

Fort Couch Middle School PTSO General Meeting Minutes
January 19th, 2020

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 9:40 a.m.

Reading and Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The November 2019 general meeting minutes were presented. A motion to approve was made by Shelby Wherry, with second approval by Gina Swanson, and subsequent approval by all present. The minutes stand as read.

Statement of Treasurer – Prema Sridaran

Starting Balance as of 11/18/2019: \$26,629.09

Income-Deposits Made from 11/19/2019 to 01/13/2020

11/19/2019 – Student Activity Fee - \$80.00
11/26/2019 – Shop with Scrips fundraiser received from Stacey Cobb and Sian Howell - \$1400.00
12/09/2019 – Student Activity Fee and Staff Appreciation paypal Transfer - \$115.00
12/17/2019 – Spirit Wear Fundraiser - \$288.00
01/10/2020 – Student Activity Fee - \$40.00
01/10/2020 - Box Tops for Education Fundraiser - \$28.00

Payments from 11/19/2019 to 01/13/2020

11/19/2019 – Check# 1348 Prema Sridaran for Sharing and Caring Gift Cards - \$100.00
11/19/2019 – Check#1341 Shannon Rosenberry –Social II- Concession Stand - \$55.23
11/21/2019 – Check# 1349 – Josh Criswell –Art Club - \$49.74
12/02/2019 – Check# 1350 – For Shop with Scrips fundraiser - \$900.65
12/02/2019 - Check # 1351 – For Shop with Scrips fundraiser and purchase of gift cards for Social and Caught you being good - \$1082.25
12/04/2019 – Check# 1352 – Carolyn Cusick – Board Games Club - \$53.50
12/06/2019 - Check# 1353 – Dave Kyle- For Team Enhancement – Team 5 - \$255.80
12/17/2019 – Check# 1357 – Jen Cramer- Zentangle Club - \$149.73
12/17/2019 – Check# 1355 – Stacey Cobb for purchase of Sharing and caring gift cards and Caught Being good gift cards - \$580.00
12/27/2019 – Check# 1354 – Pennery Miller- For Arts in USC - \$7.37
01/07/2020 – Check# 1356 – Erin Nanci – For Cosmetology Club - \$45.38

Ending Balance as of 01/13/2020 : \$25,300.44

Pending Deposits

None

Pending Checks- vet to clear

Check#1346 USC PTC For Unit Membership - \$450
Check#1347 USC PTC For Staff Directories - \$40

Prema was unable to attend the meeting and her report was presented on paper in her absence. There were no questions posed during the meeting.

Correspondence – Catherine Deep, PTSO Secretary

Catherine read a letter from Mary Ann Stabile thanking the PTSO for the gifts to Fort Couch Middle School during the 2018-2019 school year.

Reports

Teacher Representative - Katie Calano

Mrs. Calano was unable to attend the meeting.

Executive Committee

President – Stacey Cobb

Stacey presented updates from the PTC meeting, reporting that the next PTC meeting will be at Fort Couch on 2/5 at 9:30 am in the LGI. Also, the PTC is holding a district-wide food drive for SHIM for the month of February.

The PTSO meetings schedule for the next few months – Feb 18th @ 9:30 am the FC Guidance Counselors will hold a Q&A session with 8th grade parents about the transition to HS. March 17th at 9:30 Mr. Palmer and community member Mr. Mike Birch will present Bryan’s Story for any parents who wish to attend. Bryan’s Story is a presentation about Mr. Birch’s son Bryan who battled a heroin addiction that ultimately took his life. All 8th graders will have this presentation in Guidance Classes later in the spring semester. PTSO business will be distributed on paper during the two meetings to allow plenty of time for the special guests.

1st Vice President- Sian Howell had nothing to report.

2nd Vice President- Joe DeMar

Mr. DeMar said that the school year was going well and that there had been very few issues this year – and those issues that are occurring are largely Social Media related.

8th Grade students are beginning to receive their teacher’s recommendations for HS courses and Teachers and Administrators are trying to help both students and parents feel relaxed, comfortable and confident as they manage the process for course selection over the coming weeks. Honors and AP courses as the High School are intended to be “need based”, they are there for students who need that level of curriculum.

Later this week visitors from Parkway West Career & Technology Center will be visiting and presenting to all 8th grade students to talk about the options students have to take courses from Parkway as well. Parkway offers programs in Automotive repair and technology, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Graphic Arts, Electrical Systems, Healthcare occupations technology, Public Safety Technology, Veterinary Tech, Welding and more. Students who are interested are invited to attend a field trip at the end of the month (1/31) to visit Parkway to learn more about the opportunities and how they can fit into a HS class schedule.

Board Advisor- Katy Loomis had nothing to report.

Secretary – Catherine Deep had correspondence. Catherine read a Thank You note from Guidance Counselor Mr. Jace Palmer thanking the PTSO for the generous gift cards purchased for FC families in need at the holidays.

Special Guests

School Board Member – Amy Billerbeck

The new Swimming Pool has been approved for use and will host the first High School swim team meet on Wednesday 1/22 including Senior Recognition night.

In December the School Board held their Reorganization meeting as all School Boards in Pennsylvania swearing in those who were reelected. They also elected the board officers and Barbara Bolas will be the President and Pat Hewitt will be the Vice President.

In January the School Board heard the Fast Track Curriculum Recommendations that would go into effect this coming fall 2020. The June recommendations would go into effect the following year fall of 2021.

The ETC program for substitute teachers has been very well received. There were about 80 applicants after the first information session, and there will be one more information session on Thursday Jan 23rd at 9:30 am. In the last 5-6 years the number of college students going into teaching has dropped by a third.

The USC Wellness Committee, Youth Steering, and USC Twp are offering 2 movies Screenagers February 2/18 at 10 am/7 pm and Screenagers 2 March 3/10 at 10 am/7 pm.

The Youth Steering Committee is also hosting a Winter Blast for 5th & 6th graders on 2/22. Looking for ideas for a possible event for only 7th & 8th graders.

Standing and Reporting Committees

1) Arts in USC – Melissa Waldron & Penney Miller

- a) We made several copies of an informational flyer and packet and obtained permission from Mr. DeMar to post the flyer at several locations in the school, distribute this flyer and information packet to all the English teachers and the Art teacher to post in their classrooms, make copies of the information packet to be available in the main office. Also, the Fort Couch PTSO also posted this information on their website and distributed it through an eAlert.
- b) The deadlines for the two contests were December 13, 2019 for writing and January 7, 2020 for artwork. All entries were submitted online through the scholastic arts website, and a paper copy with registration fee were mailed directly by the student to Scholastic contacts. Because students submitted their work directly, we have no information regarding how many students actually submitted work.
- c) Finally, we had one parent contact us about trouble her child was having with the online registration. We referred her to Kathy Ginsberg, the PTC Arts in USC chair for help.

2) Band, Shelby Wherry

- a) There will be a Combined Band Concert on March 18th for grades 5-8 at the USCHS, and possibly a small reception for parents beforehand as was done last year.

- b) The Jazz Festival will be March 30th with special guest conductor for grades 7-12.
- 3) Cartridges for Kids – Aleen Atencio & Catherine Deep
 - a) The Deadline for collection for e-cycling was extended to 1/31.
- 4) Chorus, Catherine Deep
 - a) Musical has not begun yet due to delays related to acquiring the rights to the show Mr. Hunsberger has selected. More information will come out as we receive it.
- 5) Socials, Betsy Boughner, Shannon Rosenberry, Gail Groniger
 - a) The second social was a success – 250 students attended out of 640 in the school. The next social, the Valentine’s Dance, is on Thur 2/13/2020 form 7-9pm. Volunteers and donations of baked goods are needed. Emails will be going out regularly starting next week. The FC Student Council traditionally runs this Social with support from the PTSO.
- 6) Spirit Nights, Sian Howell
 - a) The next Spirit Night is Thursday 2/13 at BJs Brewhouse from 5-9 pm. The Spirit Night is taking place the same evening as the Social so that perhaps families will take advantage of that before or during the social. Dine in or Take out works and PTSO get 20% of food and non-alcoholic beverage sales when our flyer is shown.
- 7) Sharing & Caring, Exec Board
 - a) The first \$500 that is made from FC PTSO fundraisers for the school year will support our Sharing & Caring Fund and those funds have been used to purchase gift cards for FC families in need at the holidays.
- 8) Yearbook, Stacey Cobb
 - a) Ordering information for FC Yearbooks will be available in February.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

The PTSO would like to include an article in the next Newsletter related to parents checking in on their students cell phones and the apps on them. The majority of the student related issues that are coming up at Fort Couch this year are related to cell phones, apps, and social media and the way they are being used by students. Mrs. Peterson spoke about various ways that kids are getting into trouble on apps like YOLO, VSCO, Instagram, Snapchat and with group chat texts, and pictures on their phones.

There will be no regular general meeting in February so that the time can be allocated on Feb 18th for a Q&A session with the Guidance Counselors for 8th Grade Parents.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Deep, Secretary.

Ft.Couch PTSO Budget for November 2019

	Budget 2019-2020: Based on projected enrollment of 620 students	YTD	Notes
Income:			
Activity Fee	\$18,600.00	\$17502.70	620 students x 75%=465 students x \$40
Staff PTSO membership	\$0.00	\$110.00	
Staff Directory Orders	\$0.00	\$40.00	
Fundraiser: Apples for Students	\$1,000.00		
Fundraiser:BoxTops	\$100.00		
Fundraiser: Spirit Night 1	\$100.00		
Fundraiser: Spirit Night 2	\$150.00		
Fundraiser: Spirit Wear	\$200.00		
Fundraiser: Valentine Grams	\$150.00		
Staff Appreciation: Paypal Income	\$0.00		
Spirit Wear Sales: Income	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00		
Donations	\$0.00		
Prior Year Funds	\$3,500.00	\$8,101.72	
Bank Reserve	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Fixed by Board Vote
Total Income:	\$28800.00	\$30754.42	
Expenses:			
Operating Expenses			
Accounting Fees	\$400.00	\$348.14	Auditing fees and purchase of Quicken software
Administrative Expenses	\$300.00		Needs to include membership forms, letters and postage
Bank Reserve	\$5,000.00		Fixed By Board Vote
Family Welcome Day	\$500.00	\$291.02	
Council: Membership Dues	\$450.00		Fixed amount by USC PTC
Hospitality	\$610.00		See Budget Detail Tab
Insurance	\$350.00	\$288.00	
Gifts	\$400.00		Secretaries/Custodians Thankyou's included
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$100.00		
Staff Directory Orders	\$0.00		
Activities			
Caught Being Good	\$750.00		
Chorus/Musical	\$400.00		Based on \$5/student
Academic Enhancements	\$1000.00		
Field Day	\$650.00		
Band	\$600.00		Based on \$5/student
Gift to School	\$3,650.00		Conservatively estimated surplus
Orchestra	\$300.00		Based on \$5/student
Yearbooks	\$240.00		6 books @\$40 (1 office, 1 Library and 4 guidance)
Red Ribbon Week	\$250.00		
School Clubs	\$2225.00	\$593.41	
Sharing and Caring	\$500.00		Funds from prior year used spirit wear sale
Spelling Bee	\$100.00		
Spirit Wear Payment	\$0.00		
Socials	\$3600.00	\$2475.59	See Budget Detail Tab
Staff Appreciation	\$1700.00	\$184.40	See Budget Detail Tab
Student Council	\$300.00		
Team Enhancement	\$3,000.00		
Test Snacks	\$500.00		
Valentine Grams	\$125.00		
8th grade Farewell	\$800.00		
Total Expenses	\$28800.00	\$4180.56	

Budget Details

Socials Expenses	\$3600.00	Possible Distribution
Staff Gift Cards	\$500.00	\$50 x3 Staff x 3 Events
DJs	\$900.00	\$300 x 3 Events
Food and Beverage	\$1200.00	\$400 x 3 Events
Special Items	\$1000.00	\$250 x 3 Events
Staff Appreciation	\$1,700.00	
Welcome Breakfast	\$400.00	
Warm Winter Wishes	\$100.00	Food Donations and Paypal Contributions from Parents
End of Year Events	\$1,200.00	
Hospitality	\$610.00	
Paper Products/food and water for the PTO meetings	\$200.00	PTSO and PTC meeting
PTSO May Luncheon	\$410.00	Year End Lucncheon