

February General PTO Meeting
February 15th, 2017

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Reading and Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Statement of Treasurer – Prema Sridaran

Correspondence – Megan Pasquini

Reports

Executive Committee

President – Katy Loomis

1st Vice President- Stacey Cobb

2nd Vice President- Dan O'Rourke

Board Advisor-Brenda Tomsheck

Teacher Representative- Matt Henderson

School Board Representative - Amy Billerbeck

Special Guests

~Amanda McQuillan to present and answer questions about the Education Partnership. Presentation on what the program does and watched a video.

~Matt Henderson –

- Mrs. Husak thanks PTO for the visiting author. Felt that it was a success.
- Battle of the Books is Thursday March 2nd - 56 teams battling.
- Mr. Madge Boyce Band will be playing with Fort Couch and the high school on March 21st 7 pm.
- Mrs. Schetley – set and scenery meetings have been going on for musical.
- PA Music education singing at Carnegie music hall. A few students will be part of this.
- Front display cases have been done very well this year - Thank you to Amy Garces!
- Thank you for the teacher appreciation breakfast/luch.
- Mrs. Antonio – RAK week is going on right now. Activities happening tomorrow for the assembly. Valentine grams were sent out yesterday.
- Kathy Hoedeman – mathematics elite competition. Over 100 6th graders signed up. Math Counts competition was Feb. 11th. Took some of our students to compete with other kids around the state. Club 24 – 54 students signed up
- Deer Valley – 2 L plastic bottles need to be saved. Forms are due by March 3rd.
- Mr. Gallagher – students this year have done a great job in ELA. Taken pride in his students.

Standing and Reporting Committees/ Reporting Organizations

Arts in USC -

It's time for the 2nd Annual Arts in USC K-6th Grade Art Contest! This year's theme is "This Is My World". We encourage all 5th and 6th grade students to create an original 2D piece of art that expresses what "This Is My World" means to him/her and submit it to the Boyce front office no later than Monday, February 27th, along with a completed Official Student Entry form. Please see the USC District Website for entry information. The winners from our Boyce contest will go on to compete with other students in the USC school district. In addition, all student entries will be displayed on April 1st

at the Arts & Chocolate event at the Community and Recreation Center! Also, be on the look out for an invitation for students to stay after school to create an entry.

Boyce Pride -

Boyce Pride has been moving along nicely this year. Students have received awards each month for a variety of wonderful reasons.

Each recipient receives a certificate and a photo. Up until now, they have also received a pin. After some discussion, we decided to change this once the pins ran out. The students will now receive a backpack tag which can also hang from a key chain etc.

The tags were a large expense upfront because the most cost efficient way was to order a large amount. However, there will be enough tags to last around 4 or 5 years. We feel confident that the students will like the tags and can proudly show off their achievement

Chess Club -

Chess Club starts March 8 and goes for 6 weeks. We have 24 students registered so far (room for 40). The HS Chess Club students are returning again as volunteers to mentor and instruct the Boyce kids. The cost is \$10. Please go to the Boyce PTO page for more information.

Chorus -

Ensemble rehearsals are well underway for both shows and the students are doing great with their preparations!

- Set & Scenery has recently started, too: this group is open to anyone who would like to help with the behind-the-scenes design work for the shows and meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during Pride Time and optionally after school until 3:45 p.m. (students would need to be picked up by the Main Office entrance to the building). Any student who helps is also eligible for community and service hours, too. Please email Mrs. Schetley with any other questions!
- The district did purchase the video rights for both the 5th and 6th grade shows, so we will likely have cast parties at the end of the year where kids will get to watch video performances and be served a treat of Rita's Italian Ice.

GATE -

In the next few weeks GATE will be hosting Dr Judy Bulazo to provide an update on current STEAM programming and future plans. This will be an evening presentation and details will follow via ealerts. Thank you

Orchestra -

We met with Mrs. Shoemaker last week to discuss how orchestra parents can be better represented in the Band Parent Association once our children enter the high school. She has discussed having the name changed to "Music Boosters Association" or "Music Parents Association" so that the name is all encompassing. The executive board is open to the suggestion and would like to have a meeting with orchestra parents before the start of the 2017-18 so they can be informed about fundraisers, meetings and other opportunities.

We have a spring concert coming up in the High School Theater on March 15th at 7:30pm. This will include the high school, Fort Couch, Boyce, and fourth grade orchestras. There will be no dress rehearsal for this concert.

Random Acts of Kindness -

Plenty of volunteers and food for RAK breakfast. We are doing a Valentine theme with red and white tablecloths, heart napkins and kindness quotes written on hearts on tables. We have some student volunteers to help set up, serve and do a bit of clean up. We will be serving breakfast casseroles, potato dishes, fruit platters, yogurt, quiche, bagels and cream cheese and quite a bit more. This breakfast is always a hit with staff. They love having the students participate in this event.

Spelling Bee -

Boyce had a very successful Spelling Bee on the evening of January 31st. The Spelling Bee was held in a different setting than usual - the auditorium! We had 29 students compete, and are excited to be able to send 6th grader Alex Todd to the Pittsburgh-area regional Bee on March 11 at Robert Morris University

We'd like to thank parent volunteers Shaila Miglani, Prema Sridaran, Colette LeKachman as well as our wonderful librarian Mrs. Husak for making the evening go smoothly.

Spirit Night-

Spirit Night will take place on March 21st at Chipotle. Please watch eAlerts and Thurs Thoughts for more information.

Amy Billerbeck - School Board Report

Here are the big things from our meeting last night. We also had an amazing experience at our quarterly Board Breakfast a couple weeks ago. We visited and learned about the "Smart Desk" at the high school, staffed entirely by students. I will give a more detailed report in March!

1. The Board formally approved the **Board Goals for 2017**. They continue to be based on the Strategic Plan initiatives for 2015-2020. These are:

- Safety and Security
- Professional Learning Communities
 - STEAM
- Technology (with emphasis on implementing the 1:1 initiative at the high school)
- the High School Experience

2. Report of **Capital Projects ad hoc committee:**

Our architect, Dave McLean, presented answers to several questions raised by stakeholders and other board members, in preparation for bringing a formal recommendation to the Board. Our finance team is also refining potential costs and financing options, based on the various project scenarios. A final report and recommendation by the ad hoc committee to the full Board will be upcoming in the next 1-2 months.

3. The first reading of the **2017-18 calendar** was presented. Key dates, as proposed, are as follows:

First day of school: Tuesday, August 29, 2017

Winter break: December 25 – January 1

Spring break: March 26-30, Monday, April 2 – Teacher in-service

Last day of school (excluding snow days): Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Commencement: Thursday, June 14, 2018

The calendar is available on the district web site. Public comment will be taken by Dr. O'Toole's office for the next six weeks. The final reading and approval would be on the agenda for March 28, 2017.

Next PTO Meeting- Wednesday, March 15th, 2017

Adjournment