



Ft Couch PTSO - General Meeting February 21, 2023, Minutes

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

Ft Couch PTSO - General Meeting – Called to order at 9:36 am 10 attendees (6 in person including Board Members and 5 Virtual)

Reading and Approval of Past Minutes – Approved by Elizabeth Taylor and seconded by Susan Coyle

Correspondence: (*Michelle Urban*)- Ham and Cheese sent a Thank you for using them, and said they enjoyed working with us.

Statement of the Treasurer: Read by Our Vice President Elizabeth Taylor – See Website for Treasurer's Report – February's Meeting Tab

Reports:

Teacher Representative – (Ms. Eliza Luxbacher) – Read by Carrie Fick

We had a very successful Valentine's Day social at the beginning of the month. This year, we made the theme a Sock Hop in an effort to honor the non-profit, Socks With a Mission. A Fort Couch student, Audrey Wetterau, developed and spearheads this organization in tandem with her mom, Amy. Together they collect and donate socks to individuals experiencing homelessness in Pittsburgh and throughout the country. Through our Sock Hop, we collected about 300 pairs of socks (an estimate - we are still working on counting!) We are excited to share these materials with individuals and communities who will greatly benefit from their warmth. The socks will be picked up early this week at Fort Couch.

Additionally, Ms. Lux has been working in collaboration with the high school to create a partnership between the middle school and high school student councils. Students from the high school council visited last week to discuss possible projects moving forward. In March, high school members will be coming to our student council meeting to facilitate leadership experiences and to establish a conversation between councils. We are excited to team with and to learn from the high school students and to support the transition to the high school student council, too.

President's Report: Carrie Fick

Thank you to everyone who made February a success. We had a very busy month with many fun events. Our Valentine Gram profit was \$195 dollars, which we will be donating to Socks with A Mission.

We collected at least three large bins of socks to donate to the organization. Thank you to everyone who contributed socks and purchased valentine grams. We have leftover lollipops that will be used for other events throughout the year.

Our Fort Couch PTSO website has links for parents to submit pictures for the yearbook via email. There is a yearbook tab at the bottom of the PTSO tabs with all of the individual events/sports for the year.

PTC UPDATE : During our last PTC meeting, the head USC police officer, Sean Bryson, spoke about USC's Safe2Say program. This is an app that allows anonymous reporting, when someone is concerned about another person's wellbeing. The appropriate USC staff follow-up with the student to make sure everything is ok. He mentioned that there was even a case where a USC student was concerned about the mental well-being of a friend that had moved to another country. The appropriate people in USC then reached out to people in that country to try to help get help for that student. The app is called Safe2Say, and can be a good resource for us to use if we need to.

The PTC closed it's non-active committees - Gifted and Talented (GATE), Performing Arts committee and the Sharing and Caring committee.

We are still in need of a PTC Welcoming Committee Chair for next fall. The jobs of this committee chair would be to help plan the Welcome Night for new USC residents. This is usually held at the highschool prior to the first home football game. The chair would plan the date, get volunteers, buy giftbags, correspond with the schools, get the football tickets and get donations for food.

The executive members of Ft. Couch PTSO are trying to think ahead for next year. We will be looking for someone to fill the secretary role, which is a 2-year position. We are also looking for a Vice President for next year, which would then become President the following year, and advisor the year after that, so that's a 3-year position. You could also email me at ftcouchptso@gmail.com with any questions about what the position entails.

1st Vice President (*Elizabeth Taylor*) – Possible secretary for next term, Anne Clark

2nd Vice President (*School Principal Erin Peterson*)

Thank you to everyone for all everyone's help with Valentine Grams and all other needs.

Souper Bowl, staff appreciation event, was a huge success. All the staff loved it.

Testing dates for April and May are being set for PSSA and Keystones

Fort Couch Musical is being finalized.

PA schools to watch award being presented on Sunday, February 26th, in King of Prussia, PA.

Next Year, we are looking into possibly have some more athletics introduced to the school.

Just completed Team meetings for the new semester.

Looking into doing Homeroom Pizza Party for next year, also.

Board Advisor (*Sarah Beitler*) – no report

Standing Committees

Staff Appreciation - *Gina Swanson & Sarah Beitler* – Read by Carrie Fick

On Feb. 10th, the Ft. Couch PTSO held a 'Souper Bowl' luncheon. There were 20 crockpots of soup donated by parents. We had a table full of bread/rolls/pepperoni rolls/soup crackers. We packed up the leftover soup in to-go soup containers, and I hear that was also a great idea, as teachers made a B-line to the refrigerator to be able to get some of those containers to take home afterward. This luncheon was a huge hit with everyone. Some have said that it has been their favorite lunch of the year so far, and that they feel very appreciated. The unofficial winner of the most popular soup (not that this was a contest at all) is our PTSO Board Advisor, Sarah Beitler, with her beef stew recipe. Other favorites were the African Peanut Soup and Vegan Tomato Bisque. Jessica Gombar, owner of the Pie Place's pepperoni rolls also were gone quickly. This entire luncheon cost the PTSO only \$90.00 to hold, because everything else was graciously donated and made by the parents. Thank you.

Our next staff appreciation event will be a Spring Fling/charcuterie/grazing tables luncheon on April 14, followed by the Last Harrah/Raffle Basket luncheon in May.

Also, a thank you to John Renford for making 4 signs for the Staff Appreciation events.

Yearbook - *Pam Scureman* – Read by Carrie Fick

We will have links on our website for parents and students to email their photos for consideration for the yearbook. That will be available soon.

Socials Committee - *The social committee chairs, Natalea Oliverio and Amy Hollingsworth* – Read by Carrie Fick.

The modern day sockhop social was a success. We had DJ Steve Maffei Jr., as well as the Ham and Cheese Photo Booth at the event.

Spirit Nights - *Jessica Strub* – Read by Carrie Fick

Our BJ's Brewhouse spirit night was a success. We were able to raise \$. Our next Fort Couch Spirit Day event will be Tuesday, Feb. 28th - 11:00am - 8:00pm

Spelling Bee – Read by Carrie Fick

The Fort Couch Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, January 31 at 3:30 in the FC Library. Frau Weaver, FC German instructor, was the pronouncer and volunteers served as judges. There were 20 spellers. (5th place: Ahana Mendhi 4th place: Rohith Kumar 3rd place: Avantika Palayekar 2nd place: Siddharth Kumar) 1st: Raana Parchuri, in the 15th round with the winning word "iterance". Thank you to the Ft Couch PTSO for their continued sponsorship and support to provide the Scripps Spelling Bee program to 7th and 8th graders

Arts in USC – Read by Carrie Fick

We are underway with planning Arts in USC for this year. Bethany Salmen is our PTC Chair. More details will be coming very soon. The subject/topic for the artwork will most likely be announced sometime in the next few weeks. I will send out an email and a Facebook post.

Old Business: Already spoken about old business.

New Business: No new business

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am

Important Dates:

Feb. 28 - Chic-Fil-A Spirit Night

March 1 - PTC meeting - 9:30am-virtual

March 8 - PIE Coffee Connection - 9-11am, Pie Place

March 21 - Fort Couch General PTSO Meeting - 9:30am - LGI room with virtual option

March 27 - School Board Meeting - 7pm

March 31 - NO SCHOOL – IN-SERVICE DAY

April 3 – April 7 – NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK

April 17 - PIE Sensory-friendly movie night - The Super Mario Bos. Movie - 5pm, Phoenix - Bridgeville