

**UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT–
May 31, 2017**

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 31, 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.

Correspondence The Secretary read the following correspondence:

1. From Chrissy Sileo and Kathy Teresi, acting co-chairs of the PTC Outreach Committee:
Dear Beth and the PTC Board, Thank you so much for your help and support with our district's outreach initiative. Together, we were able to meet our fundraising goal of \$12,500.00. This allowed us, along with the Education Partnership, to put much needed school supplies into the hands of over 700 students at the Kelly and Turner Schools! We could not have done this without the efforts and support of your board and our great families (in the district). Thanks again, Chrissy and Kathy
2. From Amy Billerbeck, School Board Director and 2016/2017 PTC honoree:
Dear PTC Council Members, Thank you so much for recognizing me with the Honorary Achievement Award. Having open lines of communication between parents and the School Board is so important. I truly appreciate the opportunity to keep the parent-teacher groups up to date through the PTC. Best of all, it has been great fun getting to know all of you and hearing about the amazing work you are each doing throughout the district. Keep up the wonderful work – and thank you again for the award. With warm regards, Amy Billerbeck

Statement of the Treasurer – No report given the May bank statement was not available as of the date of this meeting.

Reports

1. Executive Committee
 - President, Daphna Gans
 - Daphna welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - Daphna thanked Dr. Rozzo and Dr. Suritsky for joining us. She expressed the PTC Board's sincere appreciation and gratitude for the collaborative nature of our relationship with the Administration and School Board. She noted that it is a unique relationship that we have and she noted that it is not one that is taken for granted.
 - 1st Vice President, Suzanne Wynne – no report
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Suritsky on behalf of Dr. O'Toole
 - The curriculum recommendations will be formally presented to the School Board next Monday, June 5th. The Board will formally adopt the curriculum recommendations at the board meeting on June 20th.
 - Next week is a big week with the last day of school and graduation.
 - Dr. Suritsky thanked all of us for another wonderful year and expressed her gratitude for our efforts, collaboration and ideal partnership with the Administration.

- 2nd Vice President, Dr. Rozzo on behalf of Dr. O'Toole
 - Dr. Kevin Deitrick was recently hired as the new Athletic Director and he started last week. The administration is very pleased with the transition, very excited about the future of the athletics program at USC and extremely confident in Kevin Deitrick's abilities.
- Board Advisor, Beth Huzjak – no report
- School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - a. Commendations and Recognitions for May were shared with those in attendance and can be found on the district website. Amy noted that there were an unusually high number of commendations this month!
 - b. The preliminary budget was approved by the School Board at the May meeting and will sit for 30 days as dictated by the state of Pennsylvania. At the June 20th School Board meeting, the budget will be approved. It includes a tax increase of approximately \$162.00 per \$200,000 of assessed home value.
 - c. The curriculum recommendations will be presented at the School Board meeting on Monday, June 5th. All are welcome to attend. The meeting starts at 5:00pm.
 - d. The School Board quarterly breakfast meeting occurred last week. The Board members had the opportunity to explore the Canvas system which will replace Blended Schools.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Michelle Urban

- S.T.A.R. night was a huge success. The students love showing off all of their hard work.
- The 4th grade has had a busy month with their pool party, field trip, etc. And it capped off with the 4th grade chorus singing the National Anthem at the Pirates on Memorial Day - how special for them to have that memory.
- Our Outreach committee just had a Pasta Drive for the Ronald McDonald House - we are still gathering numbers as to how much pasta we received.
- The second grade class had their musical "Glow" this past Thursday, May 25th. It was very cute, and they are seemed to enjoy themselves. Watch for it on the Baker website.
- The third class will be having their musical this Thursday, June 1st.
- Field Day for grades 1-4 is this Friday, June 2nd and Kinder Field Day is June 6th.
- The tiles for our 3rd grade Tile Wall have all been order and will be installed some time mid-August. So, when all the new 4th graders arrive they will be able to see their mark on Baker.

Eisenhower – Jessica Strub

- May was a busy month at Eisenhower!
- We kicked off the month with our Staff Appreciation Week! The theme was All – Stars. The committee transformed the main hallway and LGI room into baseball stadium! Teacher specific pennants lined the hallways. These pennants were completed by our students, each child named something they loved about their teacher! On Monday our staff was treated to breakfast, Wednesday desserts and Friday a full lunch. Throughout the week, staff members won gift cards and overflowing gift baskets were raffled off to close out the week! It was a wonderful celebration of appreciation!
- Our Spring Book Fair was held on May 9-11th. We sold over \$10,000 in scholastic books! Star night was May 11th and once again proved to be a night of celebration and reflection on all our students have accomplished this year.
- Our Cultural Arts Day was held on Friday, May 19th. This year's theme was Asia. The special visit by our High School students really helped created a personal connection to the culture and history of this region.
- During the week of May 15th, we held a school wide coin drive. Our school collected over \$2,300 benefiting the Kelly School. As a reward for collecting the most coins, our 2nd grade students will be treated to a year end picnic palooza!
- Kindergarten Registration was held on 5/17. Prospective Kindergartens and their families met at the high school and traveled by bus to the school. Once at the school they were able to meet our staff and see the classrooms. This year, they were also treated to an additional bus ride without their parents. We are

hopeful that this event will solidify their excitement for the fall!

- Kindergarten field day was held on 5/23 and the school wide field day was held yesterday (5/30)! We lucked out on the weather and it was exciting to offer our students such a fun day of play!
- Our 4th Grade Farewell was held on May 24th. Our 4th graders had a jam packed evening at the high school. They were able to swim, dance, and play in the HS gym. As an added bonus, we brought in a photo booth to capture some personal memories of the night!
- And finally, we will close out our year with our PTO Thank You luncheon on Friday, June 2nd.

Streams – Veronica Davis

- Staff Appreciation Luncheon -Friday May 5, hosted by the PTO – A Meal was served to celebrate Cinco De Mayo and was catered by Moe's Southwest Grill
- Elementary Strings Concert -Wednesday May 10, High School.
- Star Night – May 11, The students of Streams Elementary were very excited to show off all the hard work they have done this past school year.
- Streams PTO Luncheon – May 16, Atria's Restaurant - Around 30 Streams Parents joined the PTO at Atria's for a "thank you" lunch.
- Field Trips – May 19. The first grade took a field trip to Oliver Miller Homestead. The third grade took a field trip to the Fort Pitt Museum. The fourth grade took a field trip to Meadow Croft.
- Pirate Game- May 19, the 4th grade students did an amazing job singing the National Anthem. Sadly the Pirates lost, but we did have a beautiful night and enjoyed the fireworks after the game.
- Library Visit – May 23, Streams was lucky to have USC Library come to the school to inform the children of upcoming summer camps/sessions.
- Public Works Field Trip – May 24, the Kindergarten class was able to take a field trip to the public works
- Spring Into Kindergarten – May 31. Kindergarten families will meet the staff and get an overview of what to expect next year for their kindergarten students.
- Arts in USC- Kathy Ginsberg talked about the "This is My World" theme. This was a district wide contest this year, which culminated at the Arts and Chocolate at the C&RC. The district winners were Streams students Lauren Ginsberg and Sophia Pfaltzgraff.
- Outreach- We are collecting for Animal Friends. Please send in new dog toys, unopened dog food and treats, old fleece blankets or towels. Collection starts May 15, and there will be a box in the foyer.
- 4th grade graduation- June 1st, 2017, We will celebrate in the pool from 6:00-7:30pm, then moving on to the Nutrition Center for Pizza and desserts. Music and Games will be in the small gym from 6:00-8:30pm
- Field Day- Monday June 5th, 1st & 2nd in morning, 3rd & 4th in the afternoon.
- Kindergarten Connection - Wednesday June 7, Old Rec. Center. 6-8 An event where all the incoming Kindergarten families are invited to come and meet other families. This allows the children to make some new friends to help ease those first day of school jitters. There are activities for the children to take part in and a treat of Rita's Italian Ice is served.

Boyce – Stacey Cobb

- Last Wednesday we had our changeover luncheon at St. Clair Country Club. It was a nice event and the new board was installed!
- Last Thursday was Boyce Celebration of Learning. It was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy seeing what their children have done this past year.
- 6th grade Graduation Party is on June 1st at Ft. Couch
- Civil War day is June 2nd
- Field day is June 5th with a rain date of June 6th.
- Boyce Family Welcome Day will be on August 22nd from 3-6pm. This allows students to see the school and pay their activity fee and PTO dues.
- iPad turnover day is June 6th.

Fort Couch – Hemina KrishnaBachia

- On March 31, principal hosted a "Schools to Watch" school wide celebration with dignitaries and students actively leading ceremony.
- PSSA Testing and Keystone testing week of April 24
- May 4th: Celebration of Learning
- May 5 - 7th: School Musical, The King and I. It was a phenomenal production.
- May 16 - 17th: Gr8 keystone testing
- May 19th: Gr8 graduation party during school
- May 15: Band Concert, May 22: Orchestra Concert
- June 1st: Field Day
- Staff appreciation week was last week.

High School PTSO – Tracy Barnett

- We met on 5/17/17 for our final meeting of the year. The main purpose of the meeting was to install our new officers and approve our budget. The following matters were also discussed:
 - On behalf of the PTC, Daphna Gans, PTC President presented Shop@USC with a \$250 check that they will use towards new equipment. They were very grateful.
 - Brooke Tarscon spoke about the following:
 - The success of the Mini-Thon
 - Prom and other Senior Week Activities
 - After much discussion and consideration, the board decided to allocate \$500 of the 2017/2018 PTSO budget to scholarships. The PTSO must still decide the amount and number of individual scholarships to grant.
- Move-up day is June 8th.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel

Arts in USC had a very successful year! A record number of students participated in the art competitions provided at each level, from K-HS. Can't wait to see what next year brings! Have a great summer!

Caring & Sharing – Leria Miles – no report

Directory – Beth Huzjak

- Met with representatives from Peters Township who are in charge of their district's directory. They were interested to ask questions about our online directory as they are looking to go live with a directory app. They also asked questions about converting from a PTA to a PTO.

GATE – Lisa Clark – no report

Open Mike – Suzanne Wynne

- Suzanne noted that initial contacts have been made to begin planning for next year's Open Mike sessions.

PIE – Tracy Barnett

- The general topics and timing of PIE meetings for next year are:
 - September 2017: Back to School
 - November 2017: Programming for K-6 Students in USC (they want to encourage preschool and younger families to attend this meeting)
 - Feb/March 2018: Topic TBD (likely a speaker that will appeal to the broader community)
 - May 2018: Career/College Readiness

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman – no report

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne

- Suzanne shared statistics related to the STEAM initiative at the elementary schools.
 - 55 students participated

- 5 parents volunteered to assist
- 7 high school students volunteered to assist
- 100% of the coaches thought the kids had a positive learning experience
- 40% of the coaches thought the curriculum was easy to teach
- Suzanne thanked the PTC Board for the opportunity to present this program to the elementary schools.
- She asked attendees to please look at the online Summer School Offerings to register for various STEAM camps offered this summer.

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.

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Daphna Gans

- Upcoming fall activities:
 - Movie night – August 24, Zootopia
 - 2nd Annual Golf Outing at St Clair Country Club – September 25
 - Oktoberfest – October 14 at Saint Thomas More Church
 - This is the 25th anniversary year of the Foundation. As a result, instead of a Giving Tea, the Foundation is planning to host a Gala Event.
- Dr. Wagner is planning to designate a couple of dates to offer the community an opportunity to tour the Boyce Innovation Hub in the upcoming months.
- The Community Foundation is looking for interested persons to serve on the board. If interested, please reach out to Daphna to learn more about the opportunity.
- Daphna explained that the Foundation is accepting applications for grants and invited everyone to get the word out to community organizations to submit requests for a grant for the Foundation's consideration. As an example, she reported that the Foundation had recently provided a grant to help fund a summer STEAM camp being offered in the district.

Odyssey of the Mind – Laura Murtough

- For the second year in a row, a team of creative eighth graders from Fort Couch Middle School represented Upper St. Clair at the Odyssey World Finals. This year, their odyssey took them to Michigan State University from May 24-27. As members of USC's Odyssey of the Mind program, the team's journey was the result of eight months of hard work and collaboration to create an 8-minute performance with no assistance from coaches, teachers, family or friends. After placing in the top two at both the regional and state tournaments at Moon Area Schools in the spring, the team earned their place at the World Finals where they competed against teams from near and far. 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.
- Want to learn more about Odyssey of the Mind in USC? Come to ingenuity camp! USC OM is running a summer ingenuity camp for students in grades one through seven from June 26-30. For more information or to register visit www.uscootm.com.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- The Youth Steering Committee of Upper St. Clair hosted Straight Talk: Combating the Opioid Epidemic on May 10. It was an excellent program and was very well attended. Assistant U.S. Attorney Conor Lamb presented. Amy shared a few takeaways from the presentation including the fact that the demographics for the epidemic are changing; the epidemic is becoming prevalent among white males. The majority start with prescription drugs and then go on to heroine, etc. She encouraged us to watch Chasing the Dragon, a Youtube video on the epidemic.
- In the fall, the Youth Steering Committee hosts a program called "Brian's Story" about heroine addiction.
- The upcoming June meeting will be a planning meeting.
- Amy encouraged anyone interested in joining the Youth Steering Committee to contact her and she would be happy to provide more information about the commitment.

Old Business

- Community Day – Beth Huzjak
 - The PTC booth at community day was a huge success. \$396 in revenue was earned. Thank you to all volunteers!

New Business

- Potential backpack drive – PTC is considering hosting a backpack drive to offer families the opportunity to donate gently used backpacks to local kids in need. Daphna has emailed all the district's principals to ask permission to place a collection bin in the schools' office. The initiative will be advertised through Facebook and will likely run next week and the week after.
- Meeting schedule – The PTC general meeting schedule will be posted on the PTC website. The meeting locations rotate through each of the schools. Please note that the starting time of the general meeting to be held at Eisenhower Elementary School will be changed from 9:30am to 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

***The Next USC PTC Meeting
September 13, 2017
Central Office***