

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

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 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 January 1, 2017 of \$8,404.49.
 - Receipts totaled \$8,060.12 in January 2017 and included \$5,398.12 for online directory sales and \$2,662.00 for online membership receipts.
 - Disbursements totaled \$3,071.12 in January 2017 and included online membership reimbursements of \$2,662.00 and Paypal fees of \$409.12.
 - The ending cash balance totaled \$13,393.49 as of February 1, 2017.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Beth Huzjak
 - Thank you to Katy Loomis and Boyce for hosting our meeting and thanks to everyone else for donating your time to attend.
 - Beth explained to the group that we would hear from Dr. O'Toole, then break for a tour of Boyce's Innovation Hub and then return to this room to resume our meeting.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole
 - Received a video from SteelCase this morning highlighting the Boyce Innovation Hub. Dr. O'Toole said the video was outstanding and high quality. He noted the looks on the students' faces and the interviews included in the video were fantastic.
 - Attended the Dean's breakfast this morning. Teachers nominate students who make an impact in their class and these students are recognized during the breakfast.
 - The Board is working on the scope of the proposed capital projects and considering ways to finance the projects.
 - The Board passed the preliminary budget, the "Act 1 Budget."
 - A new four-year contract was signed with our bus drivers.
 - The Board took a hard look at the policy for early entry into Kindergarten and proposed various policy changes. The most significant change was to change the cutoff age of children for which early entry is being requested. (i.e. Children born after September 1 and on or before September 30 are eligible for early admission screening upon request under the new policy. The old policy allowed children born between September 1 and January 31 to be screened for early entry.)
 - The Board is looking at proposed House Bill 76, which is a tax elimination or tax shift plan whereby local funding for school taxes would be paid through sales tax rather than local property tax. He explained the concerns with proposed House Bill 76 and how districts would lose local control. He said they are watching it closely and that our concerns are shared by both the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the National School Boards Association and have also been relayed to the local legislators.

*****THE MEETING WAS PAUSED SO THE ATTENDEES COULD ATTEND A TOUR OF
THE INNOVATION HUB LED BY MR. HENDERSON AND MR. O'ROURKE. THE
MEETING RESUMED FOLLOWING THE TOUR*****

- President, Beth Huzjak
 - Congratulations to the Spelling Bee and the Scholastic Arts & Writing contest winners! The results have been posted on the district website and will be posted on the PTC website as well.
 - Beth Huzjak shared that January is School Board Recognition Month and recognized Amy Billerbeck for volunteering her time and dedication to our school district.
- 1st Vice President, 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.
- Board Advisor, Holly Spina – No Report
- School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - Commendations and Recognitions for January were shared with those in attendance and can be found on the district website.
 - Fast track curriculum recommendations were presented the Board in January and approved. They deal primarily with the High School.
 - The Finance team refinanced old high school bonds which resulted in a savings of \$440,000. These savings will go directly to the fund balance to strengthen the overall financial situation of the district.
 - The Board approved an agreement with the Eventbrite ticketing event system for the spring musical and other district events.
 - A Board Breakfast Workshop would be held regarding the High School Student Help Desk on February 2.
 - With regard to the proposal for Capital Projects, various financing options are being considered including a bond issuance proposal. This will be put to vote by the Board in March.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Kristie Proud

- January 9, 2017 Baker's 4th Grade Spelling Bee resulted in Ryan Popp winning!
- January 20-30, 2017- Baker Read-a-Thon! We just finished the Read-A-Thon and it was a great success! We are still counting minutes read from all the kids who participated and the total will be announced at tomorrow's Read-A-Thon Assembly but Baker has exceeded the school-wide goal of 100,000 minutes in 10 days! Kids will receive ribbons and trophies for the top readers in every grade. There will be a special treat (donuts) at the assembly tomorrow for reaching their goal and we will also have a fun game to play with Dr. MC that includes silly string, confetti, and pies to the face! We had a successful first ever Baker Bedtime Stories night last week where kids listened to stories from teachers, our principal Dr. MC, Colleen from the USC library and a police officer from USC. They enjoyed milk and cookies as well. The kids were encouraged to collect money through sponsorships for the new Baker Playground Renovation. We are still collecting money and will know the totals next week.
- Next PTA meeting is Feb. 7th and we will have a special presentation about technology and devices with elementary age students. This is a National PTA sponsored presentation called "The Smart Talk." We were given \$1000 from PTA to hold this presentation and will have a visitor from State PTA attending so we are strongly encouraging people to attend. There will be a short survey afterwards regarding the presentation.
- Baker Bingo is this Friday night, Feb. 3rd at 6:30pm at the High School

Eisenhower – Jill Hicks

- Since our last PTC General Meeting, Eisenhower has been chock-full of activity. On January 12th, we had the 3rd Grade Social which was a rodeo theme. The Social includes theme based games such "Steer Roping" where teams of students split into groups to compete against each other while roping a sawhorse "horse" with a hula

hoop. They also enjoyed “Square Dancing” where parents and children paired together and danced with a professional square dancing caller.

- Our ever-popular Bingo Night was held at the high school on Friday, January 13th. We thought holiday weekend would affect our turnout, but we had record attendance this year...with 400 RSVP's!
- Our 4th Grade Spelling Bee was held last Thursday, January 26. There were 21 4th graders that participated in the Eisenhower Bee this year. After 22 rounds, Olivia Hong was deemed champion by spelling the word “stilton” correctly. With her Bee win, Olivia has now been invited to participate in the Pittsburgh-area regional Bee on March 11 at Robert Morris University.
- Tomorrow (February 1st) is the animal themed first grade social. Grant Kemmerer's Wild World of Animals comes to the school to provide an educational wildlife show where our students get to see live birds of prey, reptiles, non-venomous snakes and cats to name a few.
- As mentioned at last month's PTC General Meeting, Eisenhower is working with Beverly's Birthday's to provide classroom birthday kits for the students at the Kelly School. Representatives from Beverly's Birthdays are coming to Eisenhower next week (February 8th) to work with our 2nd graders to put the kits together.
- Looking ahead, our Valentine's Ice Cream Social will be held on Tuesday, February 14th. Our Kindergarten Social will be on February 23 and our 2nd Grade Breakfast will be on Tuesday, February 28th.

Streams – Leria Miles

- January was a busy month at Streams! We started the year off with our highest attendance yet at our general PTO meeting on January 12. Having Dr. Bulazo to come and talk about STEAM education and what it looks like at the elementary level, surprisingly brought our PTO members out in great numbers for our first meeting of 2017. I am sure that I can speak for all unit presidents by saying that we are so thankful for school board members such as Amy Billerbeck and district personnel such as Dr. Bulazo, and Kim Cooper for taking the time out to their day to share with us at our meetings thus far.
- We hosted a staff appreciation luncheon where parents provided a potluck style luncheon, raffle, and special gift for everyone to take home!
- We held another Open Mic where second grade parents had up close and personal time with Dr. Miller and one of our second grade teachers to talk about all things second grade. Our third graders attended a grade level special night where they got to meet and greet up close, about 10 different types of reptiles!
- Our Spelling Bee was well attended, went for 35 rounds, and Rohan Mehta will represent streams at the Regional Bee as our school winner!
- Coming up we have our 13th annual Children for Children Silent Auction. This is Streams' annual Outreach fundraiser done on a grand scale. Students donate their own personal time and talents (shoveling snow, co-babysitting, handmade crafts, etc) for auction attendees to bid on. All funds raised will be donated to CC Champions, a Pittsburgh based non-profit connecting children who are living with cancer with role models!
- With a month filled with fundraising, family bingo night, and family bowling, February is sure to be remembered as a busy one as well!

Boyce – Katy Loomis

- Thank you to Jill Spencer and Prema Sridaran, teachers, parents and students for organizing and supporting Read for a Reason. The fundraiser was successful, surpassing the goal of \$3000 dollars. One hundred percent of the funds raised will go toward the reason selected by the students, indoor/outdoor recess equipment and Lego Windstorm robotics kits for the Innovation Hub. Team Comet won the contest for the most minutes in 5th grade, and Team Wind in 6th. The 5th grade class read the most minutes overall with 44,902. Thank You!!
- Tues, February 7th Boyce will welcome author Fred Durbin (The Star Shard). Thank you to Ponny Jahn and Mrs. Husak for organizing Author's Day. We are very excited to put a different spin on the day with Fred Durbin conducting a writing workshop with each team. Tina Vojtko will also be attending, taking pictures and reporting on the event on the USC Facebook page.
- Valentine Grams and Stylus sales are going on right now - all proceeds will go to the Education Partnership.
- Boyce Bash will take place February 16th from 6-8. All proceeds will go to the Miracle League of South Hills. Please contact Stacey Cobb if you would like to volunteer.
- Random Acts of Kindness Week will take place from February 13th-16th, culminating with a Breakfast on the 16th for Staff. Please see Thurs Thoughts for additional details.
- Box Tops will be running until February 13th.

- Boyce Spelling Bee had 28 participants. The winner was Alex Todd who will move on to compete in the Regional Bee on March 11th. Thank you to Tory Kulli, Haneet Laffin, Mrs. Husak, Collette LeKachman and Prema Sridaran for organizing and running the bee.
- Huge thank you to Boyce Student Council and Mr. Gremba who are involved/organizing/volunteering in some way for Read for a Reason, Valentine Grams, Stylus Sales and Boyce Bash.
- Our next meeting is February 15th at 9:30 in the LGI.

Fort Couch – Melanie Lenthall

- The January Fort Couch PTSO General Meeting was well attended due to Mr. Palmer speaking afterward about 8th grade transition to High School and what to Expect.
- Fort Couch along with Boyce was named Penn Don Eichorn Schools to Watch. A total of 11 PA middle schools met the schools to watch criteria. This is the 4th time that USC middle schools have earned this honor.
- Fort Couch parents Diane Closser and Soniya Barve are initiating a Gently Used Spirit Wear collection in which all clothing will be washed and resold. Everything will be \$5. All proceeds will go directly to the FC Sharing&Caring committee and Guidance.
- Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition: Our Arts winners have been announced and next week the writing winners will be announced. We will send an e-Alert out at that time of all FC winners.
- Our Spelling Bee was held in January and we had 11 participants. Christian Chiu won first place and was invited to participate in the Pittsburgh-area regional Bee on March 11th at Robert Morris University.
- Our Valentine Dance is coming up on the 16th. Hemina our Vice President has been working hard at coming up with new ideas for this year. We will be selling pizza and soft drinks. She asked Mr. Demar if he and the staff volunteers would do a dance off with the students. He happily agreed. The trellis that we use as a background for our photos has been graciously revamped by one of Hemina's friends, Geri, who was at FC last year. Loves home projects and volunteered her time. We are continuing our special coin drive, Coins for Hearts, benefiting the USC reach out effort to support The Education Partnership. The coin drive will begin the night of the dance and continue for two weeks. The top 7th and 8th grade teams with the most coins will have a class party.
- We are selling our carnation/candy grams which will be delivered on Valentine's Day.
- Our February PTSO meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21st. For our follow-up lecture series, we invited Erin Peterson our Assistant Principal at Fort Couch.

High School PTSO – Sally Ondrejko

- Our January meeting was held at Central Office because of Keystone testing at the high school. This reduced the number of administrators and staff who were able to attend, but Dr. Angelo was still able to join us and give a thorough report.
- Dr. Angelo reported that feedback from the first semester finals was positive. They were mostly traditional finals. For the second semester, however, all finals will be project based assessments. Teachers have the option either to assign a unit project or a semester-long project.
- A decision has been made on the venue for the Prom on Tuesday, June 6. It will be held at PNC Park. There are tentative plans for a red carpet at the High School from ca. 4-5 p.m.
- The 8th Grade Parent Meeting will be at the high school on Tuesday February 7 at 7 p.m.
- The annual college fair will be downtown at the Convention Center on February 9. The night before a college seminar will be held at the high school for students and parents. This event is sponsored by the Community Foundation and run by the Counseling Department.
- Course selection for next year will begin on February 21st.
- Our annual Staff Appreciation Lunch will be tomorrow. Stephanie Harris and Karen Boston have planned this event for the past several years, and it is again in their competent hands.
- Several high school students received either Silver or Gold Key Awards in the Scholastic Arts Contest. Their work will be on display at the Pittsburgh Art Regional Exhibition February 4 – 19 at LaRoche College. Hours are Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The awards ceremony will occur on the final day of the exhibit.
- The Sadie's Dance, which the junior class plans, will be Saturday, February 11, 7:30 – 10, at the high school. The theme this year is "Outta This World." Shop @ USC will be helping with decorations.
- Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 15, at 9:30 in Rooms 148-149 at the high school.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel

- The 2nd Annual Arts in USC K-6th Grade Art Contest begins Feb 1st. The theme is “This Is My World”. This art contest is offered to USC students in kindergarten through 6th grade. Students can create an original 2D piece of art that expresses what “This Is My World” means to him/her. Please turn your artwork into your school’s main office by Monday February 27, along with the Official Student Entry Form. Please contact artsinusc@gmail.com if you have any questions. The info sheet /entry form for the contest will be posted to the website.
- **Scholastic Arts and Writing Contest**
 - **High School Awards**

Liam Carse	Silver Key
Vivian Li	Silver Key, Gold Key
Serena Luo	Silver Key
Lauren Teresi	5 Silver Key, Honorable Mention
 - **Ft. Couch Middle School Awards**

Antara Cleetus	Silver Key
Sydney Kirk	Silver Key
Katherine Li	Honorable Mention
Jaron Maine	Gold Key
Manjiri Palayekar	Silver key
 - Gold Key and Silver Key artwork will be on display at the Pittsburgh Art Regional exhibition from Saturday, Feb. 4 through Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017, at LaRoche College. The exhibit is open to the public from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday
 - Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention award winners – will be recognized at an awards ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 19. The closing celebration begins at 12:30 p.m. with music entertainment and refreshments. The award ceremony begins at 2 p.m., in the Kerr Sports & Fitness Center at LaRoche College.

Caring & Sharing – Leria Miles – no report

Directory – Brooke Tarcson – no report

GATE – Lisa Clark

- Daphna Gans reported that there are early thoughts about doing the next GATE meeting with STEAM. Lisa Clark will reach out to Suzanne Wynne to discuss and plan.

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

- February is Middle School Month for Council Outreach!
- **Boyce:** February marks Boyce’s annual Valentine’s Gram sale, as well as the student council stylus sale benefiting The Education Partnership. We look forward to hearing the results!
- **Fort Couch:** Coin Drive for the Heart kicks off at the Valentine Social on February 16. Anyone who donates at the social will be entered into a raffle for a small (\$5 or \$10) gift card. After the social the coin collection jars move to the homerooms through the following Friday. This year Fort Couch has upped the incentive and the top 7th and the top 8th win an in-school social.

PIE – Tracy Barnett – no report

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman

- Congratulations to all the Upper St. Clair students who participated in their school’s spelling bee this past January! The five first-place winners will go on to represent Upper St. Clair and their respective school at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee to be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Robert Morris University. Approximately 110

students from western Pennsylvania will participate in this event.

School- by- school results are as follows:

▪ Baker – 1/9/17

First Place –	Ryan Popp with a winning word of “dandruff”
Second Place-	Hannah Del
Third Place-	Lily Pritts
Fourth Place-	Avery Neal
Fifth Place-	Sofia Jahn

▪ Boyce – 1/31/17

First Place –	Alexander Todd with a winning word of “nutrient”
Second Place-	Keshav Narasimhan
Third Place-	Matvey Zoukovski
Fourth Place-	Carter McClintock-Comeaux
Fifth Place-	Jhoran Laffin

▪ Eisenhower – 1/26/17

First Place –	Olivia Hong with a winning word of “conflagration”
Second Place-	Noah Gidas
Third Place-	Eitan Schwartz
Fourth Place-	Jamie Barrett
Fifth Place-	Shresht Rawat

▪ Ft. Couch – 1/18/17

First Place –	Christian Chiu with a winning word of “factorial”
Second Place-	Shana Reddy
Third Place-	Alex LeKachman
Fourth Place-	Arunprakash Vasudevan
Fifth Place-	Dev Patel

▪ Streams – 1/23/17

First Place –	Rohan Mehta with a winning word of “allegiance”
Second Place-	Shriya Narasimhan
Third Place-	Caleb Guarino
Fourth Place-	Violet Rizer
Fifth Place-	Carlee Santel

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne

- The Creative Computer Club at Eisenhower is scheduled to start in mid-February. Training of the volunteers is underway.
- All elementary schools have agreed to have a participation fee which will bring in \$450 to each school to be used for STEAM equipment in the classrooms.

Welcoming Committee—Stacie de la Parra – no report

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Leanne Adamo

- Daphna Gans reported the next book club meeting is on March 9th at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m at the C&RC. The book is Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance. Please see the Community Foundation website for upcoming book club meeting dates and book selections for the remainder of 2017.
- Daphna also reported that the Community Foundation is sponsoring college night at the High School this month. Multiple schools will be in attendance including Drexel, John Carroll, Ohio State, Syracuse and Villanova. This year, not only will University representatives be available but also university students.

Odyssey of the Mind – Alison Hess

- All 19 teams are registered and preparing for Regionals on March 4th!!

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- Presentation by Family Links in January. Presented on Teen Dating and Mental Health and the impact of social media on each of these.
- Next YSM is February 8 at 7pm at the C&RC.

Old Business

- Accepting nominations for open board positions
 - Vice President and Treasurer – Please contact Beth Huzjak if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for one of these open positions.
- Thank you to Soniya Barve and Diane Closser for their efforts to organize the Spirit Wear Sale that is currently underway!

New Business

- Counseling Advisory Council
 - Beth Huzjak reported that Jennifer Kirk, USC High School Guidance Counselor, and Lauren Madia, Fort Couch Middle School Guidance Counselor presented to the PTC executive board at our January 2017 meeting. They discussed the state-mandated Comprehensive School Counseling Plan that they and others have been working on since 2015. The plan specifically addresses the delivery and support of K-12 Career Education and Work Standards that prepare students for post-secondary success. One component of this plan is the implementation of an Advisory Council. Beth explained they asked for PTC's assistance in identifying at least one parent volunteer from each unit school to participate in the Counseling Advisory Council and invited anyone interested in volunteering for this council to reach out to the unit presidents who have been soliciting parent volunteers for the first meeting which will occur on February 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

The Next USC PTC Meeting
March 1, 2017
Fort Couch