

Upper St. Clair
PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
General Meeting Agenda
February 3, 2021 9:30 am

Call to Order

Opening Ceremony

Approval of Agenda- motion to approve agenda- approved. Agenda stands approved.

Reports

Executive Committee:

- **President** – Kerstin Goodworth.
- **1st Vice President** – Gina Swanson.
- **Superintendent & 2nd Vice President** - Dr. John Rozzo
 - Open Mic on Healthy Schools. Great turnout. Looking at doing virtual open mic going forward because it is easier for people to attend. 125 registrants which is the highest ever in attendance.
 - PSSA testing is still scheduled to take place. Great deal of advocacy to cancel testing. requires a federal waiver. Dr. Rozzo is hopeful that they will be suspended as there is a lot of pressure on students.
 - Class of 2022- 3 graduation exams have been postponed. They will now take it with the class of 2023. For class of 2021, as long as they passed the course then they will be considered proficient.
 - High school parking lot will be paved. Parts of school will be closed.
 - Truxton hillside will be repaired this summer as well to avoid damage to the stadium complex. May disrupt traffic patterns.
 - Receive \$247,000 in pandemic relief cost relief. Received 2nd lowest in state. Advocating for a different formula based on pandemic related activities instead of number of students on free and reduced lunches.
 - School calendar for 2022-2023 school year has been approved.
- **Treasurer (and Statement of Treasurer)- Yesha Katukota-**
 - **The USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund**
had an opening cash balance on January 01, 2021
of: \$ 12,614.22 Receipts totaled:
 - Disbursements totaled: **The USC Parent Teacher**

Council's General Fund had a closing cash balance on December 30, 2020 of: \$ 12,614.22

■ **Secretary** - Laura Lisien.

- Gratitude Drive was a huge success
 - **\$12,637.50 raised**
 - **650 beautiful notes of gratitude!**
 - **679 donations**
- We closed our drive officially on Jan. 29th and will be distributing the funds to 54 custodians in the District in coming days

■ **Board Advisor** – Batool Nulwala.

- VP and treasurer positions are open for next year. If interested in a position, please email PTC president Kerstin Goodworth.

■ **School Board Director** – Dr. Daphna Gans.

- It is wonderful to see the outpouring of support from the community for the Custodian Gratitude Drive

Unit Presidents:

● **Eisenhower** – Kristin LeBeau

- **Spelling Bee** – Our spelling bee will be held virtually Thursday, February 4th, at 3:30pm via Google Meet. We have 27 fourth grade participants and 5 Eisenhower parent volunteers who will be leading the Spelling Bee. Special thanks to Sarah Cranganu, the PTC chair, for her guidance and support.
- **Eisenhower Extras** – We are offering our “Eisenhower Extras” after-school classes virtually this year. The "Extras" will provide an opportunity for students to connect beyond the regular school day with other Eisenhower students in activities led by professionals in our community. The virtual classes will begin the week of February 8th and will run for 4 weeks. Offerings will include: Cooking or Baking with Kirsten Reeder of *Kids Can Cook*, Art by Becca Ward, Beginner and Advanced Beginner Chess with *Queens Gambit*, Building and STEAM with *Snapology*, Hands on Science with *Outside the Box Labs*, Dance & Creative Movement with *Attack Theatre*, and Taekwondo with *No Limits Martial Arts*. Classes will be offered via Zoom or Google Meet and include a variety of price ranges for different grade levels. We're looking forward to providing the opportunity for students to connect with other Eisenhower students beyond the school day – and to supporting some local organizations.

● **Valentine Exchange**

Valentine celebrations look a little different this year due to safety protocols, but students will still participate in a Valentine Exchange. Students are bringing their decorated boxes on Monday, February 8th and will allow everything to “quarantine” until the exchange on Friday, February 12th. We are glad Eisenhower was able to work out a way for students to participate in this tradition and to spread friendship and kindness to their friends.

- **Valentine Ice Cream Treat/Chick-Fil-A partnership**

We cannot hold our annual Valentine Ice Cream Social this year, so we came up with an alternative plan. We partnered with Chick-Fil-A South Hills to provide every student with a voucher for a milkshake or frozen lemonade treat. In addition, the PTO is providing a Chick-Fil-A Valentine/Staff Appreciation luncheon for all Eisenhower teachers and staff on February 12th.

- **100th Day of School Celebration**

Eisenhower will be celebrating the 100th day of school on Tuesday, February 9th. There will be a raffle and activities throughout the day. Students are encouraged to celebrate wearing something with the number 100 on it. Participation is completely optional - students do not have to participate if they do not want to. We hope this will provide a fun way for students to celebrate their school and all they have accomplished in this unusual school year.

- **Birthday Book Club**

We continue to collect books for our Birthday Book Club. Families can celebrate their child’s birthday while supporting the Eisenhower Library. Families may select a book from the 20-21 Book List created by librarian, Mrs. Naumann. Since books are currently not able to be in circulation at Eisenhower, Mrs. Naumann or Mr. Miller will read the book to each participating student’s class during his/her birthday week. Children with summer birthdays will have their books read as closely as possible to their half birthday. The book will be put into the Eisenhower Library for all students to enjoy when circulation resumes!

- **Streams – Michelle Holzer**

- We successfully ran our virtual spelling bee. Lindsey Fitzgerald was our first place finisher and has earned the chance to participate in the next round. Congratulations to all participants and thank you to all volunteers for helping to make this happen.
- If anyone is interested in volunteering next year - whether it be as a committee chair, a helper, or even as a member of the PTO executive board, please email us at StreamsPTO@gmail.com
- We will hold our spring book fair virtually, and it will be scheduled for mid- to late-April. Keep an eye out for further details.
- Staff appreciation: We will be handing out valentines treats to the Streams staff next week, and the committee is in the midst of planning a larger appreciation event. Details will be forthcoming.

- **Baker** – Jackie Barefoot

- 4th Grade Spelling Bee was held virtually on Jan. 13th. Spellers adapted well to the virtual format and did not want to quit, going for 24 rounds. Finley Garvey was the 1st Place Champion and has the opportunity to represent Baker at the Scripps Regional Bee in March.
- We ended the month with a Staff Appreciation event of donuts and coffee. 3. February 18th we will be holding our annual Soup Luncheon; a staff favorite. In order to comply with restrictions this year we are asking for parent donations to be individually packed in pint or quart containers. We will be providing the containers and they will be available for pick up in the Baker foyer on Feb. 12th. Soup donations (homemade or store bought) can be dropped off on Feb. 18th between 7:45am-8:30am. A sign-up genius was sent in the newsletter, and has been posted on social media for this event. 4. Looking ahead to March we will be celebrating Pi-Day and are looking for donations of store bought pies to provide each staff member with one on March 12th. More information to come.
- Random Acts of Kindness week is February 14-20th. While we do not have a formal event we have shared a printable in the newsletter and on social media for anyone wanting to send a note of gratitude to a teacher or staff member. And anyone wanting to know their teacher/staff member's favorite treat or gift card for this week or Valentine's please reach out to your HRC and we can share this information with you.
- Our 5th Annual Read-a-Thon will be kicking off on February 19th with a story from Dr. McClintock-Comeaux. The fundraiser will run through Feb. 28th. Students can earn reading tickets and prizes with a virtual assembly taking place March 4th. Pledges and donations can be submitted virtually at our MemberHub store. More information to come. Baker Bedtime Stories will be held virtually on Feb. 24th.
- We are thrilled to announce that we will be holding Baker's Got Talent Variety Show virtually this year. The event will be pre-recorded and live streamed on March 26th at 6:30 pm. Information was sent out yesterday. Recorded submissions of 2 minutes or less, recorded in landscape orientation must be sent to Lindsay Beck no later than March 12th. 4th Graders wishing to participate as an announcer can email Lindsay Beck as well beck626@gmail.com.
- Our next General Meeting will be Thursday March 11th at 10am via Zoom. 9. We are seeking parents (Moms and Dads) for our exec board for 2021-2022. Anyone interested please reach out to us.

- **Boyce** – Andrea Amorose

- Boyce Spelling Bee finals will be held on February 4th. There are 27 participants. Good luck to the finalists!
- We are still collecting non expired, cut outs of Box Tops, during our collection drive until February 19th. You are also able to create an account and scan your receipts and any Box Top purchases will be added to your account.

- Random Acts of Kindness week is coming February 15-19th! Please keep an eye out for any emails and the Boyce Middle School website for information on theme days!
 - Boyce Middle School Student Council is selling Valentine Grams now through February 9th. A blank Valentine Gram form can be found here: [Valentine Gram Form](#) Print out a blank copy, write a message to your Boyce student and send it in with your donation to Amy Antonio. Student council will attach a pencil to the Valentine Gram. All Valentine Grams will be delivered on February 12th. Any donation is appreciated! Our goal is to raise \$1000! Checks can be made out to Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. ** Please be sure your child's first and last name and homeroom teacher are written on the Valentine Gram. Questions? Contact Mrs. Antonio at aantonio@uscsd.k12.pa.us
 - We are still collecting pictures for the yearbook. Order information will be sent out soon. Please send any Boyce Middle School activities and events, including remote learning pictures to yearbook4boyce@gmail.com.
 - Our next Boyce PTO meeting is on February 10th, at 9:30 am. Please register here: [Boyce PTO February Meeting Registration](#)
- **Fort Couch** – Siân Howell
- Spelling Bee is taking place virtually on Feb 14th at 4pm. Approx 28 children registered so far
 - Valentines Grams- to be distributed to every child on Monday Feb 15th. Email will be sent this week to all parents and students who wish to send valentines wishes to their students. No charge this year.
- **USCHS** – Beth Thomas
- This week we moved to 3 day in-person instruction;
 - We look forward to hosting summer wellness, leadership academy, and STEAM at the HS level (in a modified format);
 - The administration is gathering feedback from students about their learning experiences this year. Focus groups have been held with random groups of students across learning models — remote, hybrid, and those who have switched models throughout the year. The focus group leaders used four guided questions. In order to look for patterns, these same focus group questions were asked of parents at a recent PAC meeting and this month will be asked of teachers. Feedback will be compiled and used to make informed decisions about the future;
 - There is a student led group called the “Quaran-Team” that meets on Wednesdays. Recently, they studied what features on Canvas seem to be most helpful for students to inform teachers & administrators. Next up, they are looking at how to best utilize outdoor spaces in the Spring.
 - Reminder- HS 8th Grade Parent Meeting - Feb 4th starts at 6:30pm- will be virtual.
 - Our students have been working very hard in SHOP@USC preparing for Valentine's Day as well as graduation! You can always visit us online at shopusc.org to place your order. If you have a special order, please email us (shop@uscsd.k12.pa.us)

and we will contact you. <https://www.shopusc.org/>

Standing Committees:

- **Arts in USC** – Kathy Ginsburg. No update.
- **Caring and Sharing** - Leria Miles No update.
- **Directory** – Beth Huzjak/Stacey Friday
 - Missing directories were reprinted and shipped to those who never received their order. If anyone is still missing their copy or wants an additional one we have a small supply of extras. Please contact Stacey or me.
- **GATE** – Penny Miller
 - The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Committee provides support to parents of gifted and academically talented children. If you are interested in serving on the GATE committee or have information to share about GATE opportunities on the GATE website, please contact Penney Miller at gateuscptc@gmail.com.
- **Open Mike** – Gina Swanson-
- **Partners in Education** – Katherine DelGrande-Zesch/Elizabeth Cochran
 - The PIE co-chairs have written a survey for parents and an email introducing ourselves and inviting feedback about what kinds of support the district can offer. The district is working with us to send out the survey and email to parents who have children with IEPs enrolled in the district. We are hoping to build on the survey results to think about programming for the next year and to create a network of parents who can serve as conversation partners for each other as their kids transition through different USC schools.
- **Performing Arts-** Shelby Wherry
 - The performing arts teachers are working with the District Administration to schedule any performances this spring based on the County/District Safety Guidelines.
 - The Orchestra has a concert scheduled for March 24, 2021 at 7:30 pm.
 - They are planning to have some variation of a Jazz Festival with Mike Kamuf on April 20-21, 2021. We may have to livestream the event or hold the event in two locations (e.g., Boyce Theatre and the High School Theatre) on the same evening. **Mike Kamuf Bio:** <https://www.mikekamuf.com/bio-press-kit>

- **Spelling Bee** – Sarah Cranganu / Sunil Parchuri
- **STEAM** – Suzanne Wynne No update
- **Welcoming Committee** – Kim Megonnell No Update
- **Wellness Committee** - Libby Mascaro/ Hallie Snyder
 - Screenagers showings
 - Lauren Sheu/mental health online speaking event
 - Kate Fitzsimons update

Reporting Organizations:

- **Community Foundation** – Beth Erlanger/Daphna Gans No update.
- **Odyssey of the Mind** – Laura Murtough/Meredith Markovitz
 - Our 12 Odyssey of the Mind teams are busy preparing for the WPA Virtual Regional Tournament on March 6. All teams will submit a video of their problem solutions to be considered and scored for creativity and risk-taking. Advancing teams will move on to Virtual PA State Finals on April 10. While several USC teams competed at the Odyssey Virtual World Finals last year, the virtual regional tournament is a first for Western Pennsylvania as we had the benefit of an in person tournament last year before lockdown in March. We're excited for our teams to have the opportunity of a new creative challenge this year! Good luck to all 12 teams!
- **Youth Steering** – Amy Billerbeck No update

Old Business:

- Spelling Bee Updates
- Open Mic Update
- Custodian Gratitude Update

New Business:

- Looking for new committee chairs and members for 2021-22. Please contact uscptcpresident@gmail.com if you're at all interested in getting involved! ●
- NEXT MEETING:** March 3rd, 2021 @ 9:30 am

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

February

- 1: Report Cards, Second marking period
- 1: [PTC Open Mic](#), 7 p.m., virtual
- 2: [Curbside Meal Pick-Up](#), 3:30-5:30 p.m., High School
- 3: [Curbside Meal Pick-Up](#), 3:30-4:30 p.m., High School
- 3: PTC meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 4: [Boyce Virtual Spelling Bee](#), 5: p.m.
- 4: High School 8th Grade Parent Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 8: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10: [Boyce PTO meeting](#), 9:30 a.m.
- 15-19: Boyce – Random Acts of Kindness Week (*date change*)
- 16: Fort Couch PTSO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 19: Baker Read-a-Thon begins
- 22: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24: Third Marking Period Progress Reports
- 25: Baker Bedtime Stories, virtual

March

- 2-4: Eisenhower Book Swap