

UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT– NOVEMBER 2, 2016

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2016

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 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 October 1, 2016 of \$11,398.11
 - There were no receipts this month.
 - There were no disbursements this month.
 - This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$11,398.11 as of November 1, 2016.
- The audit is completed. The books were found to be accurate and the fund accounted for in a businesslike manner, with appropriate recording keeping practices.
- As a result of the audit, it was noted that Article VII – Section 5 of the bylaws should be removed as the dates have passed and no longer have relevance. Beth Huzjak made a motion to update the bylaws to strike this outdated information. The motion was seconded.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Beth Huzjak
 - Thank you to Jill Hicks and Eisenhower for hosting our meeting and thanks to everyone else for donating your time to attend.
 - 1st Vice President, Daphna Gans
 - Reminder that the first Open Mike of the 2016-2017 school year is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Boyce. Please spread the word at your school to visit the district website for the online form to submit questions for Dr. O'Toole. Great questions so far.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole
 - Dr. O'Toole encouraged people to visit the online form set up by Tina Vojtko for the Open Mike questions. He explained that the theme of the night is "ask Pat anything" and that he likes to have a good mix of prepared questions and spontaneous questions. He thanked PTC and Daphna Gans for her leadership in putting the event together.
 - The community forum to discuss the capital projects is scheduled for November 29 from 7-9 pm in the high school LGI. It will have a structured format with a presentation by the architect and a break-out sessions with opportunity for questions.
 - The process for finding and hiring a candidate to replace Ms. Frosina Cordisco as the Director of Business & Finance for the district is winding down. Dr. O'Toole explained that they are finalizing the process with an external candidate. An internal candidate was not an option. He shared that a major decision would be coming soon.
 - Board Advisor, Holly Spina
 - Follow PTC on twitter!

- School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - Commendations:
 - Dr. John Rozzo was recently honored with the 2016 Leadership and Service Award from the Pennsylvania State University College of Education.
 - Laura Moeller, one of our high school teachers, has been selected for the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award. She was nominated for this award by a former USC student.
 - The Board has quarterly breakfasts, the purpose of which is to allow the Board to have an opportunity to explore some less familiar or new aspect of the school district. At the most recent breakfast, the Board toured the Innovation Hub at Boyce. Amy shared that there is a great write-up on the website. She explained that the space is incredible and very exciting. Mr. Henderson is the STEAM teacher at Boyce. The Innovation Hub was funded primarily by a grant from Steelcase Education.
 - The school district presented at the annual Pennsylvania School Board Association conference in Hershey, PA. We were invited earlier in the summer to present on the following two topics:
 - The district presented a workshop at the PSBA Conference on the Top 10 Components of Sustaining High Levels of Student Achievement. The group received good feedback and follow-up information was requested.
 - Students from the high school Smart Desk participated in the Education Excellence Fair organized by Mr. Berrott.
 - Amy reviewed the status of the capital projects initiative. She encouraged us to look for the announcement regarding the community forum event scheduled for November 29 at 7pm and the high school and to sign up to attend the forum.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Kristie Proud

- Baker Boo Bash took place on October 14 and was a successful event
- Baker Elementary and Baker PTA Outreach- finished our fundraiser for
 - The Teresa Fox Memorial Scholarship, and
 - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
 - We raised over \$3,000 though out the month of October where most funds were collected during the Baker Boo Bash and the first annual fall crawl that took place the day of our harvest parties with a walk from Baker to the fire station and back.
- Fall Book Fair is taking place on November 8, 2016
- Many Class Socials happening in November- Kindergarten Dance Party on Nov. 18th, 1st Grade Mad Science Social on November 17th, 2nd Grade Wild Animal Party on Nov. 15th.

Eisenhower – Jill Hicks

- It has been an incredibly busy month for us at Eisenhower Elementary. Our 3rd Grade class hosted their annual breakfast on October 18th. The theme was Pittsburgh Pride and our 3rd graders were encouraged to dress in their favorite Pittsburgh sports team attire. Students enjoyed a delicious breakfast in Cafe Ike with their families while also socializing with their friends.
- Eisenhower's largest fundraiser, The Eisenhower, was held on Friday, October 21st. Cold temps and rain couldn't keep the crowds away. We had a great turnout this year. Families enjoyed dinner, games, guessing jars, a cake walk, a silent auction and kids raffle basket drawings. We exceeded our budget goal this year by almost \$4,000! Our silent auction alone brought in more than \$1,000 than last year.
- On our Outreach front, our 3rd and 4th graders took their annual field trips on October 26th and October 27th to The Education Partnership. There, they helped to make school kits that will be delivered to the Kelly School in December. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to take part in such a rewarding experience. Our students get to see firsthand how much of an impact these supplies have on those at the Kelly School. These students are so grateful for what they receive in these school kits.
- We are continuing our Outreach efforts in November as we kick off our annual Hat and Mitten Drive. We ask Eisenhower families to donate new hats and gloves for Kelly School students as we get ready for another cold

winter. Once collected, PTO representatives will deliver the hats and gloves to the Kelly School.

- Our next PTO general meeting will be on November 11th and we look forward to another active month in December with our Holiday Mart and Winter Parties.

Streams – Leria Miles

- The big event for October was Streams' Stravaganza. The theme this year was "Surf's Up!" and it was a huge success. I don't have official numbers yet, but all the preliminary figures show we made at least \$1,000 more than last year. The parent help was amazing even after having to reschedule!
- Also, we finished our KidStuff Coupon Book sale. We raised over \$2,500, so we're pretty excited about that since this was the first year we did this.
- Streams held our fall spirit wear sale in October. Items will be delivered in November.
- Open Mikes – Kindergarten Parents attended an Open Mic on October 6 and 4th grade parents on October 13. At these events Dr. Miller and one of the teachers from that grade are hosted at a house of a parent in that grade. The activities and curriculum for the school year for that grade are discussed.
- During the month of October, Streams did a contest to see which classrooms collected the most Box Tops and which classroom collected the most Campbell's Labels for Education turned in. The students in the winning classrooms will receive a \$5 gift certificate for Barnes and Nobles
- Streams students also participated in Bus Safety Week, Red Ribbon Week, and National Day of Writing.
- On Friday, October 28, the kids participated in the Harvest Parade and each class had its own Harvest Party.
- Outreach – this week until November 11, Streams is holding its annual CANDY COLLECTION. All candy will be donated to the Red Door Lunch program and included in bagged lunches for the needy.

Boyce – Katy Loomis

- The Boyce Book Fair is fast approaching. Online sales begin November 3rd and run until November 16th. The School Fair will start on Election Day with special hours from 9:30-11:30am. The Fair will be offered to students for shopping from November 9th -11th.
- Deer Valley Distribution Day will take place on November 3rd between 12:00 - 1:30pm and 3:30-6:30pm around the side of the building by the recess area. Thank you to Brenda Tomscheck for organizing.
- Outreach is collecting Halloween Candy from November 2nd through November 9th. These treats will be donated to Treats for Troops for military overseas. Anyone with family/friend serving please share the address with Amy Antonio so she can include them in the distribution.
- Boyce Spirit Night will take place at Chik-Fil-A on November 16th.
- The Boyce Spirit Wear Sale will kick off on November 11th and run thru November 22nd.
- Boyce has recently had its first school assembly called Silent Strength hosted by OLWEUS. This assembly addressed bullying. The second assembly, supported by the PTO, is upcoming and called The Alicia Project. The assembly will address cyber safety and social media awareness.
- The next Boyce PTO meeting is on November 16th. We will host Amy Antonio and Vicki Cayuela, who will discuss the assemblies, and present on Youth Steering.

Fort Couch – Melanie Lenthall

- The Fort Couch first PTSO General Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 18th and was well attended. After our general meeting, we held an open mic with Mr. Demar.
- Our second social of the year took place Thursday October 13th.
- Our first Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A was on October 20th and was a great success.
- We voted on adding a line item for Guidance Support which was unanimously approved. This was in great timing as we have a USC Family who has a daughter in 8th grade at FC and in desperate need of help. Along with funds from this line item, we were also able to spread the word of their gofundme webpage through PTC and the Fort Couch Facebook page. We had many USC families reach out and donate.
- Information for Arts in Education has been posted with the deadlines in early January.
- Our upcoming events are Reach Out, Caught You Being Good, and Warm Winter Wishes for staff appreciation.
- Our third PTSO meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15th. This meeting will be followed with a presentation by our 7th grade guidance counselor Mrs. Madia regarding the adolescent brain and how they think along with conversation starters.

High School PTSO – Sally Ondrejko

- Our last meeting was on October 16. As always Dr. Angelo arranged for informative and interesting speakers:
 - Students from the Fall play, Look Homeward Angel, spoke of their experiences. The Fall play wrapped up last weekend. It is a unique theater experience, in that it is done as theater-in-the round, with both audience and actors up on the stage.
 - Mr. Clermont from the World Languages Department spoke about study abroad opportunities.
 - Librarians Janine Despines and Debbie Rentschler spoke about their resources and handed out helpful packets for parents to learn about what they offer in the way of databases, pathfinders, and other tools for research.
- Dr. Angelo briefly discussed a new “theme” at the high school that both faculty and students will be learning about in various ways. The theme something called the “growth mindset” and is based on research by Carol Dweck.
- Last Thursday was the second PAC (Principal’s Advisory Council) Meeting of the year. This time rather than an open forum, Dr. Angelo discussed the scheduling process at the high school.
- Fall sports are winding down. Senior recognition events and play-offs are underway or completed.
- Students in different stages of schooling experience different “calendars” which dictate activities for them. Junior and Senior years at the high school are heavily influenced by the college search process. November 1 was another early action deadline (so the long weekend was a blessing). This Saturday the high school will be one of the testing sites for the SAT. Junior class meetings are tomorrow—counselors will meet with the students in the morning and with parents in the evening.
- District Honors Band, Orchestra, and Choir events occurred recently, with 7, 3, and 8 students, respectively, attending from the high school.
- At the check-in last week for the coat drive Student Council is sponsoring at the high school, USC has moved from last to first place. See the website for details.
- This Saturday in the High School Nutrition Center the Softball Boosters are sponsoring a craft show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Shop @ USC will be there with their products, including new items.

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel

- E-alerts to FORT COUCH families have been sent regarding info for participating in the national Scholastic Art Competition. Similar E-alerts for the HS families are going out this month. Deadlines, competition rules, regulations and entry info can all be found thru the e-alert that was sent out.
- The theme for K-4 grades and 5-6 grades is "This is My World". That competition will be held 2nd semester. Several art teachers have already volunteered to help out with holding sessions at the schools in the Spring semester where students can get creative.

Caring & Sharing – Leria Miles

- In light of Melanie Lenthall’s report and discussion of a Ft. Couch family in need of assistance, Leria Miles and Melanie agreed to follow up after the meeting to consider further outreach.

Directory – Brooke Tarcson

- Directories are in and ready to be picked up! I am at the high school from now until noon then I will return from 3:00-4:30. I will also be at fort couch tonight from 6-7. Please let me know if you would like to pick up your school's stash!

GATE – Daphna Gans

- Deadline is fast approaching for HS students who want to work with CMU students on projects. Please check the recent E-alerts.

Internet Communications – Brooke Tarcson – no report

Open Mike – Daphna Gans

- November 9 at 7 pm in the auditorium at Boyce.

Outreach – Chrissy Sileo / Kathy Teresi

- We hope everyone was able to read Dr. O’Toole’s wonderful Superintendent’s Blog about his field trip last week with Eisenhower to The Education Partnership to create school supply kits and personal notes for the Kelly School students. See here: <http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/9427>
- Things continue to move in a positive direction. Dr. O’Toole is hosting the second annual Casual for a Cause event for the district staff this Monday, November 7. We will be delivering collection bags to the six school buildings, administrative offices and bus garage this week for that effort.
- Also on November 7, and thanks to the support of Dr. Angelo, we, along with Amanda McQuillan from The Education Partnership, will be meeting with the High School Student Council to get their fundraising efforts up and running.
- Plans are also in place for a group of Boyce students chaperoned by Mr. Gremba and Mrs. Antonio to make kits for Turner Elementary late November or early December.
- The distribution of the holiday school supply kits are also in the planning. Kelly School is already on the calendar for December 14 in the afternoon. The Education Partnership thought it a good idea to schedule Turner for the morning that day to have a full “USC day.” We would love for Council and school representatives to attend these great events so check your calendars to see if that date works for you, or if we should attempt another date for Turner.
- We appreciate everyone’s efforts to get their school’s fundraiser on the calendar. We are still working to get some feedback from several schools on their fundraising participation this year, but we are in good shape!

PIE – Tracy Barnett – No report

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman

- The Boyce bee dates have changed slightly as shown below.

January 19:	Written Prequalification Round
January 31:	Spelling Bee
February 1:	Snow Date

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne

- Suzanne reported that she is working with Dr. Wagner to set up high school volunteers to either teach or to assist with the STEAM club. The involvement of the high school volunteer will depend on the desire of the parent volunteer to either lead in the teaching role or assist. In order to stage for sustainability of the program, Suzanne and Dr. Wagner are looking specifically for students in their junior year of high school.
- She is working to define the four-week window with the assistance of the PTA/PTO at each school.
- She is planning to run a school-specific training for the parent and student volunteers which will occur about one week prior to the club’s start date.
- Looking to get donations for the kits for the program.
- Check out the USC STEAM facebook page.

Welcoming Committee—Beth Huzjak

- A new committee chair has been identified for next year.

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Daphna Gans

- The Community Foundation recently gave generous monetary gifts to Streams and Baker to help with their respective projects to improve their playgrounds.
- The Community Foundation also gave a monetary gift to Boyce for the Innovation Hub.
- The next USC Book Club is on November 10 at 11am or 7pm. Please visit the website for the name of the book to be discussed this month.

Odyssey of the Mind – Alison Hess

- Odyssey of the Mind teams are getting started with the new season. On November 10th we will have our program-wide Spontaneous practice at the rec center for all teams. On November 19th (NEW DATE) we will

have our Round Robin Skills Workshop at Boyce. And teams have the opportunity to attend *A Christmas Carol* at Little Lake Theater, followed by an acting workshop on December 4th.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- The Youth Steering committee is hosting the Fall Blast at the C&RC on November 12 from 6:30-8:30. The event is for middle school children and includes dodge ball, inflatables, food, a dj, games, etc. Please watch for an E-alert with instructions on how to register for the event.

Old Business - None

New Business

- Beth Huzjak reminded everyone that the 8th annual Fall Bounty is scheduled for November 5, 2016 from 11am – 4pm at the C&RC. There will be food vendors, a baking contest for kids and many other activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

***The Next USC PTC Meeting
January 4, 2017
Streams***