

**UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT–
April 4, 2018**

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2018

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda/Minutes

The agenda/minutes were approved as presented.

Correspondence

The secretary read correspondence from The Education Partnership, thanking the PTC for reissuing a check for funds raised in the spring of 2017 as a result of PTC outreach activities. The Education Partnership had misplaced the check and requested PTC to reissue the check.

Statement of the Treasurer

- **The USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund** had an opening cash balance on March 1, 2018, of \$15,336.78.
 - There were no receipts in March.
 - Disbursements in March totaled \$227.28 and represented reimbursement payment for the STEAM committee.
 - This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$15,109.50 as of March 31, 2018.

Reports

1. Executive Committee
 - President, Daphna Gans
 - Daphna welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Michelle Urban and Baker for hosting us.
 - Daphna reported that the PTC is accepting nominations for the following open positions:
 - i. PTC Secretary
 - ii. PIE committee chairperson
 - iii. GATE committee chairperson
 - 1st Vice President, Suzanne Wynne (report given by Daphna Gans on behalf of Suzanne who was not present at the meeting)
 - The Open Mike session for the spring is scheduled for April 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium at Boyce. Please plan to attend and please spread the word for others to attend. Please also visit the district website to find a link to submit questions ahead of time.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole
 - Dr. O'Toole reported that he will be attending a program at the High School later this morning call Women in STEAM. The program hosts women in various careers in the STEAM fields to participate in panel and breakout-session discussions with students. Dr. O'Toole explained that this is the second year for this program and shared that last year's event was powerful and informative.

- Dr. O'Toole reported that the capital projects will be beginning soon. A construction meeting is planned for tomorrow morning, after which time more information will be available regarding changes to the student drop-off area at the High School.
 - Dr. O'Toole is looking forward to the Open Mic coming up on April 16. The administration will be prepared to discuss district safety and security. Dr. O'Toole reported that the district is working on enhancements to our security measures and continuously evaluates the need for improvements.
 - Budget season is underway. Security enhancements have been a significant consideration in connection with this year's budget. Dr. O'Toole reported that a presentation will be made this month to the board regarding early budget considerations. The preliminary budget will then be presented to the board in May and will sit for 30 days. And finally, the budget will be voted upon at the June meeting.
 - Dr. O'Toole reported that he is preparing a recommendation for the board to be presented on Monday, April 9, regarding the additional snow day and whether to forgive it or tack on a day at the end of the year.
 - Dr. O'Toole responded to a question regarding the home football game schedule and whether the construction might affect the schedule in any way. He indicated that they are not anticipating any changes to the High School football schedule.
 - Tina Vojtko responded to a question regarding when the summer calendar of activities and camps would be available. She indicated the schedule should be available within the week.
 - Dr. O'Toole responded to a question regarding the district's view of student activism and how it will be handled in the future, especially with regard to the upcoming International Walkout Day scheduled for April 20. Dr. O'Toole shared that he thought the district did a great job with the event held on March 14 to recognize the victims of the Florida school shooting. He noted, however, that there may come a time with events like these when the cause for which they are "marching" may not be supported by the school. The district has standards and laws that restrict its ability to be flexible in all cases. He continues to encourage the kids to use their voices in our channels by talking/writing to representatives at the state and federal level.
- Board Advisor, Beth Huzjak
 - Beth deferred giving her report regarding current nominees for open officer positions until later in the meeting under New Business.
- School Board Director, Daphna Gans (Member)
 - Commendations and Recognitions for March were shared with those in attendance and can be found on the district website.
 - Daphna shared her takeaways from her recent attendance at a conference organized by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, the theme of which was community involvement.
 - Daphna reported that there were two presentations at the previous school board meeting. The presenters had been chosen to be presenters at a recent PDE Conference and they shared their presentations with the board. The presenters were as follows
 - i. Emotional Support – An Innovative and Collaborative Approach for Effective Programming. They shared information regarding their unique program for students who are in need of academic and behavioral/emotional support throughout their school day and encouraged to explore the uniqueness of their talents.
 - ii. SHOP@USC - A Bold, Unique Student-Run Business for All Students. They shared information regarding how the unique program that has grown over the years that is a partnership between students with significant special education needs and general education students as they design and manufacture products to be marketed and sold within the school community.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Michelle Urban

- April 13 – Author Day, Baker will be welcoming Matthew Holm to the school.
- April 18 – Chick Fil A spirit night
- April 27 – The Variety Show will be held at the High School.
- The 3rd grade tile wall is underway for the students to make their tiles. The tiles will then be installed over the summer so the kids can see them on the wall when they return for 4th grade.
- Planning is underway for the 4th grade farewell party to be held next month.
- PSSA's will begin next week.
- Next PTA meeting is tomorrow. Mr. O'Rourke will attend to answer questions regarding transition to 5th grade. Libby Mascaro will also attend the meeting to kick off Baker's Wellness Committee.

Eisenhower – Jessica Strub

- We spent our March celebrating our individual super powers, the power to READ!
- We held our annual book swap. At this fun event, we allow our students to trade in a few of their own books over the course of two days. On the 3rd day, the students are then invited back to the "store" to shop for "new to them" books! It is a great way to recycle some classics and spark the interest of a young reader!
- We capped off our week of reading with our ACTION PACKED Reading night. The entire night is created in the genius mind of librarian Denise Naumann! She transformed our school entry way into Gotham City. Each student was assigned two rooms to visit, where they were encouraged to read with their family, after a thrilling story read aloud by some of our most popular teachers! The creativity in room decorations and costumes truly left me stunned! We capped off the night with a short video featuring our students as they saved Eisenhower from an EVIL professor attempting to steal our books! The entire night was fun for the whole family. I would like to thank Mrs. Naumann, our amazing volunteers and Colleen from the local USC library, whose dedication and commitment was evident in her book selections for the evening! We are pleased to announce that the left over books collected from the book swap, were donated to the library, to be enjoyed by our super readers here in USC.
- Also, in March, the PTO also issued our spring newsletter, making sure to include all our remaining events so that our families can plan ahead.
- Tonight, escape from the rain and join us for our last spirit night at CHICK FIL A...it is hard to deny the power of those nuggets!
- Once again, this Friday we will show of our school pride by encouraging staff and students to wear our spirit shirts, or USC school colors!
- I tried this last month and it didn't work but that won't stop me from trying again, **Welcome Spring!**

Streams – Kerstin Goodworth (for Veronica Davis)

- April 13 – Field trip to Meadowcroft village
- In March, Streams hosted a very successful book fair and ice cream social.
- Coming up in May, preparations are underway for the 4th grade graduation party.
- Streams will be piloting a new after-school programs called Ecoexplorers this month.
- Streams is collecting Home Depot and Walmart gift cards for outreach.
- As a result of PTO budget surplus, Streams is looking at an Artist in Residency project to help beautify the entryway. The artist will sculpt a permanent art installation and will involve the 4th graders in the project as well.

Boyce – Stacey Cobb

- In March, Boyce hosted a March Madness fundraiser. The kids paid \$1 to take a half-court shot. The event raised \$1,300 to benefit St. Jude Hospital.
- The cafeteria was painted over spring break. Boyce has been painting and adding decals in many areas to brighten the interior of the school.
- Willy Wonka Kids, the 5th grade musical, starts tonight and tomorrow at 7 pm.
- James and the Giant Peach Junior, the 6th grade musical, will be held on April 25th and 26th.

- April 20 is Author's Day. Boyce will welcome Liesl Shurtliff. An all-day event is planned at Boyce with a morning and afternoon session with the author and a lunch with the winners of the Battle of the Books.
- Science Extravaganza is April 23.
- Deer Valley parent meeting is April 19.
- 5th graders are gearing up for their NASA fieldtrip at Wheeling Jesuit University.
- Upcoming PTSO meeting is scheduled for April 19.

Fort Couch – Hemina KrishnaBachia

- Mrs. Falascino is finalizing plans for the elementary school students visit Fort Couch for a day of science. This is a new program that may occur annually or every other year in the future, if it is successful. The event not only raises awareness for science but also provides leadership opportunities for the Fort Couch students who will be presenting and working with the younger students.
- Fort Couch sent nine boxes of donated items to Puerto Rico in connection with hurricane relief outreach.
- The school is hosting a coin drive to benefit the Education Partnership starting today for one week.
- Students are hard at work preparing for the Fort Couch musical, the Wizard of Oz, which is scheduled for May 4, 5 and 6.
- The upcoming PTSO meeting is scheduled for April 17.

High School PTSO – Tracy Barnett

- Mini Thon is Friday, April 6. Please come to Community Time from 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- The PTSO is trying to fill our open officer positions for next year. VP and Treasurer positions are open so if you are interested or know anyone who might be, please contact Tracy.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel – no report

Directory – Beth Huzjak

- We have many copies of the printed directory available for purchase. Please see Beth or Daphna if you would like to purchase a directory for \$10.
- New features will be available with the AtoZ app next year. We will be able to collect activity fees through the directory verification process.
- Beth surveyed the attendees to see who might be interested to purchase school supply kits if such kits were available. A discussion followed among attendees. The responses were mixed with a general consensus that the middle schools and high school supply lists are outdated as a result of the iPads.

GATE – Lisa Clark – no report

Open Mike – Suzanne Wynne

- The spring Open Mike session is scheduled for April 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium at Boyce.

Partners In Education – Tracy Barnett – no report

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman – no report

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne – no report

Wellness Committee – Libby Mascaro

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the C&RC.

Welcoming Committee - Stacie de la Parra/Kim Megonnell – no report

Caring & Sharing – Leria Miles – no report

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Daphna Gans

- The Community Foundation is hosting an after-party dinner event with food trucks following the typical Community Day festivities to celebrate its 25th year anniversary.

Odyssey of the Mind – Meredith Markowitz

- Odyssey of the Mind held its All Star Reception on March 21.
- 19 teams, 35 coaches, and 127 students competed at Regionals this year. Of these teams, 6 teams are advancing to compete in States this weekend.
- Register now for the Ingenuity Camp planned for the last week in June for k-8th grade.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 7 p.m. The Youth Steering Committee is hosting a speaker from NAMI.

Old Business

- The PTC plans to host the pig race at Community Day in May.
- As previously noted, the PTC is currently accepting nominations for the position of Secretary for the upcoming school year. In addition, we are looking for interested people to serve as committee chairs for PIE and GATE.

New Business

- Budget Presentation – Daphna circulated a copy of the proposed PTC budget for the 2018-2019 school year. Daphna highlighted the following points:
 - Sources of income for the PTC include unit contributions and the directory.
 - Primary expenses include the directory and our two primary activities which are the Welcome Dinne for new families and the spelling bee.
 - The PTC decided to give \$6,000 to the district as a gift based on a review of the budget surplus. The \$6,000 will be divided equally among the 6 schools in the district to be used for STEAM initiatives.
- The proposed budget is available on our website and will be voted on at the next General Meeting of the PTC.
- Officer Slate:
 - Beth reported the PTC has successfully identified Batool Nulwala as a nominee for the position of PTC Vice President.
 - Beth explained that nominations are being accepted for the positions of Vice President and Secretary.
 - Daphna reminded all unit presidents to invite their Vice Presidents to attend the next general meeting which will be the changeover meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

The Next USC PTC Meeting

May 2, 2018

9:30 AM

Central Office