



Ft Couch PT SO - General Meeting March 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 PT SO - General Meeting – Called to order at 9:35 am attendees (9 in person including Board Members and 7 Virtual)

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

Correspondence: *(Michelle Urban)*- Team 3 sent a thank you to the PT SO for the Pi Day Pies.

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

Guest Speaker- Fort Couch Police Officer Tom White –

Officer Tom joined Fort Couch in 2018. He previously worked in the Mt. Lebanon police department as a detective. He also serves on the board for the Crimes Against Children Task Force. His duties at the school range from helping with drop-off and pick up of the students, monitoring the school cameras, assisting in the cafeteria at lunch, and he helps to mentor the students about cyber-crimes. As part of the Crimes Against Children Task Force, he regularly attends meeting to learn about different trends in crimes against children and to compare notes on these types of crimes.

Reports:

Teacher Representative – (Ms. Eliza Luxbacher)

Student Council is working in collaboration with the high school to create a partnership between the middle school and high school student councils. High school student council members came 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. Both the high school and Fort Couch are working together for some type of fundraiser in the spring.

Team 2 will be having their Field Trip for raising the most money for Outreach fundraiser in December.

President's Report: Carrie Fick

We have a lot going on at the school. Much of it will be covered in the committee reports, so I will try to make my report short. One thing that I am realizing, as we work our way through the school year, and as we develop our budget for next school year, is how involved the PT SO is with funding so many events/clubs for our staff and students. Thank you to everyone who paid your PT SO student fee, and to

those who have donated food, money or your time to make all of these wonderful events happen. The executive board has met to plan the budget for next year. The proposed budget for next school year is posted on the PTSO's website, and will be posted there for a month-long review before we officially vote to approve it. If you haven't been to our website, you go to the district's webpage, search the schools to click on 'fort couch,' then you click on PTSO to find everything that we post on there. I also sent it to you in the email last night with this meeting's agenda.

PTC UPDATE : The next PTC meeting is Wednesday, April 12 at 9:30am. It's a virtual meeting. You'll need to RSVP to attend. This is a good chance to be able to hear updates on the school district from our superintendent, Dr. Rozzo, our school board members and the chairs of the various PTC committees.

The Musical tryouts are underway. The musical is going to be Little Shop of Horrors. Voice auditions were last week, and dance auditions were yesterday. The musical will be on May 5, 6 and 7.

Spirit Wear sales are going on right now, and I will have Susan Coyle talk about that in the committee reports.

Yearbook - Please make sure to order a yearbook if you think there is even a small possibility that your child wants one. Once the yearbooks are delivered, it's an exciting few days for the kids. They have their friends sign their yearbooks. Many students who didn't feel like they wanted one usually do when they see other kids with them. We may not have an extra supply of yearbooks for kids to buy when that time comes.

The executive members of Ft. Couch PTSO are thinking ahead for next year. We are 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. If you are interested, you could also email me with any questions about what the position entails.

1st Vice President (*Elizabeth Taylor*) – Thank you to everyone for all your help.

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

Thank you to everyone for all everyone's help.

Thank you to PTSO for including myself and Gordon in the meeting, and for all the assistance the PTSO is giving to the school. A few new items that we are excited about are the Couch Cash program and the Homeroom pizza parties, both to begin next school year.

School to Watch celebration is planned for May 22nd in the morning. We will receive our banner and have an assembly for the students.

Athletic/Activity surveys were sent out to the students for ideas for new athletics and activities for the school. Meeting have been scheduled with Mr. Holzer and Ms. Pfender.

Testing is scheduled – 8th grade will have ELA, Math and Science PSSA along with Algebra Keystone Testing – 7th will have ELA and Math PSSA testing.

Field Trips for each team are being schedule for some time in May.

Field Day is being planned for June, and it will be back at Fort Couch.

Board Advisor (*Sarah Beitler*) – no report

Standing Committees

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

Two fort couch families donated 14 pies for our staff to enjoy on Pi Day (March 14). It was well received so it may become a staff appreciation event next school year. We also will be purchasing more Sarris candy bars for Fort Couch administration to hand out on special recognition days during the rest of the year. And since the bus drivers cannot attend many staff appreciation events the staff appreciation committee will be creating goodie bags for the bus drivers to be handed out on May 4th. We are still looking for raffle basket donations.

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.

Yearbook - *Pam Scureman* – Read by Carrie Fick – See President's Report for information

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

Jess is in the process of trying to secure a few more dates for 2 more spirit nights - possibly at Piada and Chipotle. Chipotle was by far our most profitable, so she's checking to see if we can do more than one per year.

Spirit Wear – Susan Coyle

Sale will run from March 16th – 24th, as of now we have 26 orders, and the black sweatshirt seems to be the most popular item.

Spelling Bee – Read by Carrie Fick

On Saturday, March 4, Raana Parchuri, a seventh grade student at Fort Couch Middle School in Upper St. Clair, earned the title of Champion at the 73rd annual Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee. In May, Raana will represent the region at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. Congratulations and good luck Raana!

Arts in USC – Read by Carrie Fick

Details are still being worked out. We should have information to report at the April PTSO meeting.

Old Business: Already spoken about old business.

New Business: No new business

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am

Important Dates:

March

- 27: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 30: PMEA Music Performance Assessments
- 31: NO SCHOOL – teacher-in-service

April

- 1: US Youth Volleyball League (ages 7-15):
- 3-5: Track Camp (gr. K-8)
- 3-7: NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess
- 12: Parent Teacher Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 13: USC Band Festival (gr. 5-12), 7 p.m.
- 14: Third Quarter Report Cards (K-gr. 8)
- 17: PIE Sensory Movie Night-The Super Mario Bros. Movie: 5:30 p.m., Phoenix, Bridgeville
- 18: Fort Couch PTSO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 24: School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25: PSSA ELA testing, grades 3-8
- 25: Marching Band Informational Meeting, 7 p.m., Boyce theater
- 26: PSSA ELA testing, grades 3-8
- 28: PSSA ELA testing, grades 3-8

May

- 2,3 - PSSA Math
- 5,6,7 - Fort Couch Musical - Little Shop of Horrors
- 9,10 - PSSA Science
- 16-17 - Keystone Exams
- 18 - Celebration of Learning - EARLY DISMISSAL
- 20- USC Community Day

June

- 1 - 8th Grade Farewell
- 2 - Field Day (rain date is June 5)
- 20- USC Kennywood Da