

UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT September 12, 2018

September 12, 2018

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda/Minutes

The agenda/minutes were approved as presented.

Statement of the Treasurer

- **The USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund** had a year end balance of \$8,482.72.
 - No receipts in July and August 2018
 - No disbursements in July and August 2018
 - The ending cash balance totaled \$8,482.72 as of August 31, 2018.

Reports

1. **Executive Committee**
 - **President, Suzanne Wynne**
 - a. Suzanne thanked everyone for coming. She stated that the school year started off in a unique way where a lot more parents sat up and were interested in the events that surrounded the start to the school year. The response from the community creates a dynamic community and we are thrilled as your liaison to the district to provide any forums to create dialogue and engagement.
 - **1st Vice President, Batool Nulwala**
 - a. Open Mic will be held on November 14th at 7:00 p.m. in Boyce Middle School Theater. Tina is working on an online RSVP form that will be posted on social media and our USC PTC website.
 - **2nd Vice President, Dr. John Rozzo**
 - a. Dr. Rozzo will keep the tradition and attend the PTC general meetings as the new Superintendent.
 - b. Dr. Rozzo thought we had start to the school year and overall positive start. Central Office team spent a great deal of time in the schools during the first week. Dr. Rozzo's goal is to have a large presence in the school as Superintendent. He thanked everyone for contributing to the positive start of the school year.
 - c. There have been significant staff changes. There was restructuring at Central Office. Formerly, there were two Assistant Superintendents and now have created Director of Human Resources. Mr. Ray Carson began with the district on August 1st and has an extensive background in human resources at Highmark. Chief Shawn Bryson began with the district in June. He has an extensive background in law enforcement. He is a graduate of USC and is a resident in the district and a child in 2nd grade at Eisenhower.
 - d. New Family Dinner was held on August 31st. All new families in grades 1-12 are invited to attend the dinner prior to the high school football game and then attend the game.

- e. Open Mic is Nov 14th and still working to formulate a plan for the meeting. Dr. Rozzo recommends focusing on safety and security. It would provide a good way to interact with the community and open a dialogue. It will also be a good opportunity to introduce the school police force. The school police force consists of 6 officers, 4 officers are currently here and 2 will join in September.
- f. Current construction in the district is on schedule.
- Board Advisor, Daphna Gans
 - a. No report
- School Board Director, Daphna Gans
 - a. There was a presentation at the school board meeting from the high school. The Associate and Assistant Principals shared with the board a presentation on student voice. They shared that the high school is really interested in including student voice in all aspects. An example of this would be the Mini-Thon.
 - b. Two presentations were accepted in International Conference for School Board and Administration and will be in March. One is on Shop@USC and one on the emotional support program at the high school.
 - c. The board goals meeting related to strategic planning normally takes place in January. They decided to wait until Dr. Rozzo took over and will have this meeting over the next several weeks.
 - d. There will be an anonymous tip line as a result of the Act 44 mandate from the Attorney General office in January. Dr. Rozzo that the Act also requires the identification of a school safety person to oversee all safety - that is Chief Shawn Bryson. A parent in attendance raised the question of what safeguards are in place to prevent students from calling in false comments to the anonymous tip line. Dr. Rozzo agrees that's a concern. We are waiting for more specifics from the Attorney General office on this type of issue.

Unit Presidents

Baker - Lindsay Beck

- Our kids have been loving the new playground! We had an amazing turnout of parents, kids, teachers, and sponsors at our ribbon cutting event. We still have a few more construction projects to finish (accessibility ramp, new slide at old playground), and our sponsor brick wall will hopefully be completed by the Boo Bash on October 19th.
- We sold and distributed over 100 supply kits for our annual fundraiser which raised over \$500 for our PTA.
- Caroline Riley, our VP, created an amazing new bulletin board promoting our membership drive—each family who joins gets a leaf on our “Membership Tree”. We have 186 parents and faculty who have joined so far, which breaks down into 81 family memberships and 23 individual memberships.
- Our Kindergarten Parent coffee will be held next Tuesday September 18th at 9:15 am at the home of Larissa and Blake McLean. Kinder parents are invited to come chat with each other and Dr. McClintock-Comeaux will be in attendance.
- Our Spirit Night chair has been working diligently to get a spirit event on the calendar for every month so that we can explore a variety of local businesses and have more opportunities for this type of fundraising.
- Baker Boo Bash will be held from 6:00-8:00 pm on Friday October 19th. We are scaling back our event a bit this year due to not having the half day to accommodate our set up.

- The Baker PTA Exec Board and Dr. McClintock-Comeaux have decided that our 2018-2019 PTA “Gift To School” will be to purchase “flexible seating” options for our classrooms, such as standing desks, stability balls, and scoop chairs.

Eisenhower - Heather Grote

- A welcome breakfast was held for all new kindergartners and families on August 20th.
- A staff luncheon was set up for the staff on August 21st.
- The Eisenhower will be held on October 19th. Meetings were held all through the summer to prepare for the event. We appreciate help from our fellow elementary schools as we are introducing an online store for our raffle baskets and tickets using credit cards. We have streamlined the communication process by sending home one folder of information with each student instead of multiple communications.
- We are in the process of our Book Fair and will run through Open House on September 13th. Our next PTO meeting will be held on September 14th.
- Our first assembly is on September 18th. OTB - which is our new science offering for Eisenhower Extras. This vendor was recommended by one of our teachers. They have been very professional and understand the audience.
- We would like to make Bylaw changes. ACH payment - want to add verbiage in our bylaws.

Streams - Kerstin Goodworth

- Streams held a welcome breakfast for new families - 86 people attended.
- A Communications Committee was created and switched over to member management software. Streams PTO is 100% online this year so no papers will be going home. The response has been really great from parents.
- Streams currently has 360 PTO members.
- Sending our weekly email communication.
- PTO meeting was held on September 11th. They had 35 in attendance at the morning meeting and 29 in attendance at the evening meeting. Special guest speaker - our counselor talked about bullying prevention.
- Chik-Fil-A spirit night is September 12th.

Boyce - Jen Schnore

- We are preparing for the Deer Valley fundraiser. It will run from 9/27 to 10/12. This year we are continuing with the soy candle sales and we are adding gift wrap. Friday, June 8 is Field Day.
- We have well over 90% participation in the Activity Fee and good numbers for PTO membership as well. So our numbers look good. It is typical for us to get more folks invested in the activity fee than in PTO membership, so this year is typical of years' past. We are very happy with this.
- Our Memory Book will come out in mid-October or sooner. This is the yearbook from last year. Since Boyce has a huge amount of spring events, our yearbook traditionally is distributed in the fall so that those events make it into the book. To have the book in students' hands by end of school year, Josten's requires all pictures be submitted in March. We have so many significant events in the spring that it makes things difficult (orchestra and band concerts, Field day, 6th grade graduation, civil war day and others). We are

looking to re-vamp this or find another publisher to see if we can get spring activities included AND distribute by end of school year. To be continued....

- Our book fair is September 26, 27 and 28 and will be open during Boyce's Open House on September 28th.
- Open House is September 28.
- Our Chick-fil-A school spirit night is November 15 from 4:30-7:00pm. A second one is scheduled for March 20, 2019.
- At our PTO meeting today, Mr. O'Rourke will give a presentation on data overview from last school year, the Panther Program, and the importance of our new theme, "Educating the Mind, Inspiring the Heart." Mr. O'Rourke will also discuss school safety and Chief Sean Bryson will be in attendance to discuss school safety as well. I can update you on how that goes at the next meeting.
- Looking like a potential late November/early December date for Chess Club to begin.

Fort Couch - Katy Loomis

- Started Apples for Students program on September 3rd. You can sign up at Giant Eagle and you can sign up for more than one school.
- First social was held on September 6th. It went very well and had about 350 kids.
- Welcome breakfast was held on August 31st.
- Committee openings - we need a chair for directory, 2 co-chairs for field day and Amanda McQuillan has asked for help with Reach Out.
- We are having a secondary drive for dues and membership. Tried out PayPal this year and was used by 80 families.
- Our next meeting is September 18th.

High School - Shannon Gallagher

- First general meeting will be held on September 20th.
- Executive board met with Dr. Angelo to discuss what will be going on this year. Dr. Angelo will introduce the security team to the group at the first meeting. The chief will also be there and the officers set up for the high school. Dr. Angelo received feedback regarding improving communication with administration and parents.
- A teacher appreciation event will be held in May.
- Date Safe program - how it can be implemented in the school. PTSO is supporting.
- Musical auditions are going on.
- PTSO has 380 members and would like to get more signed up.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC - Kathy Ginsburg - no report

Directory - Beth Huzjak/Stacey Friday

- Beth explained that Back to School Online provides all of the information for the directory. Currently Back to School Online is at 85% completion which means that there are 700 families that still need to complete their information. Once closer to 95% completion then the data file will be provided to A to Z. Looking at mid-October for delivery. At that time the verification email will be sent out and PTO membership can also be purchased.

GATE - TBD - no report

Open Mike - Batool Nulwala

- November 14th at 7:00 p.m. in Boyce Middle School Theater
- Encourage all schools to promote. Encourage friends and family to attend.
- Dr. Rozzo, Chief Bryson and other officers will be in attendance.

Partners In Education - Anne Marie Shaw/Frances Scher - no report

Spelling Bee - Colette LeKachman

- September is the kick off meeting month. This is the month where the spelling bee dates for January and February are set.

STEAM - Suzanne Wynne

- Going to formalize support that the PTO gives in elementary schools science curriculum. Pam Dille does something similar to science days (informal science fair) in the spring. She has reached out to the PTO presidents to get support in the elementary schools.
- PTO representative is going to be working with Matt Henderson at Boyce to help him run an after school STEAM club.

Wellness Committee - Libby Mascaro

- The Wellness Committee began meeting in January and holds monthly meetings.
- A Facebook page has been created - USC Wellness Committee Information.
- In the process of creating a website.
- School safety is on the forefront right now and a part of that is mental health awareness. The Wellness Committee goal is to take care of the kids mentally, physically, spiritually, socially and academically.
- Monday, September 17th the Girls JV and Varsity soccer teams will have a Green Out game for National Suicide Awareness month. All players will be wearing green ribbons. JV game at 6:30 p.m. and Varsity game at 8:00 p.m.
- Focusing on social media use and mindfulness. Working with a mom who works for the Himalayan Institute. Going to possibly start a parent seminar series having someone come in once a month for a mindfulness seminar.
- The old pool area at the high school is empty and it will be filled in. One of our goals is to get a multipurpose room set up for the high school students. It will be separated into different sections. We are currently working on a business plan to submit to the school board.

Welcoming Committee - Kim Megonnell

- We had 230 people in 65 families served at the dinner.
- We came in at \$303 cost on a budget of \$750.
- We would like to thank the following local donors: Pitaland, Olive Oils Pizza, Philly Pretzel Factory, Giant Eagle market district, Armstrong's Express, Moe's Southwestern Grill, Two Brothers BBQ, Tamarind Indian Restaurant, and Aramark
- Along with all the PTA and PTSO and PTC board members, the administration, Judge Ron Arnoni, the USC Police Department, all the volunteers!!

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation - Daphna Gans/Beth Erlanger

- Invitational Golf Tournament at St. Clair on September 24th at 1:00 p.m.
- The Community Foundation continuously gives grants so encourage people to submit.

Odyssey of the Mind - Laura Murtough/Meridith Markovitz

- Registration is open. We are open for another week and then will start to form teams.

- We had 19 teams last year and teams from all schools. 54% of the kids come from the elementary schools, 37% from the middle schools and 9% from the high school. Last year we had 35 coaches and 127 students.
- 6 teams went to states last year and 2 teams went to the world finals.
- Website is uscootm.com
- A fundraiser that is focused on juniors - Axios offers \$25 comparison test if a student is trying to decide ACT vs SAT. The test will help you decide what is right for you. All proceeds benefit Odyssey of the Mind. Registration is online at uscootm.com.

Youth Steering - Amy Billerbeck - no report

Old Business

- Backpack Drive
 - a. The backpack drive was a huge success. Suzanne received a letter from Langley Pittsburgh K-8 which expressed their thanks to the USC PTC for their generosity. The partnership that has been fostered the last two years has helped equip the students for success. Langley serves approximately 750 students in the West End. Michele Urban, former Baker PTO President has a niece that works at the school and she stated how grateful the students are to receive the backpacks.

New Business

- PTC vote on adding a night meeting to our general meeting schedule. There was an expressed interest in having a nightly PTC meeting. We are working with Dr. Rozzo to have a night meeting in the spring. We are looking at March 6th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Unice

The Next USC PTC Meeting
October 3, 2018
High School