

**UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT–
April 5, 2017**

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2017

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.

Statement of the Treasurer

- **The USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund** had an opening cash balance on March 1, 2017 of \$14,237.99.
 - There were no receipts in March 2017.
 - Disbursements totaled \$354.66 in March 2017 (STEAM supplies \$304.66, Arts in USC Ft Couch reimbursements to participants \$50.00).
 - The ending cash balance totaled \$13,883.33 as of March 31, 2017.

Reports

1. Executive Committee
 - President, Beth Huzjak
 1. Thank you to Sally Ondrejko for providing a beautiful spread of food for us to enjoy at our meeting and thanks to everyone else for donating your time to attend.
 2. Beth thanked Dr. O'Toole and his staff for a successful Open Mike night.
 - 1st Vice President, Daphna Gans
 1. The spring Open Mike session occurred on Monday, March 20, 2017. Daphna thanked Dr. O'Toole and his administrative team for a successful event. She thanked him for his tact, time and openness and remarked how fortunate we are to have such a strong Board and administrators who are willing to continue an open dialogue with parents in the district.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. O'Toole
 1. Dr. O'Toole reflected positively on the Open Mike event. He commented that the advertising leading up to the event was helpful and successful and offered that we consider having a central theme for the Open Mike discussion topics for the fall 2017 Open Mike session.
 2. Dr. O'Toole commented on the robust nature of our communication of district-wide activities. He noted there is a lot going on in the district as can be observed by reading the multitude of activities/stories to reported on Twitter/Facebook/Email. He once again commented on the favorable impact of the feedback loop of information in our district and encouraged everyone to keep working with the administration to keep the communication lines open. He invited people to send stories and pictures of USC-related events and achievements to Tina Vojtko for her inclusion in the weekly USC updates and other social media outlets.
 3. Dr. O'Toole shared the school district's recent selection as one of three national Grand Prize Winners in the 23rd annual Magna Awards program sponsored by the National School Boards Association's magazine, American School Board Journal. He explained that this award is a huge honor. Specifically, Upper St. Clair is being recognized for its SHOP@USC program.
 4. Dr. O'Toole reported that the budget process is underway. Scott Burchill recently gave the Board a preview of the budget. Revenues appear higher however pension costs continue to pose

challenges. In addition, he noted that districts are receiving less Federal funding and as a result are having to call on local taxpayers for more funding.

5. Dr. O'Toole noted that state testing is underway.

6. Dr. O'Toole reported that a new Athletic Director will be hired in April and will likely start in May.

- Board Advisor, Holly Spina – Follow PTC on Twitter!
- School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 1. Commendations and Recognitions for March were shared with those in attendance and can be found on the district website.
 2. Amy also highlighted the district's selection as a grand prize winner of the coveted Magna Award. She explained that USC was selected by an independent panel of school board members, administrators, and other educators from more than 200 submissions in three enrollment categories: under 5,000 students, 5,000 to 20,000 students, and over 20,000 students. USC won the under 5,000 enrollment category.
 3. Amy reported that the administration has started the budget process for the 2017-2018 school year. She noted several more meetings will be held over the next 2 months before the budget is finalized. She noted that they are looking at necessary staffing changes to accommodate the large 8th grade class that will be heading to 9th grade at the high school next year and explained that these changes are the result of changes in enrollment not due to the budget.
 4. Amy reported that the Board voted unanimously to pass the capital project plan. She outlined that bids will be open next January/February, work will likely begin late spring and the projects will be complete by August 2019.
 5. Amy reported that the next Board breakfast is coming up at the end of the month.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Kristie Proud

- PSSA's are in full swing at Baker
- Baker has nominated a Vice President for next year. This is the only position that needed filled! We presented our preliminary budget yesterday at the PTA meeting. We are still looking for many committee chairs including our big fundraiser, the Boo Bash for next year.
- We had a Spirit night at BJ's in March that raised \$130. Our last Spirit Night of the year will be at Chick Fil A on April 26th.
- Outreach Coin Drive in March raised \$827 for the Education Partnership and \$827 our Yo-Yo Club's children's charity.
- Variety Show is this Friday night at Boyce Middle School
- Baker Playground Renovation team is working with several venues on design and pricing. We are still planning on a community build next summer.
- Final PTA meeting is May 4th – This will be our thank you meeting to all committee chairs and volunteers as well as our changeover meeting.

Eisenhower – Jill Hicks

- Eisenhower kicked off the month of March with the conclusion of our 8th annual "Heart to Heart" Winter Food Drive for South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM). We collected food and non-perishables throughout the entire month of February. Our friends at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown continued their support of the Eisenhower drive by collecting items as part of their "Teaching Kids to Care" program. They also lent a hand with the delivery of the items to SHIM. Together, we collected over a ton of food and nonperishables... 2,069 pounds total!
- On March 7th, 8th and 9th, we hosted our annual Book Swap. Children were encouraged to bring in books, games and/or puzzles to swap for new ones. The Book Swap is always very popular amongst our students because every student walks away with at least 1 book to take home. Additionally, any books that were not taken home by our own students were donated the Kelly School to add to their school library.

- On March 9th, Eisenhower hosted our annual Reading Night. Our Reading Night chair and school library really pulled out all the stops this year! This year's theme was Harry Potter and they transformed the school into our very own Hogwarts. Teachers dressed up as Harry Potter characters and read stories to our kids in their own assigned room. We had our largest attendance numbers this year and we received nothing but positive feedback from the night!
- Eisenhower PTO also hosted the Pittsburgh CLO on March 31st as they performed STEEL: Gallery of Heroes' production for our students. This musical was told through the stories of three generations of steelworkers and it recalled the steelworkers' role in the industry and the town that steel built. The region's rich history comes to life with stories of immigrant families, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the steelworkers' struggle to form a union. Our students were very engaged and ask a lot of interesting questions during the Q&A session at the end of the performance.
- We are pleased to announce that we have selected candidates for Vice President and Secretary for our 2017-2018 Executive Board. We will send out an e-alert announcing them as this year's candidates and then voted in and installed at our May general meeting.
- Looking ahead, our next PTO General Meeting will be April 21st, and we'll be gearing up for a jam-packed month of May!

Streams – Leria Miles

- The month of March was all about Parent Volunteers stepping up to help in big ways, all month long!!! It was a month-long testament to just how great our parents can be when we need them most!!
- We held our annual book fair which called for a rotation of about 20 parent helpers and raised about \$9,000 total! And we chose to redeem Scholastic dollars to towards classroom equipment and supplies.
- We also called on parents the same day as the book fair to help us to usher new Kindergarten registrants and their families. Streams volunteers helped to make this new process efficient by taking registration paperwork, greeting and escorting families to the library to meet with teachers, and by chatting with them about why they love Streams so much!
- And the next evening, we called on parent volunteers again to help with the Educational Partnership's Outreach fundraiser by way of our school ice cream social!!! We raised close to \$750 and all proceeds will be given to the Educational Partnership.
- The coding club was another opportunity for parents to step up and help out, and the children really enjoyed displaying their new programming skills.
- We have just voted in, as of yesterday, our new PTO Executive Board members and have voted in and approved our new budget for next school year and an amendment to our bylaws reflecting new language regarding the PTC dues.
- In addition, we voted on the Gift to School. Mrs. Smirniw, our counselor, requested funding for "Flexible Seating" for some all classrooms at Streams. Included in this proposal is a "Buddy Bench" for the playground. The Streams PTO presented a check for \$6,000.
- We are looking ahead to prepare for -
 - Second grade goes to Meadowcroft this week.
 - Several 4th graders are singing at a regional children's choir in Moon on April 8.
 - Teacher appreciation Lunch is May 5.
 - The 4th grade Musical is on May 3 at 7:00.
 - PTO turnover brunch at Atria's May 16.
 - STAR Night is on May 11; and presentation of our 4th graders PYP Projects

Boyce – Katy Loomis

- **Arts in USC** - Thank you to Rachelle Engel and all of our fabulous artists at Boyce who participated. You ALL contributed to make this competition full of unique talent and creativity. Congratulations to all who won!

The 5th grade winners are:
 3rd place: Molly McCaffrey
 2nd place: Diana Funaro
 1st place: Arnav Kumar

The 6th grade winners are:

3rd place: Maanasa Saayi Reddy
2nd place: Ava Grace Marie Halligan
1st place: Rosemary Ramirez

- Chipotle Spirit Night - Thank you again to Rachelle Engel who organized a very successful spirit night. Chipotle and Boyce Families/Supporters raised 420 dollars for the Boyce PTO.
- The March Madness assembly, a charitable basketball fundraiser, was held on March 23. This year all proceeds will be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation.
- Fifth grade musical performances were held the evenings of March 29 and 30, while the sixth grade musical, Mulan, will be April 19 and 20. There will also be a Voice of Boyce Pre-Show.
- The next Deer Valley parent meeting for sixth grade parents is set for Thursday, April 27 in the Boyce Theater. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will run from approximately 7-8:30.
- Matt Henderson, the Boyce STEAM Design teacher and 1:1 Initiative facilitator has been selected as a National School Boards Association's 20 to Watch educator for the 2016-17 school year and was honored during the Consortium for School Networking Conference on Monday, April 3, 2017, in Chicago. Please read more on the Boyce Headlines, USC Facebook page etc.
- Boyce PTO still has several committee openings for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are interested please contact Katy Loomis.
- Boyce PTO April meeting will take place on April 19th at 9:30am in the LGI.

Fort Couch – Melanie Lenthall

- The March Fort Couch PTSO General Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 21st.
- For our follow-up lecture series, we invited Christina Hostutler, LCSW, Clinical Director at Outreach Teen & Family Services to discuss Stress Management in Adolescents. She came last year and we felt that she was important to bring back. We had a small attendance but those of us there learned so much and were so appreciative of Christina's input.
- Our third and last social of the year was held on Friday March, 17th. Another successful night for our students.
- Nominees for FC PTSO Exec Board positions are Katy Loomis for Vice President and Lyn Benonis for Treasurer. We have filled many chair positions and only have a few remaining. We are very pleased!
- Parents, students and staff are working hard on the musical The King and I. Dates are May 5th-7th.
- May 3rd is our Schools to Watch Ceremony. We are excited for this celebration.
- Our April PTSO meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18th.

High School PTSO – Sally Ondrejko

- Our last meeting was on March 15th at the High School. Already topics are starting to center around the end of the school year.
- AP exam registration concluded on March 31st. Students will take the tests during the first two weeks of May. Applications for junior mentor positions have been submitted and decisions will be made soon. Also, course verification letters have been mailed to parents of freshmen through juniors so the scheduling process for next year can move forward.
- A new program entitled "Navigating Your Future" began on March 30 at the High School. It is part of the school district's response to a state mandate for more emphasis on career preparation. (Another aspect is the formation of the district-wide Counseling Advisory Board.) This first installment of the High School program was designed for juniors and featured speakers from a variety of health-related careers. The Counseling Department will be looking for parental involvement next year with this program.
- Alexa Rieger, stage manager and a student director for this year's musical, provided a wrap-up report, including the fact that 210 students participated. In addition, the charitable pass-the-hat collection this year amounted to \$2096. The student leadership team designated the collection for the Education Partnership in order for that organization to purchase musical instruments for the Kelly and Turner elementary schools.
- We enjoyed a visit from students and staff of the award-winning SHOP@USC program, who showed us a variety of their new graduation-themed products.
- Students from the Mini-Thon planning committee updated parents about the main event, scheduled for April 21-22. From 6-9 p.m. on the 21st, the public is invited to join the fun with food and games. From 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next day, the event will be only for high school students who have registered. Proceeds from this

event and other smaller events earlier in the year will go to the 4 Diamonds charity, which helps families of children with cancer.

- Yesterday, for the second year in a row, the High School was scheduled to host “Put Your Best Foot Forward,” an event sponsored by the Partners in PE Program that brought together the partner programs and life skills programs from surrounding districts for a variety of skill-building activities focused on students using their feet including soccer, kick-ball, and other skill-building sessions.
- End-of-the-year Events letters will be sent to seniors later this month detailing information about senior activities, including the banquet, prom, and graduation.
- On April 20, the day after our next meeting, we will be holding a fundraiser at the South Hills Village Noodles & Co. from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. A copy of the flier for the event is on our web page. The proceeds will help support Council’s Outreach initiative with the Education Partnership.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel

- All 1st place winners per grade in each school moved on to be judged at the USC District level.

Congratulations to the following students who placed first in the USC District "This Is My World" contest:

Kindergarten: Hadley Menzies "Hadley's World" (Baker)

1st grade: Sydney Nash "Upper Sweet Clair" (Eisenhower)

2nd grade: Anelise Castrodale "My World" (Eisenhower)

3rd grade: Lauren Ginsburg "My Colorful, Peaceful World" (Streams)

4th grade: Sofia Pfaltzgraff "Through My Eyes" (Streams)

- All of our young artists were very creative, unique and talented! Thank you all for participating and making "This Is My World" a success! We couldn't do it without you!
- *This past Saturday April 1, ALL ARTWORK SUBMITTED TO THE CONTEST was displayed at the Arts & Chocolate Spectacular held at the Boyce Mayview CRC ("the rec").*
- It was a very fun, family friendly event. Vendors, performers, yummy treats and more were there, as well as artwork from USC schools and surrounding districts. Come and check it out next year and see ALL OUR ARTISTS' ARTWORK hung in one of the galleries!

Caring & Sharing – Leria Miles – no report

Directory – Brooke Tarcon

- Beth Huzjak reported that a new directory contract had been successfully negotiated with AtoZ Directories.

GATE – Lisa Clark – no report

Open Mike – Daphna Gans

Outreach – Chrissy Sileo / Kathy Teresi

- Council Outreach is coming to its conclusion and we are down to \$382 left to raise to reach our goal of sponsoring Turner and Kelly Elementary Schools for the 2016-2017 school year.
- Please join the High School PTSO in supporting The Education Partnership on April 20 at Noodles and Company, South Hills Village Mall. 25% of sales from customers mentioning the USC HS PTSO will be donated to the Council Outreach efforts. The promotion runs from noon - 9pm so support the cause with lunch, dinner or takeout! We are currently checking to see if gift card purchases count and will keep you posted. We ask that every school please share this opportunity to skip cooking dinner and finishing our district outreach goal for the year. Thank you for the support!
- Current Status:

Eisenhower: \$5,000

Staff: \$853

Council: \$162 carry forward + \$270 umbrellas = \$432

Fort Couch: \$1,419
Boyce: \$1,863.13
HS: \$1,000 (Amanda's business matching grant)
Streams: \$724.43
Baker: \$826.50

Family donation (kids in multiple schools): \$250

Funds confirmed: \$12,118.06
Bonus Donation: High School Musical Instrument Fund for Kelly/Turner: \$2,006
Left to raise: \$381.94
Other potential income:
High School Noodles & Co. fundraiser: April 20

PIE – Tracy Barnett

- Daphna Gans reported that the PIE meeting occurring last week was highly attended and very positive. Great information was exchanged in an open dialogue.

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman

- Congratulations to the following students who represented USC at the Scripps Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee in March:

Baker:	Ryan Popp
Eisenhower:	Olivia Hong
Streams:	Rohan Mehta
Boyce:	Alexander Todd
Fort Couch:	Christian Chiu

Out of a field of 107 spellers, special congratulations go to Christian Chiu who placed 5th and Olivia Hong who placed 7th! Congratulations USC spellers!

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne

- Suzanne reported that the Eisenhower and Streams clubs have wrapped up successfully. Baker chose to extend their club an additional 3 weeks.
- All feedback has been positive to date and a more formal post mortem will be prepared once all clubs have concluded.
- Suzanne shared that she received a heartfelt thank you from Mark Miller for spear heading a successful club at Eisenhower and for the monetary contributions for STEAM equipment.
- Beth Huzjak thanked Suzanne for her efforts.

Welcoming Committee—Stacie de la Parra

- The date for the 2017-2018 welcoming dinner is Friday, September 15.

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Beth Erlanger/Daphna Gans

- Book Club – Upcoming meetings: May 11th – Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff. The meetings are held at the C&RC at 11am and 7pm. All dates and books have been chosen for the remainder of 2017. Please visit the website for details.
- Community Day – The Community Foundation will once again host The Great USC Duck Race. Ducks will be available for purchase at the next General PTC meeting.
- Photo Jamboree – requesting pictures of “the sites and seasons” of USC Township to include in the new Community Foundation website which is currently under construction. The deadline for photo submissions is

May 7 and all submissions will receive a duck in The Great USC Duck Race and an opportunity to win raffle prizes.

- September 25th is the date for the Community Foundation annual golf outing.
- October 14th is the date for the annual Oktoberfest.

Odyssey of the Mind – Alison Hess

- A record 10 USC teams competed this past Saturday, April 1, in the Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament at Moon Area Schools. Three of our division two teams came in third place, and one of our teams took home a second-place trophy for the performance problem. That team will be advancing to the Odyssey World Finals at Michigan State University on May 24-27.
- All USC teams competed against 12-15 teams in their problem and division with competitors coming from all areas of Pennsylvania. With 10 teams at the event, that meant 70 students with red USC Odyssey t-shirts could be found around every corner! We're so proud of all of them!

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- The committee continues to work on the Cultural Competence/Awareness initiative. Working with the high school to plan the event.
- Presentation by Natural Helpers. They covered topics including academic pressure, body image and social acceptance.

Old Business

- Nominations for 2017-2018 board positions
 - Beth Huzjak reported the PTC has successfully identified two nominees for the open board positions for the 2017-2018 school year. Suzanne Wynne is the nominee for Vice President and Amy Tomczyk is the nominee for Treasurer.
 - Beth also reported that we are looking for volunteers to chair or co-chair the Directory, GATE and STEAM committees.
- Community Day - PTC will have a booth at community day. We will host the Pig Race once again and will sell the remaining “new-to-you” spirit wear.

New Business

- Beth circulated a copy of the proposed PTC budget for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Beth alerted everyone to the proposed bylaw changes included in the agenda for today’s meeting.
- Both of these are available on our website and will be voted on at the next general meeting of the PTC.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

The Next USC PTC Meeting

May 3, 2017

C&RC