

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

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 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 February 1, 2017 of \$13,393.49.
 - Receipts totaled \$1,567.00 in February 2017.
 - Disbursements totaled \$722.50 in February 2017.
 - The ending cash balance totaled \$14,237.99 as of February 28, 2017.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Beth Huzjak
 1. Thank you to Melanie Lenthall and Fort Couch for hosting our meeting and thanks to everyone else for donating your time to attend.
 2. Beth offered that there are umbrellas available for sale by the PTC. Proceeds benefit the Education Partnership.
 - 1st Vice President, Daphna Gans
 1. The spring Open Mike session is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2017, at 10am in the Boyce Theater. Please spread the word. If you plan to attend, please RSVP online and submit questions online.
 - 2nd Vice President, Presented by Dr. John Rozzo for Dr. O'Toole
 1. Dr. Rozzo reminded all of USC High School spring musical, "The Drowsy Chaperone," being presented on March 3-5 and March 9-11 in the school's theatre. Tickets are available for purchase online and in person at the box office. Dr. Rozzo reported the online ticket sales has been very well received and the district is hoping to expand the use of the online ticket sales to other events in the future.
 2. The 2017-2018 school calendar has been proposed and is available on the district website. Comments are welcome through March 10. To date, about 12 comments have been received and have been, for the most part, supportive of the proposed calendar. The first day of the school year per the proposed calendar is August 29, one week later than our typical start date. Dr. Rozzo explained that the commencement date for the school year is determined first and the entire calendar for the school year is driven backward off of that date. The later start for the upcoming school year is simply a function of the later commencement date scheduled for the 2017-2018 school year. Still under consideration is the proposal to move first semester finals to before the winter break.
 3. A question and answer discussion ensued with Dr. Rozzo regarding the proposed school calendar and various other upcoming dates.

- Board Advisor, Holly Spina – Follow PTC on Twitter.
- School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 1. Commendations and Recognitions for February were shared with those in attendance and can be found on the district website.
 2. The Board formally approved the **Board Goals for 2017**. They continue to be based on the Strategic Plan initiatives for 2015-2020. These are:
 - Safety and Security
 - Professional Learning Communities
 - STEAM
 - Technology (with emphasis on implementing the 1:1 initiative at the high school)
 - the High School Experience
- 3. Report on Capital Projects ad hoc committee:**
 - The district's architect, Dave McLean, presented answers to several questions raised by stakeholders and other board members, in preparation for bringing a formal recommendation to the Board.
 - The projects under consideration are:
 - i. Construction of a new swimming pool at the high school and consideration of an adjacent Special Use Pool, depending on the bids received. The Special Use Pool could be kept at a higher temperature and enable program offerings for toddlers, seniors and special needs individuals. High school divers in the region could also use this facility for training, rather than traveling to Pitt to train.
 - ii. Repair and renovation of bleachers, concession area and rest rooms at the high school stadium. Construction of a new "Community Complex" at the top of the home bleachers to house ADA compliant restrooms, ticket booths, concession area and announcing facilities.
 - iii. Construction of new Central Office administrative space as part of the Community Complex. This would allow the district administrative staff to be located in district-owned offices, rather than continuing to rent undersized space at the township municipal building.
 - iv. Constructing a small building at Boyce Field for restrooms, changing facilities, concessions and an announcing booth.
 - The finance team is also refining potential costs and financing options. A final report and recommendation by the Capital Projects ad hoc committee to the full Board will be upcoming in the next few weeks.
- 4. Adoption of Policy #4007** – The Board approved the adoption of the revised Policy regarding Admission to Kindergarten. As revised, parents may request testing for early entry to Kindergarten if their child turns five years old by September 30th.
- 5. The first reading of the 2017-18 calendar** was presented. Key dates, as proposed, are as follows:
 - First day of school: Tuesday, August 29, 2017
 - Winter break: December 25 – January 1
 - Spring break: March 26-30, Monday, April 2 – Teacher in-service
 - Last day of school (excluding snow days): Tuesday, June 12, 2018
 - Commencement: Thursday, June 14, 2018
 - The calendar is available on the district web site. Public comment will be can be submitted through the web site for the next six weeks. The final reading and approval will be on the agenda for Board approval on March 28, 2017.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Kristie Proud

- Happenings in February:
 - Staff Appreciation event of Smoothies—the staff loved having these!
 - Baker Bingo was a success on Feb. 3rd.
- Looking ahead:

- Spirit Night at BJ's on March 2nd
- Outreach Coin Drive is the week of March 13th. All money collected will be going to the Education Partnership and Variety, The Children's Charity.
- Spring Book Fair taking place March 28 and March 29th
- Baker Playground Renovation team is currently getting bids for a new playground. We are looking for more committee members to help with sponsorship and visual aid. We are planning a community build the summer of next school year—2018.
- Baker is looking for a Vice President for next school year.
- Next PTA meeting is March 9th at 7pm and Chrissy Sileo with Outreach is going to be our guest speaker.

Eisenhower – Jill Hicks

- February may be a shortened month, but at Eisenhower, we were jam-packed with activity.
- On February 6th, we hosted a Mad Science assembly for our students. Mad Science has been a popular and well attended Eisenhower Extras session for 2 years now. As a thank you for continuing to offer this program as an Extras session, they provided us with an assembly free of charge. During the assembly, students learned about a variety of science topics and watched as the presenters demonstrated science experiments on stage.
- On February 9th, our PTO hosted a Sadecky's puppets assembly for our kids. Sadecky's puppets provides quality educational and entertaining programs for children to enlighten and enrich them in the arts and enhance their character education. The theme of our puppet show assembly was anti-bullying and the meaning of true friendship.
- Eisenhower celebrated Valentine's Day with our annual Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, February 14th. Each grade met in the cafeteria at separate times and were treated to a "make it yourself" sundae bar. This is always a favorite amongst our students and after the social, students went back to their homerooms to exchange Valentines with their classmates.
- Our Kindergarten Social took place on February 22. "Al-mazing", the magician treated our students to a terrific and interactive magic show. Fun was had by all!
- Yesterday, we also had our 2nd grade breakfast. Despite the 65 degree temps outside, our theme was Winter Wonderland. Second graders and their parents enjoyed delicious breakfast treats before heading to school for the day.
- Our PTO Executive Board has identified potential candidates for board vacancies for vice president and secretary. Once candidates accept the position, we will announce their nominations in April so it can sit for 30 days before we vote at our May meeting.
- Looking ahead, our next PTO General Meeting will be March 10th, Eisenhower's Book Swap will run from March 7-9 and our Reading Night will be on Thursday, March 9th

Streams – Leria Miles

- We have had a busy month at Streams!
- One of the highlights of the month was the Children for Children Silent Auction.
- The Streams Elementary School community celebrated its 13th annual Children for Children event on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017, in the school's gymnasium. The event celebrated a two-month-long community service project and offered crafts, activities, a bake sale and a silent auction.
- This year all proceeds from the event benefit Connecting Children with Champions, founded by Upper St. Clair graduate Sidney Kushner. The nonprofit assists children with cancer through the developmental and social challenges that accompany the illness. The journey begins with one question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The child is then matched with a volunteer who is a fitting inspiration for what he/she wants to become. Volunteers become a source of companionship, friendship, excitement and hope.
- **With the slogan, "A Simple Act Can Make a Difference," the Streams' Children for Children community service initiative was first launched in the 2004-05 school year when a small group of parents approached Principal Dr. Claire Miller about developing a child-focused, child-driven charity event. The goal was simple: expose students to other children in the world who are in need, and show them how they, themselves, can make a difference.**
- Students participated in all aspects of organizing and running the Children for Children event. They decorated, sold tickets and ran games. In addition, many of the silent auction items were student-made, such as hand-knitted hats and scarves, baked goods and art creations, as well as student services including babysitting, dog walking and yard work. Each year, the school selects a different charitable organization – the only prerequisite is that the organization must help children. Since 2005, the Children for Children initiative has raised nearly

\$75,000 to benefit 14 local, regional, national and international organizations. Charities include UNICEF Tsunami Relief, Katrina School Fund, CORE Organ, Dominican Republic Outreach Program, Heifer International, National Military Family Association's Operation Purple, Casey's Clubhouse, CharityWater, Jameson's Army, Grady's All Stars, The Education Partnership, Global Links, Our Clubhouse and Beverly's Birthdays.

- We also held our family bowling event at AMF Mt Lebo on President's Day and had about 140 people in attendance! Family Bingo was held last Friday and a good time was had by all.
- Looking forward, we are preparing for our Scholastic Book Fair the second week in March, in conjunction with our Ice Cream Social that will benefit the Educational Partnership Outreach Initiative. Also we are happy that Suzanne Wynn has helped us to gear up for our:
- Streams Creative Computing Club
 - Days: Four Wednesdays (3/8-3/29)
 - Time: 2:45 to 3:45 PM Place: Streams Computer Lab Fee: \$28.00, payable to Streams PTO
 - 4th graders are invited to join Stream's new Creative Computing Club. High School students in association with Streams Parents, will teach club members how to create simple games and interactive animations via Scratch.
- Next up in March:
 - Tuesday the 14th, 9:30 AM, PTO Meeting, LGI
 - Thursday the 16th, 6:30 PM, Ice Cream Social, Nutrition Center
 - Thursday the 30th, 6:30 PM, 2nd Grade Special Level Night
 - Kindergarten Registration with appointments and a special greeting from the Streams PTO

Boyce – Katy Loomis

- February was a very busy month for Boyce
 - As previously discussed Boyce held Author's Day on February 7th. Our author, Fred Durbin, conducted writing workshops for the students throughout the day. The event was extremely successful. Thank you to Ponny Jahn and Mrs. Husak for organizing, and to Tina Vojtko for her amazing pictures and articles which can be found on the Boyce Main Page, USC Facebook page etc.
 - Random Acts of Kindness week took place February 13-17. With planned activities and theme days there were lots of opportunities to practice acts of kindness throughout the week. The week ended with a Valentine Theme breakfast for the staff. Thank you to Amy Antonio, Stephanie Ioli and Melissa Stalder for an amazing job.
 - Valentine Grams were extremely successful. Amy Antonio led students and staff in selling and writing kind messages to others to raise money for the Education Partnership. The sales raised over 1300 dollars!
 - Boyce Bash took place on February 16th. The annual event, led by Mr. Gremba and Student Council, included carnival style games, a basketball tournament, concessions, music, and an obstacle course for Boyce students and families. The event raised 3000 dollars for the Miracle League of South Hills.
 - A team of Boyce Middle School 5th graders recently won the 1st place at the regional America Bowl. They competed against nearly 30 other surrounding school districts and answered questions relating to U.S. States, Presidents, Famous Americans, Pittsburgh etc.
- And coming up in March
 - Aashan Banerjee, Lilly Gessel, Kady Haley and Ryan Higgs will represent Boyce at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's Sing Fest on March 17th. They will be joining other 5th and 6th grade students from Southwestern Penn. in a day long sing festival that concludes with a performance on the Carnegie Hall Stage.
 - Battle of the Books will take place on Thurs. There are 56 teams of 5th and 6th graders signed up for the event involving over 200 students. The 5th grade will compete from 9-10:30 and the 6th grade from 1:30-3:00.
 - Boyce Spirit Night will take place at the Chipotle on Washington (by Whole Foods) on March 21st from 5-9pm.
 - Next Boyce PTO General Meeting will take place on March 15th at 9:30.

Fort Couch – Melanie Lenthall

- The February Fort Couch PTSO General Meeting was the 21st.
- Alison Hess went over the budget in detail looking at our line items and changes that need to be made.

- I am excited to report the news of our first Gently Used Spirit Wear Sale. This was initiated by Soniya Barve and Diane Closser back in October, two Fort Couch parents who wanted to find a way to raise funds for our newly added FC Sharing & Caring Committee that supports our Guidance Department for USC families in need. At the time Fort Couch had a family in need and this sparked their idea.
- Saturday, Feb 25th, these ladies opened the doors to the FC cafeteria from 8am-noon. Each piece was \$5. They raised \$1062. They did this again Monday from 4-7pm with what was left and sold another \$221. A total of \$1283! Their efforts and energy were amazing.
- Our Valentine's Dance was very highly attended with around 388. Our special coin drive, Coins for Hearts, started that night and ended this past Monday, benefiting the USC reach out effort to support the Education Foundation.
- Fort Couch raised a total of \$1,389. The winning homerooms are:
- 7th grade: Mr. Lucas
- 8th grade: Mrs. Falascino
- They will be rewarded with a class party.
- We also had some other Valentine's Day activities such as carnation and candy-grams sale. We sold around 233.
- Student council on their own organized a February Frenzy basketball tournament and they have raised \$860. They will soon vote on a charity where these proceeds will be donated.
- Our FC musical is the King and I. Performance dates are May 5-7th. More details to follow.
- Nominations for FC PTSO Exec Board positions and for committees are now open, we are recruiting a VP, Treasurer, and various committee chairs.
- Our March PTSO meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21st. Again, we invited Christina Hostutler, LCSW, Clinical Director at Outreach Teen & Family Services to discuss Stress Management in Adolescents. With our PSSA's and Keystones in the spring, we feel it is a good subject to talk about.

High School PTSO – Sally Ondrejko

- We were back at the High School for our February meeting.
- Dr. Angelo reported that the Sadie's Dance went well, with approximately 650 students in attendance. A new ticketing system (the same one being used for theater events at the High School) was used which allowed chaperones to identify easily any students who had not arrived by the designated check-in time. He also mentioned that today 9th and 10th grade students at the high school are participating in a drug abuse prevention program. Magistrate Ron Armoni is heavily involved in this effort.
- We received names of five parents interested in representing the High School on the newly formed Counseling Advisory Board. Stephanie Harris will be representing the High School.
- Course selection for next year began last week. Verification letters will be mailed to parents the week of March 13.
- Music Curriculum Leader Don Pickell was a guest speaker. He outlined many of the opportunities available for students of all levels at the High School. The biggest show of the year, the annual musical, opens this weekend.
- Associate Principal Tim Wagner introduced four students from the STEAM program, and they spoke about their efforts to innovate and solve real world problems for local companies such as EA Fab and Universal Electric. This year-long course is open to students of all grade levels, but it does require a short application. USC students work with students from either Bethel Park or South Fayette each semester.
- Winter sports are winding down. WPIAL swim finals are this weekend at Pitt, and wrestling individual championships are this weekend at Canon Mac. The Spring sports season officially starts March 6.
- Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 15, at the High School in Rooms 148-149.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel

- The Arts in USC K-6th contest submissions were due this past Monday. Individual school judging will begin soon, and then the district judging after that. Next month we will be able to let you know the district winners!

Caring & Sharing – Leria Miles – no report

Directory – Brooke Tarcson – no report

GATE – Lisa Clark

- GATE will be hosting a STEAM presentation with Dr Judy Bulazo and others who will provide an update on current STEAM education in the district and future initiatives. Please look for scheduling info via ealerts soon.

Internet Communications – Brooke Tarcson – no report

Open Mike – Daphna Gans

- The spring Open Mike session is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2017, at 10am in the Boyce Theater. Please spread the word. If you plan to attend, please RSVP online.

Outreach – Chrissy Sileo / Kathy Teresi

- Big thanks go out to Boyce Middle School for raising over \$1,300 with their Valentine Grams sale and to Fort Couch Middle School for raising \$1,389 with their coin drive this month. Thank you to both schools for the support!
- March will bring a week long coin drive at Baker Elementary, fundraising at the Stream's ice cream social, and the results from the Boyce stylus sale. In addition, the High School and Council Executive Board are finalizing their fundraising plans so we anticipate more good news ahead!

PIE – Tracy Barnett – no report

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman – no report

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne

- The Creative Computer Camp at Eisenhower is underway with 2 of the 4 sessions already completed. The kids are enjoying the camp. The camps at Baker and Streams are set to kick off on March 6.

Welcoming Committee—Stacie de la Parra – no report

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Beth Erlanger/Daphna Gans

- Book Club – Upcoming meetings: March 9th – Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance; May 11th – Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff. The meetings are held at the C&RC at 11am and 7pm.
- 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.
- The Community Foundation sponsored College Night at the high school last month.

Odyssey of the Mind – Alison Hess

- Odyssey competition is Saturday

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- The committee is working on scheduling the Cultural Competence/Awareness event. Working with the high school to plan the event.
- The Spring Dodge event for middle schoolers in 5th – 8th grade is being planned and is scheduled for May 13.

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.
- Advisory Council – There was no formal report from the first meeting of the Advisory Council that took place last week. The PTC is looking to identify a committee chairperson. Hermina KrishnaBachia attended the Advisory Council meeting and shared her feedback with the group. She said it was well attended by parents, teachers and

guidance counselors, well organized, very interactive and generally focused on the topic of how we prepare our children for career paths and career selection.

New Business

- 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 as well as any remaining umbrellas.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

The Next USC PTC Meeting

April 5, 2017

C&RC