

**Upper St. Clair
PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
Executive Board Meeting Agenda
January 6, 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
 - District wide food distribution is going well. More volunteers are needed. Consider volunteering.
 - Open Mic is rescheduled for February 1st. More information will be coming soon.
- **Superintendent & 2nd Vice President** - Dr. John Rozzo-
 - January 19th is the beginning of the 2nd instructional period and is also the target date for students to go back full time. The district is working closely with the Allegheny Health Department (AHD) to evaluate to see if this is still possible. Recommendations will be made to the School Board during next week's meeting and communications with reasoning behind decision will be made available to the public shortly following.
 - The District is looking at offering summer programming to address academic gaps that may have occurred because of the COVID pandemic. This is only one facet, curriculum realignment for next year will also occur.
 - The District is working closely with AHD to administer vaccinations to district employees. Nothing has been scheduled yet, but will be coming soon.
 - Sports season started back on January 4th. Only parents can attend but events will be live streamed.
 - The substitute teacher extended teacher certification has been expanded into this year and is now being offered again. There are 2 upcoming information sessions for those that are interested: 1) Wednesday January 4th from 4:30 to 5:30, 2) Thursday January 7th from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Application deadline is January 19th.
- **Treasurer (and Statement of Treasurer)- Yesha Katukota-**
 - **The USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund** had an opening cash balance on December 01, 2020 of: \$ 12,660.12
 - Receipts totalled: \$ 3,719.00
 - Disbursements totaled:
 - 12/14/20 Directories Payment to A to Z : \$2,844.00
 - 12/30/20 Spelling Bee Enrollment: \$875.00
 - **The USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund** had a closing cash balance on December 30, 2020 of: \$8,941.22

- **Secretary** - Laura Lisien.
 - The PTC is hosting a gratitude for the school custodians to thank them for all their hard work in making the schools safe and healthy for all the kids during the COVID pandemic. Visit the PTC website at <https://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/domain/53> to make a donation and/or leave a message of gratitude!
- **Board Advisor** – Batool Nulwala.
 - I wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year and hope to see all soon
- **School Board Director** – Dr. Daphna Gans.
 - Please consider joining the substitute extended teacher certification if your time permits
 - The COVID dashboard is up and running that tracks cases throughout the school district. To date no cases have been transmitted in school.
 - School Board meeting is next week. Please reach out to Daphne Gans with any questions you may have.

Unit Presidents:

- **Eisenhower** – Kristin LeBeau
 - **Winter Activities** – In lieu of Winter Parties before winter break, room parents collaborated to provide grade-level crafts for students to complete together. Parents took care to individually package each craft for both in-person and remote students.
 - **Outreach at Eisenhower**
 - **Hat and Mitten Drive** - Throughout the months of November and December, we held a hat and mitten drive. The hats and mittens were hung on a tree in the main office. All donated hats and mittens are being given to students at the Kelly School.
 - **Cards and Artwork for residents at Country Meadows Senior Living Facility** – When Baker reported at the last PTC meeting that they would be making cards for local retirement home residents, we decided to have Eisenhower do it, too! Laura Lisien spearheaded the effort and got more of the Eisenhower community involved. Our school counselor, Amy Miller, used the opportunity to teach the students about empathy. Students completed the cards in art class with Matt Cosgrove. Former Eisenhower parent and former school board member, Buffy Hasco (who does work for Country Meadows), helped to coordinate the distribution to the residents. Mrs. Miller plans to show the children pictures of the residents with the cards and artwork so they can see the impact they made.
 - **Spelling Bee** – We are working on securing enough volunteers to hold a virtual spelling bee on Thursday, January 21st at 3pm.

- **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 with Kirsten Reeder, Art by Becca Ward, 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.
- **General PTO meeting** – Our next General PTO meeting will be held Friday, January 15th at 9:30am. A Google Meet link and agenda will be emailed to families prior to the meeting.
- **Streams** – Michelle Holzer
 - We successfully held our virtual book fair at the end of November and plan to do another one in the spring.
 - We held a virtual holiday shop in December that was a great success.
 - The PTO was able to gift each Streams staff member with a small gift card prior to the winter break!
 - We held two spirit nights in December at Blaze and Chipotle and we are currently looking into options for additional spirit nights for the remainder of this year.
 - Streams will be participating in the Scripps Spelling Bee this year virtually. The date is set for January 27 @ 4pm, with a practice bee scheduled for January 20 @ 4pm.
- **Baker** – Jackie Barefoot
 - We wrapped up several small virtual fundraising events prior to Winter Break including Original Works, and the Enchanted Shop. We had positive feedback from the Enchanted Shop and may consider offering it both in-person and virtually in future years, as siblings enjoyed participating at home.
 - Dr. McClintock-Comeaux offered 3 opportunities to parents in December to meet virtually with himself and members of the PTA Exec board for ‘Chat with Pat’ (a similar format to an Open Mic). It was a relaxed virtual meeting to share thoughts, concerns, and brainstorm ways to continue connecting and improving providing resources and experiences for parents, students and staff. We thank Dr. MC for his participation, and we look forward to potentially making this event a permanent one.
 - The Baker community worked to make over 230 handmade pieces of art and cards for local USC senior citizens residing at Friendship Village and Grand Residence. Both living facilities expressed their gratitude to Baker, as the cards and artwork lifted the spirits of both the staff and seniors. A special thank you to Baker parent and Friendship Village employee, Cassie Kosco-Hrvatín, for her help in delivering to the residents.
 - Thank you to the many parents who provided donations of food, and supplies towards are staff appreciation events over the past 2 months. We were able to

provide staff with a hot breakfast, and stock their staff lounge with their favorite snacks and drinks. We plan to add a few more parent driven donation events to the PTA funded events in the coming months for Staff Appreciation.

- We are looking forward to the start of the new year, and are working to make some of our usual events available on a virtual platform.
 - 4th Grade Virtual Spelling Bee 1/13/21 details to follow via email
 - Baker Read-A-Thon to start 2/19/21. Reading logs and donations to be moved to a virtual platform.
- Our next General PTA meeting will be tomorrow 1/7 at 7pm. A meeting link has been emailed
- **Boyce – Andrea Amorose**
 - Spirit Wear - Spirit Wear was delivered before winter break. If your student attends school in person (at Boyce), items were sent home with your student. If your student is all remote, your items are in the foyer with the remote pick up items. If you had a large box, you should have been contacted by the office for pick up. If you do not have a child at Boyce, your spirit wear items were delivered to the school your child does attend. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding your items.
 - Box Tops – If you still have any non-expired Box Tops, please turn them in during our Box Top collection, running now until February 19th. Box Tops is no longer on items purchased; however, you are able to scan your receipt and have the Box Tops automatically uploaded to your account. Please take a look at the January Boyce Bulletin that was emailed, or on the Boyce PTO Website, for instructions on how to create an account.
 - Friendship Shoebox Project - Students had the option of participating in the annual holiday service project known as the Friendship Shoebox project. Coordinated through our school counselors, this project asked each student to create a small holiday gift package, which was presented to a child in need in Washington County through MERAKEY (formerly Northwestern Human Services). Even though the project was completed in a different way this year, it was a success! Thank you to everyone who participated!
 - Staff Appreciation - Staff Appreciation was a HUGE success! Thank you for your donations! We were able to offer cook to order meals from HOSHI, hibachi food truck, individual cookie containers for each staff member from the Pie Place, drinks, and a gift card to all staff members.
 - Spirit Night - Spirit Night at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza brought in \$263.94. Thank you to all who supported the PTO!
 - Staff questionnaires - In order for families to get to know the staff members at Boyce better, staff questionnaires were sent out to all staff and posted in our newsletter and on our website. This will be updated in real time. If you do not see a staff member you are looking for, they have not submitted their questionnaire yet.
 - Yearbook photos – we are still collecting photos for the yearbook. Please send all photos to yearbook4Boyce@gmail.com

- Committee Chair meeting – the committee chair meeting will be held on January 25th at 9:30 am. I will be sending out information to register for the meeting if you are a chairperson.
- Spelling Bee – the spelling bee is coming soon! Dates and information will be sent out to your email as well as on the PTO website. The deadline to register is January 14th. Pre-test is January 21st at 5 pm, and finals are February 4th at 5 pm.
- Our next Boyce PTO meeting will be on February 10th at 9:30 am. A registration link will be sent out soon.
- **Fort Couch** – Siân Howell.
 - Reach Out annual charity drive run by the student council and students ran from Dec 14th until the week ending Jan 8th. Final figures not known at this point.
 - Next general meeting is Tues Jan 19th @9:30 via Google meet
- **USCHS** – Beth Thomas
 - Science program students were admitted: <https://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/13309>
 - Fall play, "A Christmas Carol," radio show was performed via streaming access on Dec. 21 and 22
 - Kids Helping Kids Club helped with Boyce Friendship Shoebox project
 - STEAM Innovation & Consultation class is presenting its solutions to business partner EA Fab this week
 - Winter athletics resumes on Jan. 4
 - First semester ends on Jan. 15 - no formal "finals week" - detailed description of rationale and assessment was sent to families in Dec.
 - The Activities Office is knee deep in collecting class dues, gathering senior portraits for the yearbook, and getting ready to order caps and gowns for the senior class!
 - Student council was inspired by a TikTok they saw where kids hold up signs thanking their teachers during a virtual lesson. On Tuesday, December 22 they tried to thank all teachers in the building. They also sent out a big "thank you" to the entire staff at the end of the day.
 - Reminder that PTSO General meeting for the High School is scheduled for Jan 13th at 9:30AM and there is no Feb meeting.

Standing Committees:

- **Arts in USC** – Kathy Ginsburg. No update
- **Caring and Sharing** - Leria Miles No update
- **Directory** – Beth Huzjak/Stacey Friday
 - Directories were sent out to those who ordered paper directories around Thanksgiving. If you haven't received yours yet, shipping delays have occurred because of the holidays and COVID and you should be receiving yours soon.
- **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.
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- **Open Mike** – Gina Swanson-
 - Open Mike has been rescheduled for February 1st. More information will be coming soon.
- **Partners in Education** – Katherine DelGrande-Zesch/Elizabeth Cochran
 - PIE is working on several initiatives for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - An updated website
 - A survey for district parents of children with IEPs, to assess family and community needs and consider how to shape future programming
 - Development of a parent-to-parent mentor program, with particular focus on identifying one parent mentor at each of the district schools
 - Development of a support group for siblings of children with IEPs
- **Performing Arts**- Shelby Wherry
 - Curriculum discussions happening in the Performing Arts department for the upcoming year; anticipate that more information will be available as those discussions conclude.
 - **Instrumental programs at the high school:**
 - Ensembles can rehearse thanks to masks that have been purchased and provided that reduce the aerosol transmissions that can occur. Currently no in-person concerts are scheduled but there are some virtual performance possibilities in the works.
 - The BPA (Band Parents Association, comprised of band and strings ensemble families) will be reaching out to 8th grade families in the near future to talk with them about ensemble opportunities as they transition to the high school.
 - **HS Choral program** (thanks to Meagan Bruno from the Choral Boosters and Ms. Milovac for providing these updates)
 - Pantheon Choir will be collaborating with the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale and some other area HS choirs to present a virtual version of Mozart's Requiem in March with a professional orchestra and soloists.
 - PMEA: Congratulations to the following 7 students who successfully auditioned to receive a PMEA Citation of Excellence Award and Medal in lieu of District Chorus this year. Due to their high scores and chair placements, they are all eligible to audition for the PMEA Virtual All-State Festival in the Spring.
 - Kaitlyn Clougherty - Soprano
 - Rebecca Lang - Soprano
 - Ella Elkoni - Alto
 - Hannah James - Alto
 - Hannah Reiger - Alto 1
 - Maddie Nolen - Alto 2
 - Benjamin Lang - Bass 2
 - Tri-M Caroling and Holiday Project Drive

- The National Association for Music Education Tri-M (which stands for Modern Music Masters), an Honor Society for music students, collected over \$350 for the Allegheny County Holiday Project that delivers toys and personal care items through the Department of Human Services to those in need in Allegheny County. Led by Co-presidents Karsen Damon, Malorie Glancy and Ben Lang, members of Tri-M raised money by asking residents for a \$10 donation to have socially distanced caroling outside of homes. A virtual video is currently being created of the event and a link will be sent to those who donated.
- Allegheny County Holiday Music Program
 - On Sunday, December 21, the Chanteclairs and Chanteclairs own violinist Naiya Livingston were part of a TV program on Pittsburgh's CW that featured student music groups from area schools. The link to watch the program on you tube is Allegheny County Holiday Music Program: https://youtu.be/77uN_B7g5ko
- **Strings program** (thanks to Ms. Hestwood for these updates):
 - 3rd and 4th grade: 70 students in 3rd and 45 in 4th grade. The Middle School program is on hold. Mrs. Shoemaker took a leave of absence beginning in November. Administration is interviewing for a long-term sub to fill the position. The High School Orchestra played a concert in November (no wind or brass instruments, so we can play without worrying about spewing aerosols!), and it was very well received. The audience loved the variety of selections, the ensemble sound, and the excellent intonation. Currently, 30 students are enrolled in the high school string orchestra.
- **Spelling Bee** – Sarah Cranganu / Sunil Parchuri
 - Schools are underway with planning. Please see school specific communications for more information.
- **STEAM** – Suzanne Wynne
 - All activities traditionally hosted by the PTC STEAM Committee will be postponed during the 20/21 school year. Specifically, that includes the spring Elementary Coding Clubs and the Boyce Girls in STEAM club. This committee continues to facilitate staff and community members interested in building after-school and in-school STEAM activities for all our students. This fall, we connected with Tracy Smith, who is the Physics Teacher at the high school, and look forward to contributing to her vision for enhancing in-classroom STEAM offerings in grades 9-12. We welcome any new ideas or interest in facilitating STEAM activities in our district. Please contact me if you have any questions or interest. You can find my email on the PTC website.
- **Welcoming Committee** – Kim Megonnell
 - Welcome dinner is on hold until the spring.
- **Wellness Committee** - Libby Mascaro/ Hallie Snyder. No update.

Reporting Organizations:

- **Community Foundation** – Beth Erlanger/Daphna Gans
 - New President is Gordon Mathews
 - Please consider joining the board. Always looking for new members
- **Odyssey of the Mind** – Laura Murtough/Meredith Markovitz
 - No in person meetings, all are virtual
- **Youth Steering** – Amy Billerbeck. No update

Old Business:

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New Business:

- Update on Spelling Bee
- Open Mic Updates
- Announcing Custodian Gratitude Drive
- **NEXT MEETING:** February 3rd, 2021 @ 9:30 am

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

January

- 1: **NO SCHOOL** – Winter Recess
- 4: School resumes
- 6: PTC meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 6: [Curbside Meal Pick-Up](#), 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 7: Baker PTA meeting, 10 a.m.
- 12: Streams PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m. AND 7 p.m.
- 13: High School PTSO, 9:30 a.m.
- 13: Baker Spelling Bee, 2 p.m. (*date/time change*)
- 15: First semester & Second marking period ends
- 15: Eisenhower PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 18: **NO SCHOOL** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 19: Fort Couch PTSO meeting,
- 21: Eisenhower Spelling Bee, 3 p.m.
- 21: High School IB Parent Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 28: Boyce Spelling Bee, 3:30 p.m.