

Fort Couch Middle School PTSO General Meeting Minutes
September 17th, 2019

Call to Order

Meeting officially began at 9:40 a.m.

Reading and Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Statement of Treasurer – Prema Sridaran

Starting Balance as of 07/01/2019: \$ 13,101.72

Income-Deposits Made from 07/01/2019 to 09/16/2019

08/15/2019 – Student Activity Fee - \$680.00
08/15/2019 – Student Activity Fee - \$710.00
08/15/2019 - Student Activity Fee - \$1840.00
08/15/2019 – Student Activity Fee - \$2000.00
08/15/2019 – Student Activity Fee - Paypal to Bank transfer - \$1565.62
08/29/2019 – Student Activity Fee - \$640.00
08/29/2019 – Student Activity Fee - \$1880.00
08/29/2019 – Student Activity Fee - \$2000.00
08/29/2019 – Student Activity Fee – Paypal to Bank transfer - \$1160.00
09/06/2019 – Student Activity Fee - \$2360.00
09/06/2019 – Student Activity Fee – Paypal to Bank transfer - \$1437.08

Payments from 07/01/2019 to 09/16/2019

08/21/2019 Check# 1322 Steve Maffei- DJ deposit for all 3 socials - \$300.00
09/06/2019 Check# 1324 Shanno Rosenberry For social 1 concessions - \$196.34
09/06/2019 Check# 1326 Heather Warmke For social 1 Subzero Icecream - \$535
09/06/2019 Check# 1327 Betsy Boughner For social 1 giftcards for staff - \$150
09/06/2019 Check# 1328 Heather Warmke For social 1 additional Subzero Icecream - \$100
09/09/2019 Check# 1323 Olive Oils For social 1 Pizza - \$128.40
09/09/2019 Check# 1325 Steve Maffei- DJ fees For social 1(balance payment) - \$200.00
09/10/2019 Check# 1329 Prema Sridaran For Accounting-purchase of Quicken software - \$48.14

Ending Balance as of 09/16/2019: \$27,716.54

Pending Deposits

Student Activity fee – cash and check deposit - \$240 (6 checks)
Student Activity fee – Paypal transfer - \$80 (2 payments)

Pending Checks- vet to clear

Check#1330 Catherine Deep For Welcome Day - \$45.00

In addition, Prema informed the membership that the PTSO has been registered for the year with the state of PA as an official non-profit organization and that she will be taking care of the insurance soon.

Correspondence – Catherine Deep, PTSO Secretary
Catherine had no correspondence to report.

Catherine reported that the PTSO that the PTSO section of the Fort Couch website has been re-freshed and that there will be newsletters “From the Fort” periodically.

Reports

Teacher Representative - Katie Calano

Mrs. Calano was unable to attend this meeting and sent no report.

Executive Committee

President – Stacey Cobb

Stacey presented updates from the PTC meeting. The students will be receiving ALICE training in Sept/Oct and parents will receive notification before the training occurs. Ray Carson will be attending our November General meeting and membership is invited to attend and hear more about the ALICE training. There will be an Open Mic with the district in November. The No Place for Hate program is going to be started for the whole district. Finally, the online verification emails should be out in October and then the District Directories will come out in November. So far 83% of families have completed back-to-school-online.

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

2nd Vice President- Joe DeMar

Mr. DeMar mentioned that fall sports were well under way and that the transition into the new school year had been smooth.

There is a music staffing position that is still open, but the remainder of the building is set. New Hires include: Jessica Robinson – 8th Grade guidance counselor, Brett Slider – advanced math and push-in math classes, and Alexandria Mele in special education.

Mr. DeMar also touched on the No Place for Hate program and said that some FC students and parents will be invited to help organize. The program requires three large activities that will be spread throughout the year.

Mr. DeMar reported that a baby grand piano was being donated to the Fort Couch Chorus/Music room.

Board Advisor- Katy Loomis

Katy reviewed e-alerts and subscriptions and how they work to provide email for the PTSO, she also spoke about the email list that will be provided by the district to the PTSO once the Back-to-School-Online process is complete. The PTSO will then have to determine the best platform to use to take advantage of the list of email addresses.

Special Guests

School Board Member – Amy Billerbeck

Amy mentioned the positive and smooth start to the school year in the district and that Dr Rozzo is now a full year into his service as Superintendent of Schools in the district.

The School Board is happy to have two student representatives Karsen Damon and Gabriella Spina as members this year.

Lauren Madia has been named Assistant Director of Student Support Services, and the director position is still open at this time.

Amy provided an update on the construction project mentioning that the administration building at the stadium is almost complete. Move in for the administration staff will happen in mid-October and there is a temporary occupancy permit for the concession stand and restrooms for the football game. The swimming pool part of the project is slow and behind schedule. The contractors are working very hard to complete the project by the first High School swim meet, but the main hold up has been labor related. On a positive note the entire project is under budget with less than half of the contingency being used.

On Monday, November 11th renown author and internationally recognized child development expert, Dr. Michele Borba will deliver a presentation for parents and educators from 7-8:30 p.m. in the USC High School Theater entitled "Unselfie: Raising, successful kids in a plugged-in, trophy-driven world". There is a reception with the author at St. Paul's church from 5:30-6:15 that evening for anyone who participates in a book club on the book. Contact Amy for more information. This presentation is being offered together by St Paul's Church, the Youth Steering Committee, the USC Foundation and the Twp of USC.

Amy also reported that Fall Blast – a social event for middle school students sponsored by the Youth Steering Committee – will be Saturday, October 19th and they will be looking for volunteers.

Standing and Reporting Committees

- 1) Apples for Students, Aileen Atencio
 - a) There will be an email soon to tell parents how to sign up for Apples for Students as well as ShopNSave Seeds. Box Tops will no longer be collected at Fort Couch, so families can send them in to the other school buildings.
- 2) Band, Shelby Wherry
 - a) Over 110 students are currently in the FC Band programs. The Welcome to Band Breakfast was held the second day of school and the students have bene off and running ever since. There are approximately 85 kids participating in Fort on the Field which is scheduled for Friday, October 4th at the High School football game versus Mt. Lebanon for all those interested in the High School Marching Band, including instrumentalist, auxiliary and band managers.
- 3) Chorus, Catherine Deep
 - a) Chorus is off to a great start. Students have begun meeting with Mr. Hunsberger during period 7 for rehearsals and auditions for Mixed Group and Women's Ensemble are coming up at the end of the month. The schedule of Chorus events and performances is available on Mr. H's website.
- 4) Orchestra, Prema Sridaran

- a) There are 55 students involved in Orchestra this year and Mrs. Shoemaker has begun rehearsals. On Sept 30th 7th graders will be able to audition for Honors Orchestra.
- 5) Staff Appreciation, Michele Mandler
 - a) The Staff Appreciation Welcome Breakfast was held on Friday, Sept 13th and the staff says Thank You! Thank you to the parents who organized it as well as all those that donated items.
- 6) Spirit Wear, Susan Coyle
 - a) Susan reported that there will be a spirit wear sale for Fort Couch before the holidays again, but the dates will likely be moving up so as to avoid the last minute push right before the winter break. There was some discussion of different items that might be included in the sale.
- 7) Socials, Betsy Boughner, Shannon Rosenberry, Gail Groniger
 - a) The first social was a huge success – 409 students attended out of 640 in the school. The next social is on Thur 11/7.
- 8) Spirit Nights, Sian Howell
 - a) FC PTSO Spirit Night at Chipotle is Oct 16th from 4-8pm – please remember to tell them you are with FC PTSO.
- 9) 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
- 10) Welcome Day, Catherine Deep and Stacey Cobb
 - a) The event was well attended, especially by 7th grade students. It was held in conjunction with the New to the District student orientation meeting, students could walk through the building, find their homerooms, get a free stylus door prize, socialize with friends, and enjoy a popsicle.
- 11) Yearbook, Stacey Cobb
 - a) Stacey will be meeting with the committee for yearbook soon. So far pictures have been taken for the 1st day of school, the 1st social, some sports. The yearbook for Fort Couch will be a soft back covered book this year and orders will be done one time later in the school year.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

There will be no general meeting in October, so the next general meeting of the Fort Couch PTSO will be held on Tuesday, November 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Deep, Secretary.