

**Upper St. Clair High School PTSO General Meeting
September 18, 2019
9:30am - 11am**

Call to Order

The meeting on September 18, 2019 started at 9:40 am with the swearing in of incoming President Deonna Dreher by Shannon Gallagher. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was called to order. Minutes from the meeting last May were approved.

Executive Board Reports

President Report ~ Deonna Dreher

Deonna thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She is working with Dr. Wagner to analyze data around the board meetings in order to meet the needs of the parents. More to come.

1st Vice President ~ Beth Thomas

No report

Treasurer ~ Priyanka Sharma

Report was read by Amy Zahalsky. Report is attached to these minutes.

The budget will be approved at the next meeting. Based upon projected dues, income is expected to be \$13,000. This report can be found on the PTSO website.

Secretary ~ Amy Zahalsky

No report

Advisor ~ Shannon Gallagher

No report

Guests

School Board Member ~ Daphna Gans

Daphna stated that the school year has gotten off to a great start in all buildings. On November 11, 2019 a special speaker is being brought to the district. Dr. Michele Borba, the author of "Unselfie" will speak at 7 pm in the HS theater. This will be a free event open to the public. "Unselfie" focuses on raising empathetic kids and also aligns with the district's wellness goals.

Daphna also reported the district will be rolling out a new program called "No Place for Hate" which is run by the Anti-Defamation League. It also addresses holistic wellness.

Daphna updated everyone on the status of the construction project at the High School. On October 12, the Central office will move to their new space. Hopefully the pool will be ready by the end of November. There has been a shortage of skilled workers, so construction has been delayed. Fines will be assessed on the construction company if the work is not finished on time.

Standing Committees

Membership ~ Bhagwati Subramaniam and Aarthi Sriram

As of September 16, there are 400 families who have joined the PTSO. There will be a table at open house. In addition, parents can register on line or drop a check off in the office.

Music Department ~ Julie Halpner

Auditions and casting for the Fall Play are completed. Pre-auditions for the Musical are completed. The whole music department will take a trip to Nashville the first weekend in May. The band festival is October 5th. Please come!

Caring and Sharing ~ Daphna Gans

No report

Staff Appreciation ~ Michelle Mandler

No report

Counseling Support Fund ~ Counseling and Board

No report

Faculty Delegates

Tanya Chothani ~ Teacher representative

See Attached

Dr. Rullo ~ Counseling Department

On September 5, 2019 the counseling department hosted the senior meeting. College applications have started to go out. On September 12 there was a financial aid meeting. There will also be a freshman parents meeting which will tie into a freshman seminar. There will be a college fair on Tuesday October 8 at Cool Springs from 6-9 pm. It is recommended that students and parents go early. Natural helper surveys were distributed on September 19th. Field day is October 11th, which is a half day.

Dan Zelenski ~ Assistant Principal

There will be a Walk for Wellness with Peters township HS on Saturday Oct. 12 from noon until 4 pm. Donations from this event are being accepted to help fund Broglie Boxes, which are boxes that contain mental health and stress relief items. This event is being done to raise awareness around depressing and anxiety.

Brooke Tarcson ~ Student Council/Student Activities

Students participated in the Rush activities. Over 70 clubs were showcased. All information about clubs (including teacher sponsor and student leader information) can be found on the activities tab on the USC website.

There is a clothing drive to benefit St. Vincent de Paul. Bins can be found in the HS lobby through this Friday.

The Senior cruise will be Sunday, September 22 from 5:45 pm to 9 pm. Currently, there are 237 kids signed up.

Homecoming spirit week will begin September 23. The theme is "Hoe-down". HoCo tickets are being sold during lunch mods. Cash or checks are accepted. It is a semi-formal dance. Jeans and sneakers are discouraged. Homecoming dance will be Saturday, September 28th. Doors open at 7:30 pm. There will be a DJ in the gym. Kids must arrive by 8:30 pm, and it ends at 10 pm. Cookies and water will be served. The homecoming King and Queen will be crowned at the home game. The theme for the student section will be "cowboy".

Please do not worry about class dues until Senior year. More information to follow.

Dr. Wagner ~ Principal and 2nd Vice President

PTSO survey results were explained. 200 people responded to the survey. See attached. As of now, there are 6 PTSO meetings per year. A reduction in meeting frequency is under consideration, and possibly an evening meeting, or FB live event.

Dr. Wagner has standing monthly meetings with a variety of student groups including student council, in-season sports captains, student school board representatives, the arts leaders (drum major, yearbook, student play, and musical directors).

Dr. Wagner is also hosting open house in Cafe 321. Students are welcome to stop by and share concerns.

PAC meeting dates (including an evening meeting) can be found on the website. The next PAC meeting will be September 25th in the home of Daphna Gans.

Professional development will take place October 11 and focus on technology initiatives. On November 1st, professional development will focus on compassion and mindfulness. On November 11, Dr. Borba will meet with the faculty to discuss her book, "Unselfie".

Dr. Wagner has an open door policy. Please reach out to him if you have any questions or concerns.

Dan Beck ~ Assistant Principal

Dan reported that the High School has begun streamlining communication in a more effective way.

He recently moved into the township and feels equally supported as a community member and a school leader.

So far, there have been very few infractions this year. Overall, the year has started off very smoothly. All the staff has been reading Dr. Borba's book. There will also be a screening of the film "Screenagers" at the library.

The Youth Steering committee has a lot of concerns and questions about vaping. They will be bringing in experts in December for a special event. If you have any ideas, concerns, or connections, please contact Dan Beck.

Batool Nulwala ~ PTC President

There will be a book club meeting regarding "Unselfie" during the daytime and possibly evening. Survey forthcoming.

ALICE training - teachers are still being training and Chief Bryson will inform parents when the students will receive training. The training will be age appropriate and scaffolded according to age level. Daphan Gans noted that the training felt very empowering. It was gentle and calm and they expect it will be well received by the students.

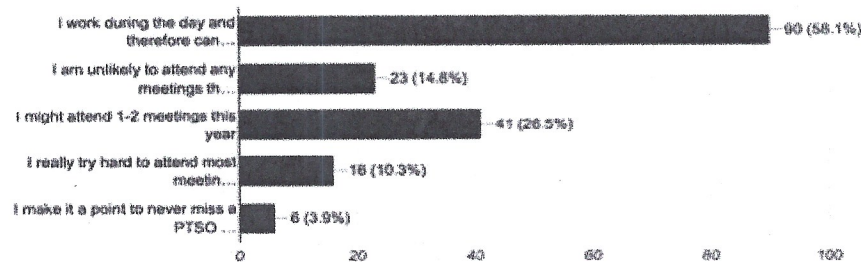
PTSO has chair committee openings if anyone is interested.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am

Respectfully submitted by Amy Zahalsky

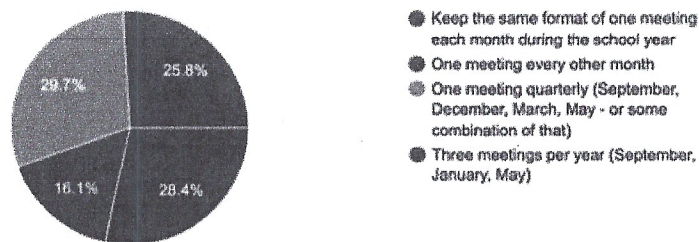
This year's PTSO Executive Board is interested in maximizing attendance and engagement. While we understand that time is very valuable to everyone and information can be found on websites and through emails, PTSO bylaws state that we must hold regular meetings during the school year. As a result, we would like to know how many meetings you would be willing to attend throughout the year.

155 responses



Specifically, our bylaws state that we must hold at least 3 meetings per year. Tell us how many meetings you think we should hold to best serve you.

155 responses



What is your preferred way to get information about the high school?

155 responses

