

**Upper St. Clair
PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2020 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-
- **Treasurer (and Statement of Treasurer)-** Yesha Katukota-

Opening balance of October 1 is \$13,060.12. Spent \$300 for PTC Insurance on October 21st. Closing balance is \$12,760.12

- **Secretary** - Laura Lisien.
- **Board Advisor** – Batool Nulwala.
- **School Board Director** – Dr. Daphna Gans.

I want to echo and amplify Dr. Rozzo's words and the words of Mrs Madia - the district is continuously assessing the operational decisions on the appropriate learning modality in close consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department. The district follows all of the county's recommendations for action.

The plan that the board approved is flexible and the district is able to change instruction modalities as needed any time.

I thank all of our students and you, the parents and guardians, for following protocols and for being flexible and adaptable. These are unprecedented times and everyone is doing the best they can.

Because transmission appears to occur outside of school, we all really appreciate everyone staying safe.

And of course thank our teachers and our administration. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Rozzo, Mrs Madia Mrs Fisher and everyone else on our team, who are working tirelessly, and are in communication with the Allegheny County Health Department on a daily basis, day and night, weekdays and weekends.

And Kerstin thank you for recognizing Dr. Rozzo, you are right, this is not common practice for a superintendent to be so accessible to

families and we are fortunate to have him. Thank you for everything that you do, Kerstin.

Unit Presidents:

- **USCHS** – Beth Thomas

- Veterans Day video was shown in homerooms as a remembrance of those who have served.
- Students in STEAM Innovation & Consultion course recently presented their work (article linked below) https://thealmanac.net/news/upper-st-clair-students-explore-practical-solutions-to-real-life-problems/article_833c43f6-237d-11eb-8d33-535396f6ef72.html
- SHOP@USC holiday SHOP begins now (article link below) <https://www.shopusc.org/?fbclid=IwAR0XAE0257ry0Mye7NMrgkBqKszmfyXkd4fsnM1ptUUJrBHz8vr3SewCvc>
- Speech & Debate Team ranks 50th nationally (article linked below) https://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/13300?fbclid=IwAR2YZRCwpGWMW7f_Xh0m9P1MmynVFCrvssdAhA5PMgrOCtqU7Q_5uVunHVw
- Nov. 11 we hosted a virtual athletics department Letter of Intent Day (article linked below) <https://upperstclairathletics.com/2020/11/11/national-letter-of-intent-day-nli/?fbclid=IwAR1URttgG4BnxLf-Q4C0aCtpF2CzQR9GFTyT86G0vZF7tPn5bS4UT2GHG-k>
- Senior T-shirts were distributed on Nov. 17.

Reminders:

Nov 19-Junior Parent Virtual meeting

Dec 2 - HS picture make up day

- **Fort Couch** – Siân Howell. No update at this time
- **Boyce** – Andrea Amorose
 - New Vice President: The executive board has been hard at work in the selection process and the new officer is forthcoming. We will announce our new VP during the next PTC meeting.
 - Spirit Night: Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza is on Thursday, December 3rd. From 11:00 am - 9:00 pm. Please mention Boyce Middle School. This does include take out, dine in, internet orders, or special delivery carriers. Please make note in special instructions that it is for Boyce Middle School.

- **Staff Appreciation:** Staff Appreciation is Friday, December 18th. This year, we are not able to provide a buffet lunch. We have secured a Hibachi food truck and are offering individual lunches for the staff. Since we are not able to take food donations, we would greatly appreciate monetary donations to help pay for the food truck. Any size donation is appreciated. There will be a drop box available at the front office for cash or check donations. Please make sure you make checks out to Boyce Middle School PTO and note on the memo: Staff Appreciation. You can also send funds through PayPal. You can send PayPal donations to Boycemiddleschoolpto@gmail.com.
- **Boyce Bulletin:** The December Boyce Bulletin will be coming out soon. Keep an eye on your inbox for more important news!
- **Picture Day:** Make up picture day for Boyce is Wednesday, December 2nd.
- **Yearbook Pictures:** We would love to have pictures of all the students at Boyce for the yearbook. Please send Boyce school related activities pictures to yearbook4boyce@gmail.com.
- **Friendship Shoeboxes Project:** Boyce Middle School Students will have the option of participating in the annual holiday service project known as the Friendship Shoebox project. Coordinated through our school counselors, this project will ask each student to create a small holiday gift package, which will be presented to a child in need in Washington County through MERAKEY (formerly Northwestern Human Services).

To create a Friendship Gift bag, students will fill a gift bag (provided by the school counselors and is approximately 10x5x13) with items that are fun and practical.

The explanation of this project will be presented during guidance classes during the weeks of **Nov 30** through **Dec 8**. Decorating of the gift bags will be done in the students' respective guidance classes from **Dec. 10** through **Dec. 18**. Items to go inside the shoe box (at least one item from each group)

1. A personal item: soap, shampoo, toothpaste, brush, comb, etc.
2. A small article of clothing: scarf, socks, gloves, mittens, hat, etc.
3. An activity item: books, cards, small games, etc.
4. An edible item: chewing gum, hard candy, lollipops, (nothing that will melt, spoil or contains nuts).

Remote students will also be able to participate in this project. Pick up for the gift bag is **Wednesday, December 9th**! **Keep an eye out for more information from your child's guidance counselor, with more details!**

- Spirit Wear: Thank you so much for all the orders. We have earned \$1,341.25 during the fall sale! Spirit wear distribution will be in the first couple of weeks in December. As soon as the items are delivered, we will let you know. If you have purchased items that you do not want sent home with your child, please reach out to Val Franks or Kris Jenkins to coordinate a pickup time.
- **Streams** – Michelle Holzer
 - Held Streams PTO meeting yesterday. Good attendance! Heard from our school nurse, Mrs. Vargo and new principal Mrs. Klousnitzer
 - First grade open mic was postponed due to staffing concerns. We will reschedule once the new principal is settled in, and an email invitation will be sent to all first grade parents.
 - We sponsored a craft for each of the students in lieu of a Harvest party, and it was a great success. Room parents are planning something similar in December in lieu of the typical winter party.
 - Staff appreciation was held in late October. We provided grab and go snacks and got some great feedback. Also, thanks to a generous donation from Five Star Tire Service, we were able to order a pie (from The Pie Place) for each staff member at Streams to take home and put on their Thanksgiving tables this year!
 - We currently have a virtual book fair running through November 22. All purchases benefit Streams. Orders above \$25 ship free. Check out website for more info and some engagement activities/contests for students to participate in!
 - We will be holding a virtual holiday shop from November 30-December 4. More information will be distributed soon.
 - Spiritwear sale was successful. Orders will be in before the holidays. We earned \$1,291 in profit
 - Streams t-shirt orders (in lieu of Stravaganza t-shirts) are now ready and will be sent home with students this week.
- **Baker** – Jackie Barefoot
 - Thank you to the district for allowing Baker PTA to have access to the AtoZ Connect platform for communication purposes. It has allowed the Baker PTA an easy way to send communications out to all Baker families. We remind our families to check all in boxes as our PTA emails are coming from the AtoZ Connect addresses.
 - Current fundraisers:
 - Original Works is running now through Nov. 30th online. Families can upload children's artwork to make gift items. [Original Works](#)
 - Enchanted Shop is also running now through Nov. 30th. Kids can shop virtually at shop.penguinpatch.com and all orders over \$25 ship free. Kids love this event in person, and we hope the kids can enjoy the shop virtually this year.

- Our Scholastic Virtual Book Fair has concluded. Thank you to those who purchased. We hope to set up a way to do a teacher wish list in the Spring.
 - Fall Spirit Wear Sale has concluded. Delivery information to come. It was a profitable sale with over 120 orders. A spring sale will occur and we hope to include more budget friendly items.
 - Thank you to the families who donated items for our Staff Appreciation Breakfast. This event was driven by parent donations, and we hope to offer more of these to show our thanks to the Baker staff.
 - Reminder to our families who use Amazon during the holiday season, or just in general, to please link Albert F. Baker PTA to you account for the Amazon Smiles program. With every purchase a few cents is given back to the PTA and every bit adds up!
 - Our December Outreach Project will be making community connections with USC Seniors who live in Friendship Village and Grand Residence. We are asking students and their families to write notes, make cards, or artwork for the senior residence living in these USC facilities. Many of these residents have had little to no contact with friends and family due to Covid restrictions. We would like to lift their spirits by sending some happiness their way. The cards and artwork do not need to be holiday related, but can be if you would like. We will be collecting December 1- 18th in a collection box in the foyer of Baker.
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- **Eisenhower** – Kristin LeBeau
 - **Scholastic Virtual Book fair** was held in October with \$1,843 in sales. We will receive 25% of total sales in Scholastic rewards. Rewards will be used to purchase books to be donated to the Kelly School.
 - **Virtual Story Time with Mr. Miller** took place during the week of the Book Fair. There was a great turnout for Mr.

Miller's bedtime reading of "The Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss. We received great feedback and hope to do another story time with Mr. Miller sometime this winter.

- **Harvest Activities** – in lieu of Harvest Parties this fall, the PTO purchased and distributed individually wrapped crafts for all students. Students dressed in their Halloween costumes and grades 1-4 made pumpkin lanterns and kindergarten students decorated autumn picture frames. Remote students picked up their supplies and logged in to complete the craft along with the hybrid B students.
- **Winter Parties** - For the winter parties normally held in December, room parents will decide on and prepare a grade level craft for students to enjoy together.
- **Eisenhower Spirit Wear Sale** –Was held Nov 9-16th. 83 orders were placed. Orders will arrive before the holiday break.
- **Kids helping Kids“ Outreach** - Throughout the month of November, we are conducting a hat and mitten drive. All donated hats and mittens will be given to students at the Kelly School.
- **Remote Room Parents** - We decided to have one “Remote Parent” for each grade level at Eisenhower in addition to individual classroom room parents. The hope is the remote parent can help to organize ways for remote students to connect socially with other remote students through activities like live virtual lunches. We are still looking for a remote room parent for 4th grade.
- **General PTO meeting** - Most recent meeting was held Friday, November 13th via Google Meets. We had great attendance. Meeting included board and committee reports. Mr. Miller provided an overview of the change to Phase II learning.
- **Staff Appreciation** - The PTO will be providing a Teacher and Staff Appreciation lunch Tuesday, November 24th to let them know how *thankful* we are for them. Individually boxed

lunches will be provided by Central Diner for all Eisenhower faculty and staff.

- **Eisenhower Extras** - We plan to adapt our “Eisenhower Extras” program to Ike Clubs that will be run virtually. We plan to offer activities like art, cooking, STEAM, etc. We ‘re also looking into the possibility of virtual grade level socials.

Standing Committees:

- **Wellness Committee** - Libby Mascaro/ Hallie Snyder .
No update

- **Welcoming Committee** – Kim Megonnell

- **STEAM** – Suzanne Wynne No update

- **Spelling Bee** – Sarah Cranganu / Sunil Parchuri

- **Performing Arts**- Shelby Wherry

- The HS marching band completed a successful, socially-distanced season, with their final performance of the football season happening at the Penn Trafford playoff game. Additionally, it was able to host the first-ever "Celebrate Band Night," which gave instrumentalists from Fort Couch Middle School the opportunity to perform with the HS Marching Band, from the visitors' stands of the stadium, as well as see this year's pregame and halftime shows. The Marching Band looks forward to the return of "Fort on the Field" next year, and was pleased to be able to come together in music for this special evening.
- The HS Orchestra was able to hold an indoor concert on the evening of November 18, 2020, with a limited audience. With the return to school 4 days a week, the instrumental and choral ensembles have been able to secure space in the HS auditorium for socially-distant rehearsals. The choral ensembles and band ensembles will be using specialized masks for these rehearsals. The committee would like to thank the teachers, administrators, and the School Board for working diligently to provide our performing arts students the opportunity to participate fully in their classes.
- The USC Band Parents Association (USCBPA) is holding their annual luminaria sale, which will culminate in Light Up for Unity night on Sunday, December 6, 2020. Additionally, they are offering a "twin pack" of luminaria for purchase for those community members who want to participate in Unity Night and display luminaria at a later date in the holiday season. This is a wonderful community tradition - don't delay, order your luminaria today! <https://uscbpa.membershiptoolkit.com/packet/16419795>

- **Partners in Education** – Katherine DelGrande-Zesch/Elizabeth Cochran. No Update

- **Open Mike** – Gina Swanson- Working with the District to schedule for

Dec 1. More Information to come.

■ **GATE** – Penny Miller

The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Committee provides support to parents of gifted and academically talented children. The committee is currently working on updating the GATE website and thanks those who have sent activity links to be posted. If you are interested in serving on the GATE committee or have information to share about GATE opportunities, please contact Penney Miller at gateuscptc@gmail.com.

■ **Directory** – Beth Huzjak/Stacey Friday

- almost wrapped up for the year
- verification email went out on 10/8. We gave families 2 weeks to verify and enter their info. 66% of households verified.
- 346 hard copies were sold, which covered the cost of the program. Copies can still be purchased by emailing uscdirectory@gmail.com
- we have been cleaning up the data and are almost ready to print.
- hard copies should be mailed out in the next 2 weeks
- extra copies will be given to each of the schools and administration building.

■ **Caring and Sharing** - Leria Miles. No Update

■ **Arts in USC** – Kathy Ginsburg. No update

Reporting Organizations:

■ **Community Foundation** – Beth Erlanger/Daphna Gans. No update

■ **Odyssey of the Mind** – Laura Murtough/Meredith Markovitz. No update.

■ **Youth Steering** – Amy Billerbeck. No update.

Old Business:

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New Business:

- No December Meeting
- **NEXT MEETING:** January 6th, 2021 @ 9:30 am

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

November

19: High School, Junior Parent meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual
20: Report Cards – First Marking Period
23: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
26: **NO SCHOOL** – Thanksgiving Recess
27: **NO SCHOOL** – Thanksgiving Recess

December

1: PTC Open Mic, 7 p.m., advance registration required 2:
[Baker Picture Retake Day](#), 12-3 p.m.
2: Boyce Picture Make-Up Day, 9-11 a.m.
2: PTC meeting, 9:30 a.m.
2: High School Picture Make-Up Day, 1:30-4:30 p.m. 3:
[Transition Fair](#), 6 p.m., online
7: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
9: Second Marking Period Progress Reports
9: Fort Couch Picture Make-Up Day, 1-3:30 p.m.
24-31: **NO SCHOOL** – Winter Recess