

**Upper St. Clair PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
General Meeting Agenda September 8, 2021
Rescheduled from September 1
9:30 am Virtual Meeting**

Call to Order

Opening Ceremony

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Agenda- Agenda approved

Reports

Executive Committee:

- **President** – Gina Swanson

Installation of New Officers:

May we recognize the incoming officers of the USC PTC 2021-22:

President ...Gina Swanson

Vice President... Shanna Caplan

Treasurer...Lindsay Beck

Secretary...Laura Lisien

You who have been elected to these offices in this USC PTC have a great responsibility. I shall not tell you that your burden will be light, but I do say to you that, no matter how much you put into the service, you will always receive more than you give.

In accepting this trust, you have accepted at once a privilege and a challenge. You must put forth every effort to the end that this organization will serve the children and the youth of Upper St Clair School District.

Do you as officers accept this task?

Members of the PTC...

You have indicated your faith and trust in these members by electing them as your officers for the coming year. Will you pledge to them your loyalty and active assistance?

If so...

Gina, Shanna, Lindsay, Laura ... I now declare you duly installed officers of the Upper St. Clair Parent Teacher Council.

- **1st Vice President** – Shanna Caplan
- **Treasurer-** Lindsay Beck

The **USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund** had an opening cash balance on Aug. 01, 2021 of: Receipts totaled: \$0

Disbursements totaled: \$0

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\$ 11,944.41

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- **Secretary** - Laura Lisien
- **Board Advisor** – Kerstin Goodworth

Administrators:

- **Superintendent** - Dr. John Rozzo
 - Universally masking students means that quarantining and contact tracing won't be needed. Masks will keep kids in school and minimize disruptions. Last week State mandated masks in school. State will revisit this issue in October and will update School Districts accordingly.
 - Open House- will be rescheduled at a later date. Trying to set up Open House for those who want to attend in person can do so and those who want to attend virtually, can do so as well.
 - Just to clear up some rumors- there is a flag in every room and the pledge of allegiance is said daily.
 - FID Days- live instruction will be provided to students via - will run two hour delays schedule. Students will still attend their normal schedule at normal time. Students will be emailed a meeting link and will need to record attendance. A communication to be parents will be made available shortly.
- Assistant Superintendent - Dr. Sharon Suritsky
 - We are working on Open House plan. Plan should be finalized and communicated out by end of September.
- Assistant Superintendent - Mrs. Amy Pfender
- Senior Director of Operations & Administrative Services - Mr. Ray Carson
 - The district has a number of opportunities for employment. A communication will be sent out regarding the ETC (substitute teacher) program. (link to information is in chat)
- Director of Strategic Initiatives - Mr. Brad Wilson
 - Canvas for those who are attending remotely is working very well. Sense of normalcy is very positive this year.
- Director of Pupil Services - Dr. Lauren Madia
 - Dashboard- last year was used as an attestation for school closures. This year- that attestation is not needed. Data is being analyzed internally and will share it out periodically.
- Director of Curriculum & Professional Development - Dr. Judy Bulazo
- **School Board Director** – Dr. Daphna Gans
 - Hiring talent for this year is challenging, especially for bus drivers. Mr. Carson and others have been able to stay one step ahead of these issues. We are solving problems before they even occur.

- As a board member we must focus on education, not making public health decisions. In order to do so, we must require masks in order to provide the least disruption to school.

Unit Presidents:

- **Baker – Sarah Cranganu**

- We welcomed over 30 new families and over 90 kindergarten families to Baker this year. Dr. McClintock-Comeaux hosted Chat with Pat googlemeets with both groups that were very informative and well received. We were able to offer small group, socially distanced tours of the Baker building to the new students in grades 1-4. The PTA was also able to assist with Kindergarten Orientation by staying with parents during their child's assessment and answering any questions about the start of school.
- We've sold over 70 school supply kits through our Supply Kit fundraiser, which is open to the entire district. The kits are customizable, and the sale continues through October and can be accessed on the Baker webpage.
- Our Baker Garden Committee has been very busy planting and watering new annuals in the front of building as well as adding new plantings for the butterfly garden and installing an herb garden. Pam Scureman has hosted several garden clean-ups with many Baker families volunteering.
- Our Baker Staff Appreciation Committee created a balloon arch to welcome teachers and staff back to school as well as providing breakfast on the second day of class. Chair Bethany Salmen also delivered breakfast that day to the bus garage.
- We greeted Baker students back to school with chalk art on the front sidewalks. Thanks to Melissa DePuy for continuing to
- Upcoming events include our first General PTA meeting on Thursday September 16th and the Fall Spirit Wear Sale in October.

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- **Eisenhower – Justine Walker**

- We are excited to be back to school and look forward to planning activities and create meaningful experiences for students and staff.
- ○ With that being said, we are still trying to figure out how to safely do that and what are guidelines are for community events. It is definitely a work in progress.
- ○ We've decided to push back our large fundraiser, the Eisenhower until the spring and we will not be hosting our grade level breakfasts this fall
- · In August, we hosted a New Family Breakfast for over 150 people new to Eisenhower including kindergarten. We were able to have breakfast, give an overview of Eisenhower and the PTO then do tours around the building.
- · Before the start of school, we also provided a Welcome Back lunch to Eisenhower staff. It was a nice way to say thank you before students arrived back at school.
- · We will be hosting our Book Fair next week on Tuesday through Thursday
- ○ We are happy to have an in-person book fair
- ○ We decided to not have parents shop with their kids during the book fair and minimized the number of parent volunteers during the day.

- **Streams – Jennifer Clougherty**

- Over the summer, Streams had 3 kindergarten play dates in the park for the incoming kindergarteners to get to know each other before the 1st day of school. It was also a way for their parents and guardians to m
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- On August 17th, we had a New Family Welcome at Streams. We invited this year's new families, as well as last year's since those parents never had an opportunity to come into the school. The families got to hear from the principal, guidance counselor, nurse, and PTO followed by a chance to tour the entire

school and ask questions. We then sent everyone home with a to-go breakfast bag!

- On August 19th, we again hosted the kindergarten families for our Kindergarten Connection event at the McLaughlin Activity Center. We had crafts and outdoor activities for everyone to enjoy, and each kindergartner got a Streams drawstring backpack with some treats to take home!
- Coming up in September, we will be starting our grade open mikes with kindergarten on September 30th, followed by 1st through 4th grade respectively the week of October 25th. These will all be held virtually and are a casual opportunity for parents to hear from the principal and a teacher from the selected grade about curriculum, the usual daily schedule, and special projects planned throughout the year. There's always ample opportunity to ask questions, too.
- Finally on October 29th, we will help each classroom celebrate their teacher's Harvest Parties by providing crafts planned by our Room Parents
- **Boyce – Pam Scureman**
 - **Collecting Activity Fees this year - \$40 cash or check made payable to the Boyce PTO, and \$41.50 using PayPal**
 - ● Boyce will be hosting a spirit wear sale and a spirit night in October, so keep an eye out for information soon! Orders for Spirit Wear will be ready before the holidays.
 - ● **2020-2021 extra yearbooks for sale, please contact PTO Advisor, Andrea Amarose at boyceptoadvisor@gmail.com**
 - ● **Continuing** this year, we will have a monthly newsletter filled with lots of information. We do not meet every month for a general PTO meeting, so we will add the registration links for upcoming PTO meetings
 - First newsletter will be e-mailed to you soon.
 - ● **Picture Day, September 10th**
 - ● **First general meeting, September 15th at 9:30, these meetings will be in person (in the LGI or theater) and virtual. Virtual attendance requires pre-registration**
 - ● **National Security Guard Week - 3rd week in September (September 12 - 18, 2021) - Boyce PTO planning something small**
 - ● **The Scholastic Book Fair will be in-person this year. The dates are from September 28 – October 1. Also will be offering an online version of the sale. Information will be in the newsletter.**
 - ● **Open House, tentatively scheduled for September 30th. Any changes will be communicated by the District or Dr. O'Rourke.**
 - ● **Early Dismissal tentatively scheduled for 1:15 on September 30th. Any changes will be communicated by the District or Dr. O'Rourke.**
 - ● **Staff Appreciation - October 1st**
 - ● **Boyce Pride will be starting soon**
 - ● **National Custodian Day - October 2, 2021 - Boyce PTO planning something small**
 - ● **Boyce Shop - plan is to operate as normal as possible. DR. O'Rourke is working on this with Mr. Henderson and Mrs. Finnegan.**
 - ● All of this information will also be updated on our website including meeting

minutes, agenda, and registration links.

- **Fort Couch – Sarah Beitler**
 - Our Fort Couch Family Welcome Day was on Aug 16th - and it went very well. Had 35 8th grade volunteers as tour guides. Very positive response on the 8th graders leading the families around the school building. We think we had about 150 families come through the building.
 - Last Friday September 3rd we had a successful Teacher and Staff Appreciation Welcome Breakfast (thank you to staff appreciation team - Gina and Jen - for organizing). It went well and we talked with teachers about funds that the PTSO has in our budget for academic and team enhancements along with music, student council, and sports.
 - The collection of our Activity Fee (and online payment option - is going well). We have had about 400 families pay so far.
 - The Fort Couch PTSO has finalized and reached out to all our Committee Chairs.
 - Will have a spirit wear sale and spirit night sometime this fall.
 - Socials are on hold at the moment until we get more direction from Principal DeMar about when we are allowed and it is safe to do so.
 - Our First Fort Couch PTSO meeting will be Tuesday Sept 21st at 9:30am.
- **USCHS –Maria Cedar**
 - membership link at USC home page where you can pay \$10 per family through paypal
 - There are also volunteer opportunities for PTSO committees listed there.
 - Next PTSO meeting is Wed Sept 22 at 9:30, a link will be emailed from the HS.
 - Picture day at the HS is Sept 21.
 - Open house is Sept 23 at 7:00 with a 12:35 early dismissal.
 - Homecoming week will be kicked off with a parade and powder puff game
 - Jr. vs Sr. Homecoming game Oct 1 at 7:00.
 - Homecoming dance on Oct 2nd 7:30 outside at stadium. Tickets go on sale the week of homecoming for \$10 at school during lunch and ART mods.
 - Last year's yearbooks are available for pickup by students in Cafe 321. Extras are also available for \$90. This current year yearbook is available for purchase at Jostens or link found on USC website.
 - PSAT at USCHS on October 13.
 - Free lunch and breakfast program is available to all students again this year. Link to sign up at website.
 - Annual RUSH/club sign up event on Friday Sept 17 during lunch and ART times along stadium track. Please have students review clubs available as this is a great opportunity to sign up.
 - HS class dues are \$50 every year or \$200 for all years. Dues go towards senior activities.
 - Welcome to our new assistant high school principal Cara Senger.

Standing Committees:

- **Directory – Kerstin Goodworth/ Michelle Holzer**

- The digital directory launch process is well underway- earlier than ever thanks to the support of the district.
- Our hope is to launch the digital directory by mid September- you will receive an email asking you to verify your family's information and giving you the option to opt in or opt out if sharing any data- completely in parents control- only parents who are logged in with children attending schools will have access to the online directory for additional security
- Printed directories will be available for purchase online for \$10 each. Timing will be shared as soon as we have it.
- This directory is a wonderful community asset that we are so proud to offer- this year Kerstin and Michelle Holzer are taking over from Beth Huzjak who chaired for several years and laid a great foundation with her whole team.
- We will also be using these email lists to communicate about pta/o/so functions specific to grades, buildings and teachers. So when you get an email, you'll know it's relevant to you and your family- more tailored communication is the goal so that less families unsubscribe because all the emails are relevant to their particular children. This system will replace e-alerts for pta/o/so communications, so that all parents can be informed of the many opportunities offered outside the classroom at each school.
- **Welcoming Committee** – Kim Megonnell

New Family Welcome Event

- DATE: Friday, September 10, 2021
- TIME: 6:30pm (you may want to arrive around 6:15pm)
- WHERE: Upper St. Clair Athletic Circle Entrance
- The football game begins at 7:00pm (USC vs Baldwin)

Reporting Organizations:

- **Odyssey of the Mind** - submitted in advance

It's time to get creative! Registration for Odyssey of the Mind is open! We are now forming in person teams for the 2021-2022 season. To register, visit www.uscootm.com and click on the **red button** registration link on the home page. Registration will remain open until September 21. 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 Monday, September 13. The 9:00 am will be in person at the Community Rec Center. The 7:00 pm session will be virtual. Contact uscootm@gmail.com for a link to join the call.

NEXT MEETING: Oct. 6th, 2021: Virtual Meeting (link: TBD) 7:00 pm

Adjournment

Upcoming Events:

Dates to Remember:

Upcoming PTC & Unit Meetings:

- [USCHS PTSO](#): Wednesday, Sept. 22, 9:30 a.m.
- [Fort Couch PTSO](#): Tuesday, Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m.
- [Boyce PTO](#): Wednesday, Sept. 15, 9:30 a.m.
- [Baker PTA](#): Thursday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.
- [Eisenhower PTO](#): Friday, Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m.
- [Streams PTO](#): Tuesday, Sept. 14, 9:30 a.m. AND 6 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- [2021-22 School Calendar](#) (2-page PDF)
- [Online activities calendar](#)

August

31: Freshmen Parent meeting, 6:30 p.m. (*rescheduled from Sept. 16*)

September

1: Parent Teacher Council (PTC) meeting, 9:30 a.m., virtual (*time change*)
1-3: Boyce Binder Reminder Distribution
2: High School Senior Parent meeting, 6:30 p.m.
6: **NO SCHOOL**, Labor Day
7-9: Eisenhower Book Fair
9: Elementary Open House, 7 p.m.
9: **Elementary EARLY DISMISSAL** (12:45 p.m.)
10: Boyce Picture Day
10: Eisenhower PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
13: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
14: Streams PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m. AND 6 p.m.
15: Boyce PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
15: Fort Couch Picture Day, 8:45-11 a.m.
16: Baker PTA meeting, 10 a.m.
21: High School Picture Day
21: Streams Room Parent meeting, 9:30 a.m.
21: Fort Couch PTSO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
22: High School PTSO & PAC meeting, 9:30 a.m., virtual
23: High School Open House, 7 p.m.
23: **High School EARLY DISMISSAL** (12:35 p.m.)
24: First quarter progress reports
26: [Homecoming Parade & Powder Puff Game](#)
28: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
29-Oct. 1: Boyce Scholastic Book Fair

- 30: Streams Kindergarten Open Mic, 9:30 a.m.
- 30: Boyce Open House, 7 p.m.
- 30: **Boyce EARLY DISMISSAL** (1:15 p.m.)

October

- 1: [Homecoming Football Game & Homecoming Court](#)
- 2: [Homecoming Dance](#), 7-10 p.m.
- 5: Streams School Picture Day
- 6: PTC meeting, 9:30 a.m., virtual
- 7: Eisenhower School Picture Day
- 7: Baker School Picture Day
- 7: Fort Couch EARLY DISMISSAL (1:15 P.M.)
- 7: Fort Couch Open House, 7 p.m.
- 11: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13: [PSAT](#) at USCHS
- 15: Early Dismissal for Students
- 19: Fort Couch PTSO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 19: HS Choir/Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., Theater
- 19: South Hills Joint College Fair, 6-9 p.m.
- 20: South Hills Joint College Fair, 6-9 p.m.
- 22: Halls of Fame
- 25: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 27: HS Principals Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting, 9:30 a.m., virtual
- 28: HS Junior Parent Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 29: [Financial Aid Night](#), 6:30 p.m., virtual
- 29: First Quarter Marking Period Ends
- 29: Elementary Harvest Parties