

**Upper St. Clair
PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
General Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2023, 9:30 am,**

Meeting Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdpJb34ULIZqlfZgqEbyZ2BCeSr34RI6uO9c4bfAHYVKIS2Fg/viewform>

Call to Order 9:30 am

Opening

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Agenda
 - Motion by Kelly (Baker), seconded by Elizabeth (Ft. Couch)
- Approval of Minutes from June 7, 2023 meeting
 - Motion by Elizabeth (Ft. Couch), seconded by Shanna (Advisor)

Reports

Executive Committee:

- **President** - Pamela Scureman
 - Good to see everyone. Thank you for attending.
- **1st Vice President** - Dan Larsen
 - (Nothing to report)
- **Treasurer**- Sarah Cranganu
 - For July 2023, the opening balance of the general fund account was \$14,234.23.
 - Receipts totaled \$0.00 and disbursements totaled \$301.77.
 - The closing balance was \$13,932.46.
 - Disbursements were for Founder's Day awards and the Changeover Luncheon.
 - For August 2023, the opening balance of the general fund account was \$13,932.46.
 - Receipts totaled \$0.00 and disbursements totaled \$0.00.
 - The closing balance was \$13,932.46.
 - These figures have been reconciled with the bank statements from July and August 2023.
- **Secretary** - Jaime Fitzgerald
 - (Nothing to report)
- **Board Advisor** - Shanna Caplan
 - Good morning. Welcome to the first general meeting. Thanks for joining.

School Board Director - Dr. Daphna Gans

- Thank you. I typically update on what's happening with the district on a board level. I love collaborating with parents and hearing about what's going on in the schools. Let's "leap forward" into a great year.

Human Resources Representative - Aimee Mack

- **ETC Program (Extended Teacher Certification)**
 - Training offered twice a year
 - Offers flexibility to sub on one's own schedule
 - Ideal for teachers certified in other states or with a lapsed certificate, or for those interested in going back to school
 - Details on Employment section of website, or contact Aimee Mack for more information

Administrators:

- **Superintendent - Dr. John Rozzo**
 - We've had a great start to the school year. Thanks to the PTC for the decorations to welcome the staff back, and for the welcome event for new families. We've had lots of positive feedback.
 - Over the summer we were able to fill 17 vacant teaching positions with quality applicants.
 - With our ETC Program, we've had around a 95% fill rate for subs each day. We're very fortunate to have good people, mostly residents, as subs.
 - Capital projects - first phase of High School roof project will be complete in December. The work will not interfere with the school day. Second phase extends to next summer. Increased security at school entrances, alerts at doors, and window film to strengthen the glass are some of the security projects completed.
 - Total enrollment is 3,950 (typical range is 3,900-4,100)
 - High School 1,300
 - Ft. Couch 620
 - Boyce 620
 - Baker 457
 - Streams 435
 - Eisenhower 519
 - New start times have overall gone well after a few adjustments, and have been well-received by staff and students.
 - Open houses begin this Thursday at the elementary schools (6-8 pm).
- **Deputy Superintendent - Mrs. Amy Pfender**
 - Question submitted regarding mental health services for students
 - District takes a holistic approach, working collaboratively with families, staff, and professional resources.
 - School counselors at building level, 4 district psychologists (do testing and provide resources to families), school nurses in all buildings, UPMC social/emotional consultant, and Care Solace (concierge program that can make recommendations for outside providers).
- **Senior Director of Operations & Administrative Services - Mr. Ray Carson**
- **Communications Specialist - Mrs. Tina Vojtko**

Unit Presidents:

- **Baker – Kelly**
 - August New Family Welcome went well. Approx. 30 new students/23 new families joined us.
 - Another successful year of School Supply Kit Sale
 - 1st Staff Appreciation during first week of school – Staff Breakfast was well received. Thanks to all volunteers!
 - We have 23 active committees this year and many of our chairpeople have hit the ground running already.
 - We are hopeful to bring back In-School Assemblies and After School Activities which haven't been seen since pre-COVID. Stay tuned for more details.
 - Upcoming Spirit Night on 10/2 at OTB from 5 to 9 pm.
 - Boo Bash is Friday, 10/13.
 - Carnival style games/prizes, raffles, cake walk, etc.
 - Committee Chairs are meeting today and will be sending out volunteer sign-up shortly.
 - Looking to do same set up as last year with most activities outside, weather permitting. Looking at possibly moving to an earlier time of 5pm to 7pm and/or adding more lights in parking lot.
- **Eisenhower – Jen Zofchak**
 - Eisenhower has had an incredible start to the 2023-2024 school year! Everyone is happy to be back at school meeting new teachers and friends and beginning the learning journey.
 - Prior to the start of the school year, we welcomed all of our new families to USC including incoming Kindergarten students and their families at our annual Welcome Breakfast. All families got to meet the PTO Executive Board, hear from Mr. Miller, and take a tour of the building. We had a great turnout – over 185 attendees!
 - We also welcomed our wonderful staff back with lunch on their first in-service day.
 - PTO membership is also off to a good start – over 100 families have already signed up. Any interested families can check out our website for a google form to sign up. There are 3 different ways to submit the \$10 fee (check, cash, or PayPal). We truly appreciate all that have joined so that we are able to fund all of the activities throughout the year.
 - This week we have many volunteers in the building helping with our Scholastic Book Fair which will conclude on the evening of Open House.
 - Upcoming events:
 - 9/8: General PTO Meeting
 - 9/21: Picture Day
 - 10/3-10/25: Eisenhower Extras
 - 10/13: Eisenhower – This is our only fundraiser of the year – a carnival style event for the whole family. There are games, food, inflatables, and raffle baskets. All details and a sign-up genius will be out on Monday, September 11.
- **Streams – Brittany Weiler**
 - We had 3 playground meet & greets over the summer at Wiltshire Park. We have one in June, July & August. It's a casual way for the incoming kindergarten students to get to know each other and make a friend or at least have a familiar face when they start school.
 - We had our Kindergarten Connection event at the MAC center on Thursday, August 10th. This event is for incoming kindergarten students and their families. We had 3 raffles, we

had Streams cinch bags filled with goodies for all the kids, two crafts for them to do, a photo station, games to play, a temporary tattoo station and the Beedle's ice-cream truck came. Every child got a voucher to pick a treat. Dr. K was there to also speak to the families.

- On Monday, August 14th, we had our New Family Welcome event at the school. We provided a light breakfast of a fruit tray, bagels with cream cheese, donuts and coffee and juice. We had some staff there that spoke and answered any questions, then they went on a tour of the school.
- On Thursday, August 17th, we had a new event for the teachers. This was their first day back to school, so we had a catered lunch from Atria's and a flower bouquet station afterward. They had so much fun creating their bouquets for their desk!
- On Friday, August 25th, we had our first Spirit Night at Urban Air.
- Friday, September 15th, was our first general PTO meeting.
- Monday, September 18th, is a Spirit Night at OTB - Hastings! They will donate 15% of all dine-in food purchases from 5-9 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 26th, is our evening book fair and ice-cream social night!! The ice-cream social is a fundraiser for our PTO.
- Friday, October 13th, is our Streams Stravaganza!! We moved it back to the Fall this year, and have made multiple changes to the event. We will have "play all night" wristbands for \$20, we ordered 3 new handmade wooden games, we have 6 food trucks coming, a Dj, raffle room, prizes, etc.
- **LAST DAY TO ORDER SHIRTS IS WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20th!!!!**
- **Boyce – Ashlee Lentini**
- **Fort Couch – Elizabeth Taylor**
 - Family Welcome Day was a huge success
 - Our Membership Drive is off to a great start - 50% paid already
 - We hosted a staff appreciation breakfast the first week of school
 - Our next meeting is 9/19 @ 11:30
 - Our Fall Social is October 12
 - We are still looking for a Spirit Night Coordinator
- **USCHS –Leria Miles**
 - July
 - Freshman came in for tours with Junior Mentors
 - August
 - New Family Welcome Meeting for new families to the high school (PTSO provided breakfast snacks and students got to tour the schools)
 - Freshman Counseling Meetings
 - Senior Counseling Meetings
 - September
 - Old pool will be open for students to play games (cornhole & spikeball) and socialize with their friends during their lunch time.
 - **Freshman Student Council elections** - We have a record number of freshmen running for the 18 senator spots.
 - PTSO Meeting on 9/13 at 9:30 AM Virtual
 - **RUSH & Freshman Field Day** - our annual Activities Fair (called RUSH) will take place on September 21st during all lunch times. Around 90 clubs will have a booth and sign-up information for any student that would like to attend during their lunch. Our freshmen friends will visit RUSH after Freshman Field Day, which will be held in the morning at the stadium. Our Junior mentor program hosts this day for the freshman class.
 - **Open House** - Look out for student council members during the high school's open house on Thursday, September 21st from 6pm - 8pm. Student council members will be scattered around the school helping parents navigate their student's schedule.
 - **Homecoming Game & Dance** - September 29th during halftime of the varsity football game we will crown our senior royalty! The Homecoming Dance will take

place on Saturday, September 30th. Doors open at 7:30pm, all attendees must arrive by 8:30pm. The dance ends at 10:00pm. Tickets will go on sale the week of the dance during lunch. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. The homecoming dance theme is *Hoedown Homecoming*!

Standing Committees:

- **Directory** – Kerstin Goodworth
- **Welcoming Committee** – Kim Megonnell (Unable to attend, comments shared by Pam)
 - Thank you for all the support at the New Family Welcome Event.
 - If anyone is interested in helping next year, please reach out (this is my last year as committee chair).
- **Wellness Committee** - Libby Mascaro
 - Thanks to Dr. Rozzo, Dr. Pfender, Dr. Gans, Tina Vojtko, and the building principals for all you do for the district and our students. We're lucky to be in such a great district, with so many people involved in helping to make it strong.
 - The Wellness Committee focuses on all students. We strive primarily to collaborate with organizations, speakers, families, etc. to support all students' mental health and wellness needs.
 - We have many things planned for this year and welcome anyone who wants to get involved. Please reach out for more information.
- **PIE** - Katherine Zesch
 - Elizabeth Agnew-Cochran and I are Co-Chairs for PIE.
 - We work to bring families together and support the district, while raising awareness and support for families of students with special needs.
 - We will have our first PIE coffee on September 27 from 9-11 a.m.
 - Please email us for more information or to get involved.
- **Spelling Bee** - Sarah Cranganu
 - Information for the 2024 school spelling bees will be sent to parents of eligible students (grades 4-8) by early November.
 - If you are interested in volunteering at your child's spelling bee, please contact your school's PTO/A and they will get you in touch with the committee.
 - All of the district's 5 spelling bees will be held following the school day on a weekday afternoon in January and/or February of next year.
- **STEAM** - Shanna Caplan
 - USC Robotics registration is now available.
 - We are offering non-competitive opportunities after school one hour a week for one semester at Boyce, Fort Couch, and the High School (year long for high school only). Each school offers sessions on different days so please be aware of days/time when you register.
 - We are also offering competitive team opportunities for middle school students (FIRST LEGO League Challenge, 5th-8th grade) and high school students (FIRST Tech Challenge) for those interested in a more intense experience. These students will spend a minimum of 4 hours a week practicing in the evening/weekend with weekend competitions.
 - We are requiring volunteer parent coaches for the competitive teams this year at both levels.
 - There is a kickoff meeting for those interested in competitive robotics on Thursday, September 7th from 6-7 pm for middle school students and parents and 7-8 pm for high school students and parents at USC High School Resource

Room. Though there is a meeting to get more information next week, please register online starting tonight to show if your child is interested (no payment due until teams are created). This will help us start gauging interest.

- Registration for attending non-competitive and competitive programs can be found on our USC Robotics [EventBrite](#) Collection.
- For more information, please check out this article that was linked in the USC Weekly Recap from this past Friday. You can also visit www.uscrobotics.org to find out more details about meeting days, times, etc.

Reporting Organizations:

- **Odyssey of the Mind** - Shanna Caplan
 - Odyssey of the Mind registration is now open. We currently have 59 kids registered. Last year, Upper St. Clair had 22 teams with 144 students from all of our schools participating.
 - To register, visit www.uscootm.com and click on the red button registration link on the home page. Registration will remain open until September 22.
 - For more information about this fun STEAM program, please visit www.uscootm.com or plan to attend one of two "What is OM?" informational sessions on Wednesday, September 6 at 10:00 am at the Community Rec Center and 7:30 pm via Zoom. Contact uscootm@gmail.com for a link to join the evening call.

The Next PTC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6th, at 11:30 a.m. (all meetings will continue to be virtual)

Adjournment 10:29 am

Upcoming Events:

- [2023-24 School Calendar](#) (2-page PDF)
- [Online activities calendar](#)
- [Athletics Calendar](#)

September

- 1: PTC New Family Dinner
- 4: **NO SCHOOL** – Labor Day
- 5-7: Eisenhower Book Fair
- 6: Parent Teacher Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., [register to attend](#)
- 7: Elementary Open House – [EARLY DISMISSAL](#) (elem ONLY)
- 8: Eisenhower PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 13: USCHS PTSO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 13: Boyce PTSO meeting, 1 p.m., [register to attend](#)
- 13: Boyce Picture Day
- 14: [USCHS Halls of Fame](#), 5-7 p.m.

- 15: Baker Picture Day
- 15: Streams PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 16: PMEA Flute Masterclass, 10 a.m.-1p.m., USCHS
- 18: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19: Fort Couch PTSO meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 21: Baker PTA meeting, 9:30 a.m., virtual
- 21: Eisenhower Picture Day
- 21: USCHS Open House – [EARLY DISMISSAL](#) (high school ONLY)
- 22: USCHS RUSH (activities fair), during ART
- 22: Streams Picture Day
- 25-29: Baker Gives Back Club, School Supply Drive
- 26: Streams Book Fair/Ice Cream Social, 6-8 p.m.
- 27-29: Boyce Book Fair
- 28: Boyce Open House – [EARLY DISMISSAL](#) (Boyce ONLY)
- [29](#): Fort Couch Picture Day
- 29: Homecoming Game
- 30: Homecoming Dance

October

- 3: South Hills College Fair, 6-8:30 p.m., Bethel Park High School
- [5](#): Fort Couch Open House – [EARLY DISMISSAL](#) ([Fort Couch](#) ONLY)
- 6: Boyce School Picture Retakes
- 12: Streams PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 12: [Fort Couch](#) Social
- 13: Eisenhower
- 13: Streams Stravaganza
- 13: Baker Boo Bash
- 17: Natural Helpers Retreat
- 18: Natural Helpers Retreat
- 18: Eisenhower School Picture Retakes
- 18: USCHS PAC meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 23: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26: First Quarter marking period ends
- 27: **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS** – Teacher In-Service
- 30: Second Quarter begins
- 31: Elementary Harvest Celebrations

November

- 1: **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS** – Teacher In-Service/Conferences
- 2: Fort Couch School Picture Retakes
- 4: SAT exam, USCHS, 8 a.m.
- 7: **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS** – Teacher In-Service/Conferences
- 7: Baker Book Fair
- 8: USCHS PTSO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 9: USCHS Junior Parent meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 10: First Quarter Report Cards (K-8)
- 10: Eisenhower PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 10: Streams PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 15: Baker Spirit Night, 5-9 p.m., Chipotle

16: Baker PTA meeting, 9:30 a.m.
20: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
21: Fort Couch PTSO meeting, 11:30 a.m.
22-24: **NO SCHOOL** – Thanksgiving Recess