

**UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT–
November 1, 2017**

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2017

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 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 an opening cash balance on October 1, 2017, of \$13,204.96.
 - Receipts in October totaled \$1,350.00 and represented unit membership dues from Eisenhower, Boyce and the High School.
 - Disbursements in October totaled \$640.34 and represented reimbursements for the New Family Welcome Dinner.
 - We also voided a check that had been uncashed for the Education Partnership and reissued it in October. This activity had no impact on the cash balance as it was an outstanding check.
 - This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$13,914.62 as of October 31, 2017.

Reports

1. Executive Committee
 - President, Daphna Gans
 - Daphna welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Jessica Strub and Eisenhower for hosting us.
 - Daphna announced the PTC had recently voted to create a Wellness Committee which will be chaired by Libby Mascaro. The goal of the committee will be to help coordinate efforts that are already taking place at the district in support of mental and physical health.
 - 1st Vice President, Suzanne Wynne
 - The Open Mike session for the fall is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th at 7:00 p.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. Sharon Suritsky
 - The Alumni Initiative
 1. Dr. Suritsky introduced Gordon Mathews who is working as a Student Support Services Intern at the High School this year. He is a graduate of the district and is a certified school counselor. Mr. Mathews is working on a new initiative being called the Alumni Initiative which was presented to the School Board last month. The initiative's primary objective is to expand communications with our alumni. Dr. Suritsky explained that former school board member Rebecca Stern and her husband, Larry, offered to provide the school district with significant start-up money to begin an initiative to bring alumni back into the classroom. Dr. Suritsky then turned it over to Mr. Mathews to speak about the initiative.

2. Mr. Mathews explained that he has been working on collecting and centralizing our alumni data so that we can reach out and connect with our alumni. He has also been reaching out to local school districts and universities to understand their processes with regard to alumni communications and involvement. The common theme from his research of other's successful models was the use of an alumni database tool. As a result, they began reviewing various computer platforms as possible database solutions for USC. They have determined, after extensive review, that Almbase is the best software solution for USC based primarily on customizability, pricing and customer support. They are currently working on finalizing a contract with Almbase and hope to rollout the platform in January. And as it is rolled out, participation in the database will not be limited to alumni but will be available to non-alumni community members as well.
 3. In response to a comment from Beth Huzjak, Mr. Mathews shared that the Alumni Initiative working team includes Lauren Madia, Jennifer Kirk, Dr. Suritsky, Amy Pfender, Melissa Garvin, Tina Vojtko and Gordon Mathews.
 - Dr. Suritsky shared that the Board celebrated the successes of The Shop at USC at its most recent quarterly Board breakfast last week. Over the past year, The Shop at USC has received many significant awards and accolades, including the Magna Award last spring. USC is currently expanding The Shop at USC and has recently started a small version of Shop at Boyce and is planning the same for Fort Couch, next year. The district is also working on having a post-high-school Shop at USC initiative, with the help of a private donation.
- 2nd Vice President, Dr. John Rozzo
 - The High-School-Experience Vision Team (part of the 5-year strategic plan) has been examining start times for the students, among other things. Dr. Rozzo explained that possible changes to start times at the High School will have a ripple effect across the other schools in the district. The work relating to this topic is still in the early phase and will eventually involve changes in transportation and will also eventually involve the call for input from various stakeholders (i.e. representatives of teachers and parents from all schools in the district). There is a considerable amount of work yet to be done but the district is hopeful that these changes could be in effect for next school year.
 - There has been a lot of conversation regarding improving the fall-school-picture process to include an online component to avoid having to purchase the pictures in advance and sight unseen, as is the current process.
 - Board Advisor, Beth Huzjak – no report
 - School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - Commendations and Recognitions for October were shared with those in attendance and can be found on the district website.
 - Stacie de la Parra was recognized at the last Board meeting for all her work over the last 13 years for the New Family Welcome Dinner.
 - Amy shared that she recently attended the Pennsylvania School Boards Association conference in Hershey, PA. It was a joint conference with PASA, the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators for which Dr. O'Toole serves as the outgoing president. He was honored at a luncheon at the conference and is very highly regarded by his peers in the state.
 - Mental health was a common focus of many of the sessions at the PSBA conference and is clearly a concern among educators. Amy expressed her support and excitement for our new Wellness Committee.
 - The capital projects are on track. PJ Dick, our construction manager, is doing detailed estimates of cost projections. The township has received the necessary permits. The goal is to go out for bids just before the holidays and have bids be due in January with the goal of starting construction in late spring. It is expected to be a 15-month project.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Michelle Urban

- Our Hurricane Relief Book Drive was a huge success. We are shipping the books out later this week. There will probably be about 2-3 pallets of books to send.
- The BooBash was a very successful. It made about \$1100 over budget. The kids had a great time.
- The Fall Book Fair is next Tuesday in our school library with a student preview day Monday.
- SpiritWear Sales starts today.
- Also, starting today is a promotion with Primanti's restaurant. The program is called the Hometown Edge. It runs for 90 days, and we receive 10% of the food purchases on each check. If you go you can mention Team C, and Baker will get credit.
- Invitations for our November 30 Playground Fundraiser Event went out last Friday. To date, approximately \$10,000 has been raised for the project.

Eisenhower – Jessica Strub

- The Eisenhower PTO has been recovering from our annual Eisenhower fundraiser! The event was held on Friday October 13th! It was truly a memorable night for all in attendance! We were excited to offer a photo booth for our families, to help make those memories last!
- Last month's T shirt sale was such a success; we have opened a second round of the sale! We have been able to show off our school spirit by wearing these Eisenhower Pride shirts at the 'howler and again last week, during red ribbon week!
- Our 3rd level students were treated to breakfast on October 17th! It was a delightful morning for our families!
- On the 24th, Chick Fil A joined forces with the Pittsburgh Pirates to give our students something to cheer about! This energetic assembly was a hit with all our students!
- Last Friday, the whole school celebrated with our annual Harvest Party and costume parade! It sure was a fright to see the creativity of our students!
- Looking ahead to next week, our 1st graders will be celebrating with breakfast with their families and then later in the month we will host our 2nd level social, Family Game night is always a treat!
- The PTO did not hold a formal meeting this month, but instead will be issuing a newsletter for our families to review. We hope that this change this year will help to engage more families in the activities of our organization!

Streams – Veronica Davis

- The Streams Stravaganza took place on October 13 and was a big success.
- The Harvest Party took place last week.
- On November 7, there will be a spirit day at BJ Bar & Grill at South Hills Village
- The first-grade open mic night is scheduled for November 9.
- The next Streams PTO Meeting is scheduled for 9:30 in the LGI.
- The book swap is scheduled for November 16 and 17.
- Snuggle Up and Read is set for November 16 at 6:30 PM.

Boyce – Stacey Cobb

- Boyce is currently collecting extra Halloween candy, from today through the 8th of November. It will be sent to military families.
- Spirit wear sale occurring now through Monday, November 6.
- Spirit night at Chic-fil-a on November 15.
- Yearbooks – last year's yearbook is currently a work-in-progress. It will be completed this school year and delivered to the children before the end of the school year. The current year's yearbook is also currently underway and will also be available for distribution to the children before the end of this school year.
- No general meeting in October. Had a committee chair meeting in its place which was very productive and well attended.
- Next Boyce PTO meeting is scheduled for November 8 at 9:30 am.

Fort Couch – Hemina KrishnaBachia

- Our 2nd Social in October was extremely popular with our 7th graders.
- Mr. Lucas, Math Curriculum Leader distributed BuzzMath registration information to 92 participants.
- Python Programming Club concluded with a pizza party and speaker shared different applications of coding ranging from health professional to financial analytics.
 - An inspiring video was shared of a 15-year old who enhanced early detection of breast cancer through use of coding application. Kindness and compassion were the motivating drivers for this high schooler.
- A 7th grader, Rosemary Ramirez, raised over \$8,000 by selling t-shirts for Puerto Rico. A single child can certainly make a huge positive impact!
- The next Ft Couch PTSO meeting is a short reporting meeting at 9:30 am on Tuesday, November 17th.

High School PTSO – Tracy Barnett

- Homecoming was a huge success thanks to the Activities Office.
- A lot of High School fundraising comes through the booster club. Please visit USC website for details regarding the Band boosters fundraising efforts including the sales of wreaths and luminaria, for example.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel

- The Scholastic Art and Writing contest is accepting admissions now thru Dec 7th and 15th respectively. We are in the "at-large" category, rather than being in a district, this year. So changes have been made. We are working to get posters at both the HS and FC to let students know about the contest details. Art teachers are encouraged to publicize the opportunity to participate to their students. This contest is nationwide and is open to all 7th-12th graders. E-alerts and other forms of publicity will be up and running very soon.
- The PTC will reimburse the \$5 enrollment fee for the first 10 students from Fort Couch who register to participate in the contest.
- Please put the word out that the chair position is available for the '18-'19 school year! It is a great way to impact the students and the whole community--and it is not necessary to have any artistic talent to be the chairperson.
- The HS Arts Chair position has not been filled for the current year, and if there are any HS parents that would like to be involved, the HS PTSO would be very grateful. And just to note...you can chair this committee even if you do not have any students participating in any of the art programs.

Directory – Beth Huzjak/Brooke Tarcson

- The verification emails for the directory went out on Monday night and about 30% of the people have completed their verification.
- Spread the word and encourage your friends to complete their verification.
- Two big changes this year for the directory app include the ability to obtain a list of all the children and respective parents in a class and the ability to select which child will receive the printed directory to bring home.

GATE – Lisa Clark – no report

Open Mike – Suzanne Wynne

- The fall Open Mike session is scheduled for November 8th at 7 pm in the auditorium at Boyce.

Partners In Education – Tracy Barnett

- Melissa Garvin is working to line up a speaker for the upcoming November meeting on the topic of services in the early elementary years.

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman – no report

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne

- All three elementary schools will proceed with their creative-computing club currently scheduled to occur February 6 through March 6. Participating fourth graders will meet for 1 hour after school for 5 weeks. Volunteers are being identified and the planning is well underway.

Wellness Committee – Libby Mascaro

- Introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her background and the reasons for her keen interest in chairing this new position. She thanked the PTC for allowing her to be the first chairperson of this committee.

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

Caring & Sharing – Leria Miles – no report

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Daphna Gans

- November 9th is the next book club. The book is Commonwealth.
- The Community Foundation is planning something special to celebrate its 25th year anniversary. It will be a dinner event with food trucks following typical Community Day festivities.
- Contemplating doing a Giving Tea in the spring.

Odyssey of the Mind – Meredith Markowitz

- The Odyssey of the Mind kickoff was October 4th. This year, there are 129 kids participating, 19 teams and 35 coaches.
- A fundraising event is planned for December 9th. Sophomore and junior students can sign up to take the Axios diagnostic test to help with ACT and SATs. The test is regularly priced at \$95 but is being offered for \$25 in connection with this fundraiser.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- On October 11, the Youth Steering Committee hosted a program called “Bryan’s Story” about heroin addiction.
- The Semi-Annual Fall Blast occurred last weekend and was a success. Approximately 220 middle school children attended.
- The next Youth Steering meeting is scheduled for November 8th.

Old Business

- Hurricane Relief – District-wide effort – no additional information. Please see unit president reports summarized herein for details.
- Tina Vojtko compiled all of the individual unit efforts in a single article. If anyone has updates to the numbers originally compiled in the article, please send Tina an email with the updated information.

New Business

- New Committee – Wellness Committee – please see report under Wellness Committee above.
- Motion and Vote: Tracy Barnett made a motion to have the PTC donate \$50 to the High School to reimburse the \$5 enrollment fee for the first 10 students from the High School who register to participate in the Scholastic Art and Writing contest. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Wynne and was carried by unanimous vote of the following PTC members present at the meeting: Daphna Gans, Suzanne Wynne, Stacey Friday, Amy Tomczyk, Michelle Urban, Veronica Davis, Jessica Strub, Stacey Cobb and Tracy Barnett.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

***The Next USC PTC Meeting
January 3, 2018
9:30 AM***

Streams