

**Upper St. Clair High School PTSO General Meeting**  
**February 19, 2020**  
**9:30am - 11am**

**Call to Order**

The meeting on February 19, 2020 started at 9:35 am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was called to order. Minutes from the meeting from January 2019 were approved.

**Executive Board Reports**

**President Report ~ Deonna Dreher**

Deonna thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and then she introduced three student presentations.

SHOP USC will now have a store open to the public on Fridays starting April 17 and ending May 15th. The shopping hours will be from 8-12:30 pm in the theater lobby. The shop will also be open during the Town Hall South speaker series. You can now make purchases online at [SHOPUSC.org](http://SHOPUSC.org). In addition, SHOP USC will gladly accept any arts and crafts donations.

Rebecca DeMar spoke about a Best Buddies fundraiser which will take place on March 15th in the LGI room from 5-7:30 pm. There will be a \$5 entrance fee for dinner. Lots of baskets, 50/50 raffle and more. Please RSVP.

Julia Roeschenthaler presented on behalf of the St. Clair newspaper which is hoping to re-launch a paper version in the near future. Julia is applying for a micro grant from the PTSO to cover ongoing site fees. They have already collected \$400 through a GoFundMe donation drive.

**1st Vice President ~ Beth Thomas**

No report

**Treasurer ~ Priyanka Sharma**

The USCHS PTSO treasurer records for 2018/2019 are currently under audit as required by our by-laws. Denise Henning, CPA and parent volunteer is conducting the audit. Results will be posted on the website under Treasurer Resources as soon as as available. As of now, income is \$13,943.51. This report can be found on the PTSO website.

**Secretary ~ Amy Zahalsky**

No report

**Advisor ~ Shannon Gallagher**

No report

**School Board Member ~ Daphna Gans**

School Board Report - High School

The substitute teacher program is progressing very well. Over 100 community members attended information sessions, and about 40 interviews have been conducted.

We are looking forward to the beginning of the new strategic plan process. You may remember that we engaged in this process five years ago, and many parents were involved. Our current strategic plan lasts through the end of 2020, so we still have time. Preparations are underway to develop the new process. Initial emails have started to go out. We would like to see more student involvement and continued high parental involvement.

Jennifer Schnore has filled the vacant spot on the School Board.

The Board is reviewing and updating all board policies.

On February 24th at 7 pm at the Board Meeting (Central Office), there will be a presentation on “No Place for Hate”. All are welcome to attend. Recordings of the meetings are available on the district website.

As always, please feel free to contact Daphna with any questions/comments.

**Standing Committees**

**Membership ~ Bhagwati Subramaniam and Aarthi Sriram**

No report

**Music Department ~ Julie Halpner**

**Theater Department**

Rehearsals and preparations are underway for the *Shrek, The Musical*, which will be performed March 6-8 and March 12-14. Tickets are on sale now. This is a family friendly, fantastic show, so please consider coming to support the students!

**Caring and Sharing ~ Daphna Gans**

No report

### **Staff Appreciation ~ Michelle Mandler**

Staff appreciation took place on February 17, 2020. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and leftovers were delivered to the fire station and police department.

### **Counseling Support Fund ~ Counseling and Board**

No report

### **Faculty Delegates**

#### **Tanya Chothani ~ Teacher representative**

1. **From Luke Loboda, Social Studies Teacher:** On February 6, 2020, PA Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Mary Jane Bowes, spoke to American Law and Justice students. The students also reenacted a case for the judge.



2. **From Jack Zebo, Biology Teacher:** In Honors Bio Topics, students continue to take data on their plant experiments. Students have been looking at the process of germination (a seed becoming active) and the differences between flowering plants (aka Monocots and Dicots). Next, they will be dissecting a flower and checking for the nectar stored in the flower.

Honors Bioinformatics students are looking at how organisms are classified based on their characteristics vs. their genetics. They will be using online tools to generate phylogenetic trees of some cone snails. Then, they will be researching some of the genes in the coronavirus and comparing the genetics of the current virus to past SARS outbreaks.

3. **From Dan Zelenski, Assistant Principal:** This Friday, February 21, the No Place For Hate committee is teaming up with the Black Student Union and the Multicultural Club to implement

student programming centered around Black History Month. Forty-four students will be facilitating small group/interactive activities aimed at helping students understand the challenges and obstacles faced by African-Americans, past and present.

### **Mrs. Kirk ~ Counseling Department**

The downtown college fair that was held last week was well attended by Juniors.

Save the date! October 6th - Cool Springs Fall College Fair.

The guidance department is very busy working with Juniors on choosing colleges and training programs. Sophomores are being taught about Naviance. Course selection is taking place this week.

### **Dan Zelenski ~ Assistant Principal**

The Summer STEAM academy (June 22-26) is being revamped for this summer. Stay tuned for more details.

Diversity week is coming in the Spring.

### **Brooke Tarcson ~ Student Council/Student Activities**

Safari Sadies was EXCITING! Fog machine caused the fire alarms to go off! USC Fire Department came and checked everything out. Kids were only delayed about 15 minutes but they were able to wait in the main lobby which was great because no one was stuck outside.

Student Council is focusing on wellness this year. They had a little event for International Stress Awareness week in November. They had students write what stresses them out and how they manage their stress. Those ideas are hanging in the nutrition center.

They also celebrated the 100th day of school. Each student got a glow stick with a note that said "Congrats! You are 100 days brighter" and a lollipop.

On March 20th - we will celebrate the International Day of Happiness with some smiley face treats and a DJ during lunch mods!

U-THON is quickly approaching - We have a very small spirit-wear sale going on right now, ending Friday. We will also be asking for donations from the community to help feed the kids during the night. Look for that coming soon. U-THON will take place on March 27th. The community is invited from 6:30pm - 9:00pm here at USCHS to attend.

### **Dr. Wagner ~ Principal and 2nd Vice President**

The next PAC meeting is Wednesday Feb. 26. It will be an open forum.

There has been great enthusiasm in the new substitute teacher program. Rest assured, this is a rigorous process, and the district is committed to hiring only highly qualified applicants.

There is an upcoming Alumni affairs event - stay tuned for details.

On Feb.. 14th, there was some technology training due to a software update. In addition, all teachers participated in Act 71 state mandated suicide prevention training.

**Dan Beck ~ Assistant Principal**

A group of students is traveling to Scranton to pitch their bid for host the State Student Council meeting at USC in 2021.

Feb. 28 - NAMI conference in Pittsburgh

Feb. 20 - Streams Children for Children Fundraiser, with the assistance of HS students

Feb 22 - Winter Blast for Boyce students at the Rec Center

The 4th phase (local) of the Leadership Academy is being revamped to include a partnership with the 6th grade Deer Valley trip.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am

Respectfully submitted by Amy Zahalsky