

**UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT–
October 4, 2017**

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2017

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 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 September 1, 2017, of \$13,499.96.
 - There were no receipts in September.
 - Disbursements in September totaled \$295.00 and included our insurance renewal for \$300.00 and a voided check for \$5.00.
 - This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$13,204.96 as of September 30, 2017.

Guests: Daphna turned the floor over to our guests, the USC High School Mini-Thon Executive Committee and Brooke Tarcson, the Activities Director at the High School.

- Brooke Tarcson introduced the 2018 Mini-Thon Executive Committee:
 - Rayna Recht - Fundraising
 - Andrea Mays – Event Coordination
 - Jack De la Parra – Event Coordination and Community Time
 - Brady Warmbein – Publicity
- The students applied for the Executive Committee positions and these four students were selected after considering all 56 applicants. The remaining applicants who did not make the executive committee have been placed on a subcommittee to assist with the planning and operation of the event. If your student would like to participate on one of these committees, please reach out to Brooke Tarcson.
- The event is a 12-hour dance marathon scheduled for April 6 from 6pm – 6am. The students partner with Four Diamonds to raise money to help conquer childhood cancer. Last year, the USC mini-thon raised over \$17,000. The goal this year is to raise \$30,000.
- On April 6 from 6:30-9:00pm, there will be Community Time which is similar in nature to the Baker Boo Bash, the Eisenhower and the Streams Stranvaganza. It will be open to the public and will be an opportunity for kids and their parents to come and play various carnival-style games, enjoy light refreshments and support the Mini-Thon. Please spread the word to district families to raise awareness of this event and help grow interest to attend and support the Mini-Thon.
- Fundraising will take place throughout the year. The first fundraising event will be a spirit event at Moe's. Students and families will be able to buy a ticket in the near future that entitles them to a full meal at Moe's when presented on November 6 or 7. More information will be provided in the coming days.
- Please join the USC Mini-Thon Facebook page and follow them on Twitter and Instagram.

Reports

1. Executive Committee
 - President, Daphna Gans
 - Daphna welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Tracy Barnett and the High School for hosting us.

- Daphna recognized the unit PTO/PTA/PTSOs for their tremendous efforts to fundraise for the hurricane victims. Details of the various efforts being carried out at each unit will be presented by each PTO/PTA/PTSO president as part of their reports. The response to this district-wide call to act has been overwhelming and inspiring.
 - Daphna also noted that the High School staff are participating in a walk to fight leukemia and other forms of blood cancer in support of a member of the High School staff who has recovered from leukemia.
- 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.
- 2nd Vice President, Dr. O'Toole
 - For Open Mike night, although questions will be solicited from district parents in advance of the event and an open dialogue is encouraged during the event, Dr. O'Toole will also have some prepared remarks to shed light on a few areas on which the administration is working. These agenda topics will be publicized as the date of the event draws nearer.
 - Dr. O'Toole proudly reported that Dr. Sharon Suritsky, assistant/deputy superintendent, is one of two finalists in the Women in School Leadership Award in the Central Office/Principal category, sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and AASA, The School Superintendents Association. Dr. Suritsky will attend the AASA National Conference on Education Feb. 15-17, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn., for the final round of the selection process. The national winner will be selected and announced during the conference on Friday, Feb. 16. The award is designed to recognize exceptional leadership of active, front-line female administrators who are making a difference in the lives of students every day and to pay tribute to the talent, creativity and vision of outstanding women educational administrators in the nation's public schools. Dr. O'Toole was pleased to nominate Dr. Suritsky for this award, particularly given the fact that she is one to work diligently to submit applications to nominate others for awards. He recognized her for her outstanding leadership in the district, the region and the state and noted her leadership role with the Tri-State Area School Study Council's Dr. Jean E. Winsand Institute for Women in School Leadership and the Women's Caucus of the Pennsylvania Association of School Board Administrators. He further praised Dr. Suritsky for her mentorship of others, particularly female educational leaders.
 - Dr. O'Toole praised Brooke Tarcson in her role at Activities Director for her ability to guide and lead the students in their various efforts such as the Mini-Thon. Dr. O'Toole said she is very successful at striking the balance between letting the students make decisions and providing guidance and leadership and he is pleased to have her in that role.
- Board Advisor, Beth Huzjak – no report
- School Board Director, Angela Peterson (Member)
 - The Planning Commission for the township approved the project the way it sits right now which means the School Board can move forward. The next step will be to have the project approved by the Commissioners once a few additional details are worked out. The construction manager and the architect are currently working together on the bid package.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Michelle Urban

- First Chick-Fil-A spirit night is tonight from 4:30-7:30pm - mention Baker Elementary - if you decide to go.
- Playground Renovation fundraising is going on

- Corporate/family sponsorship - 6 platinum sponsors - 1 gold sponsor
 - Buy a Brick campaign - several bricks already purchased
 - Adult Only social event at Crowne Plaza, Thursday, Nov. 30th 6:30-9:30pm
- Yankee Candle online sale going on now through Oct. 5
- Kinder Coffee - Hosted by Emily Mamakos was Thursday, Sept 28th had about 20 kindergarten parents attend
- Our Boo Bash is Oct. 13th - still looking for middle school students to volunteer if anyone has someone interested they email me.
- Just finalized our hurricane relief effort. We are having a book drive for Braeburn Elementary in Houston. They lost their entire library. The book drive will be Oct. 9 - 13 with us having a bin at our Boo Bash. We are asking for new books to be sent directly to the school if possible

Eisenhower – Jessica Strub

- The Eisenhower PTO has been very busy planning our annual Eisenhower fundraiser! The event is scheduled for Friday October 13th!
- Just like in year's past, we have the following activities planned
 - Paper owls decorated by each student to decorate our halls
 - Theme basket for children
 - Silent auction for adults
 - Dinner and bake sale in our cafeteria
 - Each classroom transformed into different carnival games
- This year we are excited to several new games for our students to enjoy!
- In addition, we will be creating a school wide mural created using the traced handprints of our students. I cannot wait to see the creativity of our students on display in a unified mural!
- We are pleased to announce the close of our t shirt sale. We partnered with the Brother's Brother Foundation to provide a monetary donation to areas of our country recovering from devastated hurricane. We hope that these t shirts will help foster a feeling of community for our students. We will be wearing them throughout the year at different school events. We sold nearly 500 shirts!
- Earlier this month we held our 4th grade breakfast! The committee did an amazing job decorating our cafeteria for this Panther Pride gathering celebrating our eldest students!
- Tomorrow is Picture day!
- Finally, planning has begun for our annual Harvest Party and costume parade to be held on 10/27.

Streams – Veronica Davis

- October 12 - 4TH Grade Open Mic hosted by Jamie Burnette
- October 13 - Half Day - Early dismissal 11:30 am; Stravaganza 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- October 16 – 20 - National School Bus Safety Week
- October 23 - 31 - Red Ribbon Week
- October 25 - 4th Grade Special Level Night – 6:30 pm in the Gym
- October 27 - Harvest Parties @ 1:30pm (AM Kindergarten 9:30 AM)
- October 27 - First Marking Period Ends
- October 30 - NO SCHOOL – Teacher Inservice
- October 31 - NO SCHOOL – Parent Teacher Conferences
- **Chik-Fil-A Spirit night** - The September fundraiser brought in \$2,123.90, so 15% of that total is \$318.59!!! Thanks for eating more chicken! This is the biggest Spirit Night the restaurant has had so far for 2017 – not just this school year. And we made \$45.00 more than our last Spirit Night. The next spirit night is in February.
- **Spelling Bee (4th grade only)**
 - Streams Practice Session 1 – Wed Jan 17; 6pm - 8pm @ Boyce Mayview Recreation Center
 - The practice date will only change if a pronouncer is not available to make the 17th date.
 - Streams Spelling Bee - Mon Jan 22; 6:00pm-8:30pm @ Boyce Mayview Recreation Center
 - Streams Spelling Bee Snow Date - Tues Jan 23; 6:00pm-8:30pm @ Boyce Mayview Recreation Center

Boyce – Stacey Cobb

- For the Hurricane Relief Project, Boyce has adopted a middle school in Liberty, Texas. Boyce hosted a school supplies and personal hygiene items drive to collect items for the Liberty, Texas, students and their families.
- The shipping costs associated with sending the school supplies and personal items to Texas were covered by funds raised during a staff dress-down day at Boyce.
- In addition, Boyce raised over \$1,300 through a Scholastic Fair coin drive. The coin drive was a competition between the 5th and the 6th grades to see which grade could collect the most coins. The winner was going to get extra recess. The collections were so close (within \$1.67) that both grades earned extra recess! \$300 of the funds raised will be matched by Scholastic Books and sent by them to fund hurricane relief. The remaining \$1,000 will be sent to Boyce to spend on the Liberty, Texas school.
- Boyce has launched the Deer Valley fundraisers. The students are selling garbage bags as they have in the past. New this year, the students will also be selling soy candles.
- Holding first staff-appreciation event on October 13.
- Next Boyce PTO general meeting will be in November. There is no general meeting in October.

Fort Couch – Hemina KrishnaBachia

- Python Programming started this Monday with 40 students participating & 3 High Schoolers mentoring. Steven Cheung, senior, is lead instructor
- BuzzMath: 92 students participating, with 3 classes set-up in the Upper St Clair account. Mr. Lucas will distribute activation codes to students in a few days
- The Education Partnership: 8th graders packed 365 Education Supply Bags & 7th graders wrote letter of encouragement. Bags have USC logo. These bags will be distributed to Turner School in November. The 7th graders will be packing STEM bags in November.
- Chipotle Spirit Night: October 11th from 5 – 9 p.m. & all proceeds will go towards the hurricane relief. Student Council will select charity during reach out program.
- Next Social: October 19th Looking for parent volunteers.
- Ft Couch Open House: Thursday, October 5th from 7 – 9 p.m.

High School PTSO – Tracy Barnett

- We held our first general meeting of the year on September 20th. Here are the highlights:
 - Dr. Angelo introduced Mr. Dan Zelenski as a member of the Administrative Team. He is an Assistant Principal responsible for students with the last names L-Z.
 - Shop@USC were our visitors and spoke about the program and plans for the year
 - The students plan to hold Mini Thon again this year it will be on April 6, 2018 from 6pm to 6am
 - Freshman "rush" was held as the clubs and activities recruited new members. New students were also invited to participate.
 - Dr. Angelo spoke to us about five important principles. They are: (i) you matter; (ii) we are a team; (iii) together we can do anything; (iv) the growth mindset; and (v) grit.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel – no report

Directory – Beth Huzjak/Brooke Tarcson

- In an attempt to send out targeted reminders to families who have not completed the Back-to-School registration, a computer issue was discovered. The district is working diligently to correct the issue so that a reliable database of information may be handed off to AtoZ Directories for purposes of producing our directory. Tina Vojtko and Daphna agreed to work on a post for social media to update curious and concerned district families who are anxiously awaiting the 2017/2018 Directory.
- Once the database is sent to AtoZ, the process should move very quickly and families will be able verify their information and begin using the directory immediately.
- As part of the verification process, PTA/PTO/PTSO memberships can be purchased online as well as a hard copy of the directory.

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

- We held our first meeting of the year on September 19th and approximately 10 parents attended. Melissa Garvin spoke about back to school issues and answered questions. She will have a speaker for the next meeting to discuss services in the elementary grades. It will be held in November.

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman

- The USC Spelling Bee calendar has been set as follows:

January 11:	Baker Spelling Bee
January 16:	Boyce prequalifying written spelling test
January 22:	Streams Spelling Bee
January 25:	Eisenhower Spelling Bee
January 30:	Boyce Spelling Bee
February 6:	Fort Couch Spelling Bee
- Now that the calendar has been finalized, the representatives from each unit school will begin to coordinate the event at each school.

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne

- All three elementary schools will proceed with their 6-week creative-computing club in February and March. Going forward, Suzanne will be working with the various school reps who have volunteered to assist with the club as well as with Dr. Wagner who coordinates the high school volunteers.

Welcoming Committee - Stacie de la Parra/Kim Megonnell

- The Welcome Dinner event on September 15 was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated. Over 300 people were fed. Going forward, the Welcoming Committee will be in great hands with Kim Megonnell as the new Chairperson.

Caring & Sharing – Leria Miles – no report

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Daphna Gans

- Oktoberfest – October 14 at Saint Thomas More Church. There will be silent auction. Wine and beer will be served. Tickets can be purchased online at www.cfusc.org and are \$50 per person (\$25 per person for a designated driver ticket).
- If you typically attend Community Day, plan to stay all day this year. The Community Foundation is planning something special to celebrate its 25th year anniversary.

Odyssey of the Mind – Meredith Markowitz

- The Odyssey of the Mind kick-off meeting is this evening, October 4th, at Boyce. For more information, visit www.uscootm.com.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- On October 11, the Youth Steering Committee will host a program called “Bryan’s Story” about heroin addiction.

Old Business

- Hurricane Relief – District-wide effort – no additional information. Please see unit president reports summarized herein for details.

New Business

- Other – Tina Vojtko noted that many Verizon email users are having issues receiving eAlerts. We believe this has to do with Verizon's move to AOL mail. Please check your AOL email and, specifically, that account's Spam folder for any eAlerts you may be missing. Be sure to mark the messages as “Not SPAM” and/or move the messages from the SPAM folder to your Inbox. For more information, visit “Attention Verizon Email Users” on the home page of the district’s website for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

The Next USC PTC Meeting

November 1, 2017

9:00 AM

Eisenhower