

**UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT–
September 13, 2017**

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2017

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda/Minutes

The agenda/minutes were approved as presented.

Correspondence

The Secretary read correspondence from Pittsburgh Langley K-8 thanking the PTC for the recent backpack drive. The correspondence follows at the end of these minutes.

Statement of the Treasurer

- **The USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund** had an opening cash balance on July 1, 2017, of \$13,499.96.
 - There were no receipts in July or August.
 - There were no disbursements in July or August.
 - This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$13,499.96 as of August 31, 2017.
- The audit for the 2016/2017 school year is complete and will be kept on file. There were no significant findings.

Reports

1. Executive Committee
 - President, Daphna Gans
 - Daphna welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - She reported the recent School Supply Drive for the Education Partnership was a huge success with 15 boxes of donated supplies collected. She thanked everyone for their contributions and participation.
 - 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. The next steps will be to issue an invitation and a call for questions for Dr. O'Toole to be submitted online using a form on the district website.
 - The Open Mike is an event that PTC hosts twice a year, once in the fall in the evening and again in the spring during the day. It's a great opportunity to hear from Dr. O'Toole and other members of the administration about what is going on in the district and to ask questions of Dr. O'Toole.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. O'Toole
 - Dr. O'Toole thanked Daphna and Suzanne for attending the Welcome Back event for the teachers and thanked Daphna for the remarks she shared at the event.
 - Dr. O'Toole shared that we have had a great start to the school year. Our hearts are with the students who were injured during the first few weeks of school.
 - Of the three domains that make up Dr. O'Toole's role (1. curriculum instruction, 2. community and board work, and 3. operations), he has spent a significant amount of time

in the last six months working in the operations domain. With a new Directors of Business & Finance, Athletics, Food Services and Buildings and Grounds, Dr. O'Toole has spent a significant amount of time helping to manage a smooth transition for these leaders in their new roles.

- Open house season is underway. The elementary schools hosted open houses last week with great attendance. The High school will host an open house this week.
 - There is a new innovation hub at Fort Couch designed similar to the Boyce innovation hub.
 - Dr. O'Toole and the School Board have been working on a new policy to begin using the video camera functionality on the new buses. The policy has not been finalized yet but once it is final and has been passed by the School Board, the video cameras will be used to monitor activity on the buses.
 - Recent changes in the administration include Ms. Christine Mussomeli who joined Boyce as the Assistant Principal and Mr. Daniel Zelenski who took a new role as an Assistant Principal for the High School.
 - The High School is hosting a Suicide Prevention Awareness program on September 26 for parents to attend. Dr. O'Toole encouraged everyone to attend.
- Board Advisor, Beth Huzjak
 - a. Follow USC PTC on twitter and Facebook and invite your friends to follow us too.
 - School Board Director, Barbara Bolas (Member)
 - a. The School Board has been working to finalize the plans for the building project and has been working with the Planning Commission with the aim of putting the project out for bid in December and break ground in the spring. There has been a significant focus on phasing the project and trying to minimize disruption to the students. There will be a community forum event to address community concerns and questions.
 - b. With regard to the recent administration staffing changes, Christine Mussomeli and Daniel Zelenski are both very excited about their new roles.
 - c. Barbara concluded her report and solicited questions from meeting attendees. The following questions/concerns were raised by attendees:
 - A meeting attendee expressed a concern for disruption to parking and traffic patterns as a result of the construction for the new buildings project. Dr. O'Toole described plans for changes to the parking areas and shared his view that the student drop off will be enhanced as a result of the remodel both from the standpoint of efficiency and safety.
 - Another meeting attendee expressed a concern to preserve parent access to the field at the stadium during commencement.
 - Dr. O'Toole commended Tina Vojtko for her work with the dissemination of important district communications and he encouraged everyone to share suggestions with Tina as this project continues.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Michelle Urban

- Kicked off our Playground Renovation fundraising at Open House
 - Corporate/family sponsorship
 - Buy a Brick campaign
 - Adult Only social event at Crowne Plaza, Thursday, Nov. 30th 6:30-9:30pm
- Homeroom Coordinators have signed up
 - Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 20th at 10am at school
- KidStuff coupon book sale is underway
- Yankee Candle online sale starts next Friday, Sept. 22nd
- Kinder Coffee - Hosted by Emily Mamakos is Thursday, Sept 28th 9:15am
 - This is an event for Kinder parents to meet one another and also to meet Dr. McClintock-Comeaux.

- First Chick-Fil-A spirit night will be Oct. 4th 4:30-7:30pm
- Started planning for the Boo Bash, Oct. 13th
- We are working on a fundraiser/drive for the victims of the hurricanes in both Houston and Florida - more details to follow

Eisenhower – Jessica Strub

- Even though school has only been in session for a few weeks, the Eisenhower PTO has been busy!
- We kicked off the school year with a welcome breakfast for new families as well as all incoming kindergartens. We had over 400 people in attendance. It was wonderful to share our Eisenhower pride with these new families.
- On August 23, we hosted a welcome luncheon for our amazing staff members! We provided lunch, desserts and beverages to over 60 staff members. The school was buzzing with the excitement for the New Year.
- Last week we held our fall book fair from Tuesday to Thursday! We were amazed by the turnout, thanks in part to the preorder offer of the 12th book, in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series and the new release of Dog Man- a tale of two kitties! We added additional teacher wish baskets which allowed our families to directly purchase books for their child's specific classroom!
- Last Thursday, we held our fall open house! It was once again wonderfully attended. Parents met our staff and listened to curriculum presentations! I personally was delighted to learn that I can watch math tutorial videos directly through the student link section of the USC district website!
- Kicking off today, we will offer a school spirit t shirt sale! We will use the proceeds of this sale to benefit the Brothers Brother foundation. We will show our school pride through an artist commissioned, (Art teacher Matt Cosgrove) Eisenhower t shirt! Each grade will have a different color but the design will be consistent! We will encourage our families to wear these t shirts or their class color at school events, such as, field day, field trips and of course the annual Eisenhower scheduled for 10/13!
- On behalf of the Eisenhower PTO we are looking forward to a fun filled school year! Thank you!

Streams – Veronica Davis

- First PTO Meeting of the new school year was held on September 12 at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm, Streams LGI
- A Homeroom Parent Meeting will be held on September 19 in the Streams LGI at 9:30 am
- Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night is scheduled for September 21! 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm
- School Picture Day is scheduled for September 26.
- First Marking Period Progress Reports – September 27
- Kindergarten Open Mic – Kerstin Mayr's House on September 28.

Boyce – Stacey Cobb

- Boyce Welcome Day was a success. We had a lot of families attend which allowed us to collect the student activity fee along with PTO membership fees. The activity fee is used to fund most PTO events throughout the year since we don't do a big fundraiser. We have had 97% of the fees paid.
- Boyce Book Fair is Sept 27-29. Online sale will take place Sept 20-October 3
- Boyce Open House is Thursday September 28, 2017 from 7-9pm.
- We are working on our hurricane relief project. We have a few ideas but haven't decided yet. Our guidance counselors are working with an organization to be paired up with a school to assist with their needs. Hopefully we have more details to share soon.

Fort Couch – Hemina KrishnaBachia

- Ft Couch Welcome Day – August 22
 - Great opportunity for 8th graders to mentor new 7th graders by providing tours and answering any questions
 - Also, provided PTSO opportunity to collect membership and student dues
- PTSO Back to School Meeting – August 30th
 - 45 parents attended meeting
 - Speakers included: Peggy from The Education Partnership, Painting with A Twist & Mrs Billerbeck, School Board

- 1st Social – August 31st
 - 376 students attended
 - Implemented new FastPass system
 - Special shout-out to following committee chairs: Social Co-Chairs: Jamie Burnette & Betsy Boughner; Membership Co-Chairs: Kathy Teresi & Lucy Higginbotham; Student Dues Co-Chairs: Kathy Teresi & Kim Megonnell
- Staff Appreciation Breakfast – September 8th
 - 80 staff in building
 - Rachel Lowden successfully chaired this event with parent volunteers
 - Received free sandwich coupon from Chick-Fil-A for each staff member
- New Math Initiative, BuzzMath, implemented
 - \$6 cost to parents
 - 121 students participated in free Pilot Program
 - Approx. 80 students paid to participate in the annual program
 - Collaborative effort with Mr. Lucas, Math Curriculum Leader, to determine if application is helpful for children and if this should be implemented into Ft Couch math curriculum next year
- New Science Enrichment Program implemented
 - Mrs. Falacino, Science Curriculum Leader, partnering with science teacher at high school. The Forensics Science students will prepare clues for 8th graders to solve. This will be an interactive, hands on science based experience, and offer a great mentoring opportunity for high schoolers
 - Mrs. Falacino will reach out to Eisenhower Science teachers to determine the best fit for a science project/experiments that fits curriculum of both 7th graders and 4th or 5th graders. Goal is to provide 7th graders an opportunity to step up and be mentors by teaching science.
- Python Programming
 - Steven Cheng, high school senior, developed a 6 hour curriculum to teach Python Programming
 - This curriculum vetted and approved by Mr. Miller, high school Math Curriculum Leader
 - Dr. Wagner agreed to be Steven's sponsor.
 - 4 – 5 high school students will co-teach this after-school activity
 - Bhagawati Subramaniam & Ruth Rush agreed to co-chaperone these classes
- Next PTSO General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 19th
 - A special presentation will be offered after PTSO meeting
 - Mr Palmer and Mr Buch will co-present Bryan's Story. Bryan was a USC student who died of heroin overdose. This information is presented to 8th graders.
 - This program will be presented during an evening event on October 11th at the rec center
- Audit completed this week. Annual Statement for Non-Profit Corporation has been filed.

High School PTSO – Tracy Barnett

- Senior Cruise took place on September 10th and many members of the Senior Class attended. This is always a successful event and is the kick-off for the senior year activities.
- The High School PTSO started its own Facebook page.
- The Executive Board met with Dr. Angelo to discuss goals for the year. Dr. Angelo has many speakers planned for the students. He has programs planned about drug and alcohol use and social media awareness. He is also working on a program about dating violence. In addition, Bill Strickland, the CEO of the non-profit Manchester Bidwell Corporation, will be speaking to all high school students at some point during the year. He spoke at Town Hall South a couple of years ago. In addition, all 10th grade students will hear from a Holocaust survivor before they read the book, Night, by Elie Wiesel.
- Upcoming Events: Back To School Night on 9/14 at 7pm, Freshman Parent Meeting on 9/18 at 7pm, the first PTSO General Meeting on 9/20 at 9:30am and the first Principal's Advisory Council Meeting on 9/28 at 9:30am.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel

- The Arts in USC committee will continue to promote and encourage students 7th through 12th grade to participate in the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition. The fee is only \$5 and the students need to pay it to the contest. USC students have participated the last two years, and both years many of our students have won in their categories. Stay

tuned for deadlines from each school's Arts In USC committee chairs. The competition is during the first semester, with submissions due later in the fall through early January.

- Our contest for K-6th graders will be in house, like last year. It was a huge success, and was even more popular than the year before. We will work with the school art teachers and come up with a common theme for the contest, which takes place 2nd semester. Artwork is usually due sometime in February, and then judging begins within schools and then district wide.
- Each unit president should send Rachel the email of your Arts in USC committee chair. Rachel's email address is Chapelwood25@gmail.com.

Directory – Beth Huzjak/Brooke Tarcson

- Brooke Tarcson is willing to assist with the directory process for one more year.
- The Back-to-School online process is well underway with 80% complete.
- Targeted reminders will be sent out this week to families who have not completed the Back-to-School registration.
- According to Tina Vojtko, the database will be released very soon for use in the directory process. The database will be sent to AtoZ and a verification email will go out to everyone in the next few weeks.
- 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

- Typically have 3-4 meetings a year. Two of the meetings are typically geared toward gifted and talented or accelerated education. The other two meetings typically cover general issues in education (e.g college, STEAM district initiatives). The first meeting will be held in October.
- Two district students are founding a chapter of Mu Alpha Theta which is a National Honor Society for Mathematics. Steve Miller will be the faculty chairperson.
- Any questions or suggestions, please email Lisa Clark

Open Mike – Suzanne Wynne

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

Partners In Education – Tracy Barnett

- The first PIE meeting will be held on September 19th at 7pm in the LGI Room at Boyce. Melissa Garvin will address “back to school” issues including resources available to parents.

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman

- Kick-off meeting will be held in September to begin planning at setting dates for the Spelling Bee.

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne

- New creative computing club as of last year at the elementary schools. Volunteers are being identified at each of the three schools.
- The club will be offered at the schools in the spring and may be a 5-6 week program this year as compared to a 4-week program last year.
- Suzanne is excited about the new curriculum which is still being developed and looks forward to the opportunity to make this program available to the students again this year.

Welcoming Committee - Stacie de la Parra/Kim Megonnell

- The new family welcome dinner is scheduled for September 15, 2017, and will precede the first home football game. Invitations have been sent out to families of 1st – 12th grade students who are new to our schools (e.g. transferring in from local private schools or relocated to St. Clair from somewhere else).
- The dinner is largely donated by area restaurants.
- Stacie is stepping down as the chairperson for this event, after 13 years. She is transitioning to Kim Megonnell who will be the new chairperson moving forward.
- Always looking for ways to improve the event year after year. This year, the mascot will attend the dinner.
- Still taking volunteers. If a student is looking for IB hours, reach out to Stacie.
- Shout outs to Jennifer Markin and Kevin Deitrick who have been very helpful in the process.

Caring & Sharing – Leria Miles

- As many of you know, the Caring and Sharing committee exists as a source of channeling information to all USC families on behalf of any USC family who may have a need and would like to make it broadly known that they are in need of assistance. As stated on the PTC website, in an effort to foster a sense of caring and sharing within the school district, committee members will act, when requested, to offer assistance to families within the school district experiencing a time of crisis, hardship or need. Families should feel free to reach out to the PTC Caring and Sharing Committee to receive help with disseminating information about how the community can help!
- If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, we will work to put you in contact with those that can offer support!
- Please email Leria Miles at leriagee@hotmail.com with all requests.

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Daphna Gans

- The outdoor-turned-indoor movie was well attended last month.
- 2nd Annual Golf Outing at St Clair Country Club is scheduled for September 25. Lunch is served at 1pm.
- Oktoberfest – October 14 at Saint Thomas More Church. There will be silent auction. Wine and beer will be served. Invitations should be coming out this week.
- The Community Foundation recently provided funding in the community for the Eisenhower and Baker playgrounds and the Innovation Hub at Fort Couch.
- The next Book Club meeting is September 14 and the book is Cutting For Stone.

Odyssey of the Mind – Meredith Markowitz

- Thank you to the School Board and the district for your generosity and support over the years and for letting Odyssey of the Mind use the buildings for practices and team meetings.
- Odyssey of the Mind is a problem-solving competition. The premise of Odyssey is that you can teach creativity and you can teach divergent thinking. The program is for students K-12.
- Last year, over 140 students participated in OM on 19 teams. 10 of the teams advanced to the State Final competition. For the second year in a row, a team of eighth graders from Fort Couch Middle School represented Upper St. Clair at the Odyssey World Finals. Out of 71 teams in their division representing 29 states and 9 countries, the team's performance earned them fourth place overall and first place in the long-term performance.
- Registration to participate in OM this year is underway through September 20. For more information or to register visit www.uscootm.com.
- Kick-off on October 4th at Boyce. Throughout the year, there will be a round robin for the students, spontaneous problem solving training at the Rec Center, coaches' forums and the tournament on March 3 at Moon Township High School.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- On October 11, the Youth Steering Committee will host a program called “Bryan’s Story” about heroin addiction.
- A general meeting for the committee meets tonight at 7pm. Anyone interested in joining the Youth Steering Committee should attend.

Guests: Melissa Epler, Town Hall South

- Melissa presented Town Hall South, a speaker series. There are memberships still available for purchase (\$165 for the series). Visit www.townhallcouth.org for details or to purchase a membership to the lecture series.

Old Business

- The Education Partnership school supply drive was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who participated and contributed.

New Business

- Hurricane Relief – District-wide effort – as presented by unit presidents and detailed in their reports included above.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

The Next USC PTC Meeting

October 4, 2017

USC High School



2940 Sheraden Blvd. | Pittsburgh, PA 15204
Phone: 412-528-2100 | Fax: 412-778-2106 | www.pps.k12.pa.us/langley

Rodney Necciai, Principal
Deborah Hollis, Asst. Principal
Shawn Stromberg, Asst. Principal

June 20, 2017

Dr. Daphna Ganz
President, USC PTC
USC Parent Teacher Council
1825 McLaughlin Run Road
Upper St Clair, PA 15241

Dear Dr. Ganz:

Please accept this letter of thanks for your generous donation of backpacks to Pittsburgh Langley K-8. We serve approximately 750 students in Pittsburgh's West End, and we are always in need of backpacks and basic supplies to help meet our student's educational needs. Our current transiency rate is 48%, and 100% of our students qualify for the free breakfast and lunch program. Given these statistics, your thoughtfulness will touch our students beyond what this letter could possibly capture.

We are very excited for the start of the 2017-2018 school year, and humbled by the generosity of the USC PTC. We are excited that we can offer backpacks as part of our welcome back event. Parents will be able to come and receive items that will ease the transition into the start of the new school year. We would not have been able to offer such a great resource without your generosity.

Thank you again for your donation to Pittsburgh Langley K-8. The generosity of the Upper St Clair PTC will help many of our students begin the school year with a positive start. We are very grateful! Thank you again.

Sarah Armenti, MSW, LSW
Pittsburgh Langley K-8
Social Worker – Grades K-3
(412) 528-2100