



Ft Couch PTSO - General Meeting
Nov. 15, 2022 | 9:30am
Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Meeting in Library

Executive Board:

Carrie Fick, President • Elizabeth Taylor, 1st Vice President • Erin Peterson, 2nd Vice President • Amy Quevedo, Finance • Michelle Urban, Secretary • Sarah Beitler, Board Advisor • Eliza Luxbacher, Teacher Liaison

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:33am (attendance 1 in person plus board and 7 virtual)

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading/Approval of Minutes – minutes approved by Elizabeth Taylor and Susan Coyle

Correspondence Michelle Urban – Verbal correspondence from Tony thanking us for the food after the social. Also, from the various staff members thanking us for club donations etc.

Statement of the Treasurer Amy Quevedo (read by Elizabeth Taylor) - see Treasurer's Report on website.

Special Guests: Eliza Luxbacher (Read by Carrie Fick)

Reach Overview

Reach Out is an event in which we team together to raise money to support organizations in our community that have meaning to us as a school and as a community. All six teams will be racing to collect the most money in effort to champion Reach Out 2022. In 2021, students raised \$21,573.90 through the annual Reach Out campaign that spanned from Dec. 8 through Dec. 21, 2021. The team that collects the most money will receive a free afternoon complete with food and fun experiences, with input considered from the winning team.

This year, Reach Out will run from Monday, December 12th to Thursday, December 22nd. The fundraiser will culminate in a school-wide assembly on Thursday, December 22nd.

We donate to four charities per year; three are ubiquitous each year, and one is selected annually to fulfill the fourth organization. This year, our charities are as follows:

The Miracle League of the South Hills: The Miracle League of the South Hills envisions a community where all people with disabilities have opportunities to enhance their lives as athletes, teammates, and in everyday life.

The Miracle Field believes in bringing the game of baseball to children who may have never had the opportunity to play on a real field. By building a custom-designed field with a cushioned rubberized surface to help prevent injuries, wheelchair accessible dugouts and a completely flat surface to eliminate any barriers to wheel-chair bound or visually impaired players, the field has eliminated the challenges that prevent many children from playing the game of baseball.

In addition to giving kids the chance to play the game the Miracle League's "Buddies" program creates relationships between kids. The Miracle League believes that the baseball field is a place that can connect all children by building teamwork and friendship.

Giant Eagle Gift Cards to Upper St Clair Township Police Department: Each year Reach Out donates \$5,000 in Giant Eagle gift cards to the Upper St. Clair Police Department. Police officers then hand deliver these gift cards to families in Upper St. Clair who need a little extra help during the holiday season.

Bike MS: Bike MS is a fundraising event for Multiple Sclerosis research that involves more than 1,500 people cycling from north of Pittsburgh to Lake Erie over the span of two days and 150 miles. Fort Couch has a team of teachers, parents, friends, and, occasionally, students from across the district who train all spring while also raising as much money as possible in support of MS research. Mr. Calvetti, an eighth grade science teacher, leads this organization at FC.

Hope for Haiti: Each year Fort Couch students team up with the Yahve-Jire Children's Foundation to collect and deliver much needed supplies to children in a small village outside of Port-au Prince, Haiti. The YJCF runs a small orphanage, a school with 60 students in grades K-5, and serves many other children in the town of Croix-des-Bouquets. Mrs. Lemon, our French teacher, leads this organization at FC.

Student council will be meeting this Thursday to begin discussing Reach Out. Information will be shared with both students and families soon. Students will be provided with a letter that they can share with extended family and friends to ask for support. Further information will be provided via email as well as social media to families soon.

Students may bring money into school. It does not have to be a large amount! Consider donating a portion of money from your chores or reaching out to extended family members for support. Every homeroom will have an envelope for the funds. Students are to bring Reach Out envelopes down to the office immediately following homeroom each morning.

Checks can be written out to Fort Couch Middle School. All donations are tax-deductible. Simply make your check out to "Fort Couch Middle School" and be sure to write "Reach Out" on the memo line. Families can also donate in cash.

Contact Ms. Luxbacher: eluxbacher@uscsd.k12.pa.us or reach out to your homeroom student council representatives for more information.

Reports:

President - Carrie Fick –

We have about 85-90% of our membership fees paid.

Clubs – kids are having a blast, and we were able to donate \$1600 to the in-house clubs this semester and plan on doing the same for the next semester.

PTC – needs a vice president, STEAM chair, and a Welcome Day chair. If interested, you can email uscptcpresident@gmail.com for more information and the details.

Spelling Bee – will be January 31st at 3:30 pm in the library, volunteers will be needed about 4-5 parents.

1st Vice President - Elizabeth Taylor – No Report

2nd Vice President – Erin Peterson

Social was very well received, carnival games and raffle baskets were a big hit. A big Thank You to everyone who helped make it happen from donations to volunteers to committee chairs.

Reach Out is just around the corner and is a great way to give back.

Caught You Being Good will be happening again this year. This is a way for the students to get recognized for doing something nice or helping in some way. They are given raffle tickets to be turned in for a chance to win a gift card and get a piece of candy, too.

Clubs are going great.

No word from School to Watch

International Education Week is under way with different speakers coming in every day to talk to the students about different cultures from dance to origami and more.

Appreciation Days will be recognized for different staffing group with candy bars and cards. For example Nov. 18th is substitute teacher day.

Board Advisor - Sarah Beitler – No Report

Teacher Liason - Eliza Luxbacher – see guest speaker notes

Standing Committees:

Staff Appreciation - Gina Swanson & Sarah Beitler –

Upcoming Staff Appreciation events:

Dec. 20 – Warm Winter Wishes – Cookie trays and lunch

Feb. 10 – SOUPer bowl lunch – hot soups donated by parents to feed the staff

Apr. 14 – Spring Fling – charcuterie/grazing tables for lunch

May 4 – Last Hurrah/Raffle Basket – back by popular demand!!

Sign up Genius will be posted to donate items or money to help with the costs of the events.

Yearbook - Pam Scureman -

Email will be sent out for needs for photos

Homeroom photos were taken

Social photos were taken

Social Committee - Natalea Oliverio – (Read by Carrie Fick)

Social was a big success

Next Social will be in February finalizing the date still.

Spirit Night - Jessica Strub –

First Spirit Night will Nov 16th at Chipotle

Additional upcoming events:

December TBD at Athela

January 18th – BJ's

Chick-Fil-A – TBD

Reach Out – need orange juice container for the change, please wash and dry them before bringing them in.

Band and Chorus – concerts coming up December 8th – Chorus and December 13th – Band

Old Business - none

New Business: none

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 10:05am

