

**PTO General Meeting Minutes
Boyce Middle School
November 8, 2017
9:30AM**

The November 8, 2017 General Meeting of the Boyce Middle School PTO was called to order by Stacey Cobb at 9:40 AM in the Boyce Middle School LGI. Secretary Penney Miller recorded the proceedings. Eleven people attended including the following executive committee members: Stacey Cobb, Katy Loomis, Daniel O'Rourke, Jennifer Schnore, Prema Sridaran, and Penney Miller.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the September 2017 PTO meeting were read (silently) and both approved. Meeting minutes will be posted on the PTO website.

Statement of the Treasurer- Prema Sridaran reported that the PTO had a beginning cash balance of \$ 74,458.67 as of 10/17/17. PTO income from 10/17/2017 to 11/7/2017 totaled \$275 and PTO payments for the same period totaled \$40632.58.

The PTO checking balance as of 11/7/2017 is \$34,101.09. The treasurer's statement is attached.

The PTO is in a good financial position this year.

Penney Miller moved to authorize the Treasurer to pay the bills. Susan Coyle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by verbal vote.

Correspondence- Penney Miller read a note from Mary Ann Stabile thanking the PTO for its financial gifts to Boyce Middle School.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President- Stacey Cobb.
 - Mrs. Cobb presented the following council updates:
 - Open Mike tonite at 7pm in Boyce Theater
 - Libby Mascaro was approved to lead a New wellness committee to address mental health issues and suicide prevention in USC student body. She will be working with students at all age levels, sports teams, and parents. All assemblies will be age appropriate.
 - Directory registration was on Monday.
 - An Alumni Database is being created to develop a pool of mentors, networking contacts, and inspirational speakers for students.
 - 5 USC students scored perfectly on the ACT.
 - Odyssey of the Mind (OM)- 129 kids, 19 teams, 35 coaches

- Council considering changing High School Start time to 30 minutes later.
 - Spirit Wear orders due today
 - Boyce Spirit Night, next Wednesday, Nov 15 at Chick Filet from 4:30pm until 7:00pm
 - The next Boyce Staff appreciation event will be a luncheon on Dec 8. Look for eblast for how you can contribute.
- 1st Vice President- Jen Schnore. Mrs. Schnore had nothing to report.
- 2nd Vice President- Dan O'Rourke. Mr. O'Rourke shared the following:
 - Community Service: Raised over \$2000 for Liberty Middle School in Liberty, TX as part of the "Adopt a School Program," created in response to devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey. (See Dr. O'Rourke's complete list of donated items in his October 2017 letter)
 - The Boyce Staff also contributed to USC Golf Team's "Birdies for a Cause," with all proceeds going to "The Free Care Fund" at Children's Hospital. Mr. O'Rourke thanked all who participated.
 - The Boyce Student Council is conducting a Cereal Drive to benefit SHIM. Please help by donating a box of cereal.
 - Letters and Candy for Soldiers campaign kicked off after Halloween. Participants wrote letters and sent donated candy to 18 service men and women, whose names were provided by Boyce families.
 - The Pittsburgh Business Times, based upon PSSA achievement ranked the Boyce Middle School grades as:
 - 5th grade: 13th in region and 41th in state
 - 6th grade: 9th in region and 50th in state (out of 1038)
 - Collectively, these rankings were the highest rankings ever at Boyce.
 - Congratulations to students, staff, and the community.
 - Mr. O'Rourke also elaborated on the Growth Mindset and Educational Success Themes for staff and students this year. A Growth Mindset, as opposed to a Fixed Mindset, is predicated on the notion that people can do better in all aspects of life by believing they can, persevering through adversity and putting forth effort. Their brains can always grow, always do better, and always achieve in any area. This philosophy comes from the work of Dr. Dweck at Stanford.
 - Dr. O'Rourke provided an example in Art Instruction. Betty Edwards, author of "Drawing on Right Side of the Brain" argued that 5 days of Art instruction can result in great improvement. To demonstrate Growth Mindset, Mr. Stocke presented staff with a drawing challenge and showed how staff could improve in drawing a basketball with a Growth Mindset and only 3 minutes of art instruction.
- Board Advisor- Katy Loomis. Mrs. Loomis had nothing to report.
- Teacher Representative- Matt Henderson.

- Mr. Henderson thanked all parents for donuts and gift cards at the last Staff Appreciation event.
- Boyce Middle School hosted the Mucho Macho Music Festival on Tuesday, Oct 31, 2017. Seven USC students in grade 6 participated, and 2 Boyce Students, Marshall Howe and Jadon Kithcart, performed solos. Jennifer Schetley, Thomas Hunsberger, and Lorraine Milovac provided music instruction. Thanks to all involved.
- Mr. Henderson also reported that Mrs. Husak is sponsoring a gift certificate drawing to promote reading at home. She asked students to take pictures of themselves in front of their home book collections or “shelfies” and send them to her. Entries are due by Tuesday, November 21st and anyone who sends in a picture will be put into a drawing for a \$25 Barnes and Noble gift certificate.
- Students also took homeroom selfies during Awareness Week.
- Mr. Henderson re-iterated the Student Council Cereal box drive to benefit SHIM.
- Mr. Henderson reported that Mr. Madge and music team have changed the Winter Concert format this year. Various Groups will have separate concerts:
 - Chorus, Tuesday Dec 5—will be held at Boyce; more information to come.
 - Orchestra, Thus Dec 7
- Mr. Henderson reported that the STEAM CARTS are ready for use and were presented to meeting attendees.
 - From the PTO contributions, he put together large carts with lots of building supplies—legos, kinex, raw building materials (cups, teva planks; popsicle sticks). The goal of the carts was to have building versatility without directions.
 - Teams are using creative ways to use carts. For example, Team Wind used the carts for a Productive Failure lesson. They set a goal to make a marble track that had an average marble run time of 3 seconds. The kids were challenged to learn about averages and engineering length to get the desired time. The carts can be used to build persistence and improve critical thinking in students, and teachers are considering using the Carts to infiltrate course subjects. Mr. Henderson pointed out the “Key to solving frustration is success.”
 - Use Shop to create magnets for STEAM CARTS acknowledging the PTO gift
 - Mr. Henderson also commented that those kids participating in the Maker Challenge (presented in his class) should log their time in the maker challenge book. The maker challenge encourages kids to make something at home and take a picture of made item.

Special Guest

- School Board- Amy Billerbeck.

- Mrs. Billerbeck began her report by stating several recognitions received in the USC school district:
 - Frau Baird was awarded W. LaMarr Kopp Lifetime Achievement Award by the Pennsylvania Council for International Education.
 - Many kids at high school recognized at state levels (see USC School District Website for complete listing).
 - At the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) meeting in Hershey Pa., Dr. O'Toole spoke, moderated sessions, and represented our district. The USC Chanteclairs also sang at the meeting.
 - There was a big focus on mental health issues in one session. One speaker from Mt Lebanon presented Mt. Lebanon's full-blown mindfulness program. North Allegheny challenged schools to measure what they value in education. Mrs. Billerbeck says that USC values happiness and success in our district, a focus beyond grades and scores.
- The Board hosted at breakfast and learned what was happening at the Shop@USC for life-skills and regular ed kids. Mrs. Billerbeck commented it was wonderful to see the students from both backgrounds interact with one another. Regular Ed students get credit and develop not only leadership skills but also genuine friendships. The Shop products are very nice and Mrs. Billerbeck encouraged anyone having a party or event, consider have the Shop@USC make items. Shop @ USC expanding to Boyce and to Ft. Couch, maybe next year.
- Board reorganization will occur during 1st of week of Dec. by state law. Outgoing board members are Buffy Hasco, Frank Kerber, and Harry Kunselman. Louis Mafrice won re-election, and Jennifer Bowen, Daphna Gans, and Dante Plutko will be added to the board.
- Capital projects is on schedule. PJ Dick is the contractor and is requesting bids by the end of the year with construction starting at the end of the school year 2018 and ending in about 18 months.
 - The old high pool will be taken down and filled. They are not sure what the space will be used for at this time. They will also be constructing new office space for the School Board.
 - For Boyce, putting concession and announcing booth.
 - The Zoning board has approved project plans; and the township has provided conditional approval. A question was asked if Mrs. Billerbeck knew how the resident concerns about the structure height blocking residential views of the golf course was addressed but she could not answer.
- Thank you so much for PTO's time and passion for the kids at Boyce. All appreciated as well as the PTO's monetary donations.

Standing & Reporting Committees/Reporting Organizations

- Apples for Students- Beth Hujzak—a flyer explaining program enrollment is available at Boyce office
- Authors Day- Ponny Jahn. Author's Day will be on April 20.
- Band Parents- Cindy DeLo, Mandy Thomas, Rhoda Smith. No report
- Box Tops- Amy Shegan. No report.
- Boyce Pride- Michelle Mandler, Danielle Pirain. No report.
- Chess Club- Batool Nulwala, Chair. Mrs. Nulwala presented the following:
 - Chess club will be held on Monday afternoons from 3:15pm to 4:15pm starting Monday, November 13 through Dec. 18. Monday was chosen because that was the only day the 4 high school students helping to instruct were available. If your child is interested, please have him/her sign up this week. There are only 5 spots left.
- Chorus Parents- Rhoda Smith, Shelby Wherry. No report.
- Deer Valley- Brenda Tomsheck, Katy Loomis. Mrs. Loomis presented:
 - 40 families did NOT pick-up their trash bags. Please go to the office to get trash bags not picked up.
 - Candle distribution will be November 20, 2017 at the Boyce loading dock, between 12:00pm-1:30pm or 3:45pm-7:00pm.
- Membership- Marjan Toosi. No change in membership reported.
- Memory Book- Deonna Draher, Christine Pantelidis
 - Last year's yearbooks have not arrived yet. Mrs. Cobb will keep everyone posted.
 - Yearbooks for the 2017/2018 year will be delivered in June 2018. For those events not pictured in the yearbook, an insert will be sent to students in the Fall.
- Orchestra- Prema Sridaran, Mondeep Puri. Ms. Sridaran reported:
 - Orchestra concert will be Dec 7 with rehearsal 7:30-9am on the same day.
 - Wintergarden performance will be from 5:30-6:30pm. Bus transportation will be provided and will depart Boyce at 3:30pm and return by 7:30pm.
 - Requesting 27 chaperones
 - Requesting drinks and chips for kids (will get back with us on this need)
- Outreach-Melissa Stadler, Steph Ioli. No report
- Read for a Reason- Jill Spencer. No report
- Spelling Bee- Haneet Laffin. Mrs. Laffin reports that:
 - A written test will be administered on Tuesday, Jan 16 during Pride Time.
 - The actual Spelling Bee will be held on Tuesday Jan 30 at 5:30pm with a snow make-up date of January 31.
- Spirit Night- Rachele Engel. Next Boyce Spirit night is Wednesday, November 15 from 4:30pm until 7pm at Chick Filet.
- Spirit Wear- Heather Ziegler. Susan Coyle reported there are lots of orders this year. Mrs. Ziegler will report on sale after all is tallied.
- Staff Appreciation- Michelle Mandler. The next Staff Appreciation will be a luncheon on December 8. The committee will issue an eblast with information and requests for contributions.

- Youth Steering- Amy Billerbeck
 - November 8, 2017 is a presentation on Team Stress and Anxiety at the Community Rec Center.
 - Semi-annual Fall Bash was held on November 4 and 220 kids attended the event. There was a Bungee run and lots of fun.

Unfinished Business. There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- PayPal Account. Mrs. Cobb reported she had set up a PayPal Account to help with staff appreciation donations. Upcoming eblasts will direct parents to PayPal to make contributions for Staff Appreciation. Also, Mrs. Cobb will look into using the PayPal Account to accept money for activity fees and binder reminders
- Cameras for the school
 - Photographs taken by cell phones are not of sufficient quality for Yearbook publication. The PTO is looking into purchasing 3-4 cameras for Teachers to use to take pictures of students during special school events to record for Yearbook photos.

The next meeting of the PTO will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Penney Miller

Date Approved: May 23, 2018

Boyce PTO General Meeting –November 2017

Treasurer's Report

PTO Checking Account

Beginning checking cash balance as of 10/17/2017: \$74,458.67

PTO Income from 10/17/17 to 11/07/17

10/18/17 - Deer Valley Fundraiser-trashbags and candles sales \$ 247.00
10/18/17 - Miscellaneous Income – Sale of 2015-2016 year book \$ 28.00

PTO Payments from 10/17/17 to 11/07/17

1160 Brenda Tomsheck Deer valley Fundraiser printing and copying \$ 201.48
1161 RV Nuccio & Associates PTO Insurance \$ 327.00
1162 Jamie Del Display Cases \$ 21.10
1163 Boyce Middle School - DV Candle fundraiser (school is handling) \$ 22180.00
1164 KJS Enterprises – DV trashbags purchase \$ 9112.50
Online Transfer of student profit from PTO acct to DV account \$ 8515.50
1166 Denise Henning- CPA for auditing and filing taxes \$ 275.00

Total PTO checking balance as of 11/07/17: \$34,101.09

Deer Valley Account

Beginning Money Market cash balance as of 10/17/17: \$8,037.80

Deer Valley Income from 10/17/17 to 11/07/17

10/31/17 Online tranfere of student profit from PTO acct to DV acct \$ 8515.50
10/31/17 Interest \$ 0.38

Deer Valley Payments from 09/13/17 to 10/17/17

No payments

Total Deer Valley Money Market Balance as of 11/07/17: \$ 16,553.68