documents, be sure to keep copies for yourself!

FSPTA strongly encourages units to submit SoA documents via GiveBacks (formerly MemberHub)!

PTA COUNCIL LEADERSHIP TRAINING – IN PERSON

Monday, June 10, 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm), West Towson Elementary School Cafetorium
6914 N. Charles St., Towson, 21204

The following workshops will be offered to get ready for summer planning and the 2024-25 school year:

- Presidents (and Other Officers/Committee Chairs)
- Treasurers
- Reflections

Our meetings are open to the public; you don't need to be a PTA member to attend! Only voting delegates (up to 4) named by a PTA/PTSA unit president may vote in the business portion of the meeting.

To RSVP, email president@bcptacouncil.org by 6/9/24

INSURANCE

AIM is your insurance carrier. They will email renewal information to units. Insurance is effective 7/1/24 to 7/1/25. Any questions? Contact AIM via <https://aim-companies.com> or call 1-800-876-4044.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

It's best to get your unit's review (audit) done in July or August (after the end of your 6/30 fiscal year, but before your first general meeting) so your board can work on its 2024-25 budget.

HELPFUL LINKS

Virtual meeting & elections guidance is [here!](#)
Get Your National PTA Local Leader Kit [here!](#)

- Select a committee of at least 3 people who do not have check-signing authority.
- Your budget should be presented to your members at your first General Meeting.

If you need help with your review, contact us!

OFFICER CONTACT INFO NEEDED!

If you've held your elections (and even if your officers will serve again next year), both PTA Council and Free State PTA need 2024-25 officer contact information! Send the name, position, home address, phone, and email for every unit's President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary. Send your list to directory@bcptacouncil.org and to Free State PTA at soa@fspta.org.

Use GiveBacks to submit Officer Contact Information to Free State PTA. Another option (not preferred) is to send the information to soa@fspta.org. To provide information to PTA Council, use [this Google form](#). or send information to directory@bcptacouncil.org.



BCPS Parent University FACEtime Newsletter

Access resources and read their monthly newsletter here!

https://www.bcps.org/cos/communications/FACE/parent_university/f_a_c_etime_newslet

BCPS SUMMER PROGRAMS INFORMATION!

Find valuable info here:

https://dci.bcps.org/department/educational_options/summer_programs

PTA Council Advocacy and Legislation Committee

Chair Beth Jarrett provided this summary of the bills that we were following this session in the MD legislature that passed:

- HB108 - Baltimore County Board of Education Nonstudent Member Compensation and Student Member Scholarships Alterations **passed.**
- HB0719; SB0198 - Income Tax – Credit for Parent and Guardian Volunteers in Elementary and Secondary Schools **passed.**
- HB137 - Civil Actions Civil Immunity Education Intervention **passed.**
- HB291 - County Boards of Education Bid Advertisement Threshold and Electronic Posting of Hearing Notices and Bid Advertisements **passed.**
- HB416; SB432 - requiring schools to notify parents before active shooter drills, and to follow certain requirements to ensure the safety of students' mental health. Also requiring schools to send home information about safe gun storage **passed.**
- HB495; SB078 - making the School Board Nominating Commission records subject to disclosure requirements and open to the public **passed.**
- HB785 - the Freedom to Read Act **passed.**
- HB1147 - putting restrictions around the type of play surface used when installing playgrounds in order to reduce childhood exposure to lead, PAH and PFAS **passed.**
- SB161 - Community Schools Alterations **passed.**
- SB165 - Education Coaches Mental Health Training **passed.**
- SB212 - Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access Alterations **passed.**
- SB425 - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program Alterations (Maryland Meals for Achievement Flexibility Act of 2024) **passed.**

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thanks to Committee Chair Andra Broadwater for planning such an important, interesting, and informative event at the March General Meeting!

We had three great presentations: 2 from BCPS and 1 from the Sierra Club:

[BCPS Impacts of Social Media Use Presentation](#)

[BCPS Food and Nutrition Update Presentation](#)

[Sierra Club Dangers of Synthetic Turf Presentation](#)

2023-24 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR

General Meetings and Special Events

- BCPS-PTA Leadership Roundtable with Superintendent Dr. Rogers and Chief of Staff Ms. Charley-Greene, Monday, June 3, 6:30pm via Zoom
- June 10, 2024: Leadership Training, 7pm in person at West Towson Elementary School Cafetorium (RSVP by 6/9/24 to president@bcptacouncil.org)

Board of Directors' Virtual Meetings

First Thursday of the month @ 7pm (if interested in attending, please request a link from president@bcptacouncil.org):

- June 6

CONVENTIONS!

- Free State PTA Convention, 7/20-21, Maritime Conference Center
Training is a legitimate PTA expense.
Details here: <https://www.fspta.org/convention2024>
- Virtual National PTA Convention, 6/27-29
Details here: <https://www.pta.org/home/events/PTA-Conferences-Events>

PTA Council Leadership Contacts

Officers:

President: Leslie Weber, president@bcptacouncil.org
 VP for Leadership: Jayne Lee, baltimorecountyppta@gmail.com
 Area VP Northwest Area: Ryan Coleman, avpnwnc@bcptacouncil.org
 Area VP Southeast Area: Will Feuer, avpsenc@bcptacouncil.org
 Secretary: Andra Broadwater, secretary@bcptacouncil.org
 Treasurer: John Ryan, treasurer@bcptacouncil.org



Committees:

Advocacy & Legislation: Beth Jarrett, legislation@bcptacouncil.org
 Awards, Recognition & Scholarships: Open
 Communications: Hope Metzler, communications@bcptacouncil.org
 Curriculum & Instruction: Open
 Exceptional Students Subcommittee: Jason Dowell, exceptional@bcptacouncil.org
 Extension: Emory Young, extension@bcptacouncil.org
 Family, School & Community Partnerships: Ramona Basilio, partnerships@bcptacouncil.org
 Health & Safety: Andra Broadwater, health@bcptacouncil.org
 Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: Tyrone Bullock, Jr., diversity@bcptacouncil.org
 Nominating Committee: Beth Jarrett, legislation@bcptacouncil.org
 Reflections: Hope Metzler, reflections@bcptacouncil.org

Representatives:

Baltimore County Student Councils: Open
 Baltimore County Public Schools: Sue Hahn, shahn2@bcps.org
 Teachers' Association of Baltimore County: Kelly Olds