

UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT– JUNE 1, 2016

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2016

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 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 a opening cash balance on May 1, 2016 of \$10,976.34.
 - Receipts this month totaled \$0.00 for:
 - Disbursements totaled \$601.03 for:
 - Education Partnership (\$221.00), Achievement Awards (\$100.00), Community Day (booth and banner) (\$99.66), Changeover Luncheon (\$76.52), Arts in USC (gift card) (\$50.00), GATE refreshments (\$43.85), Checking account service fee (\$10.00).
 - This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$ 10,376.31 as of June 1, 2016.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Beth Huzjak
 - Thank you everyone, for last year and enjoy the summer.
 - 1st Vice President, Daphna Gans
 - No report
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole
 - Still very busy gearing up for the 2016-2017 school year:
 - Working through tough staffing issues.
 - Looking at world languages.
 - Working on new programs for kids including adding a STEAM design course in 5th and 6th grade and keyboarding in 5th grade.
 - Cutting back on traditional FACS in part as a result of the retirement of one of the FACS teachers. FACS will remain in 6th and 8th grade.
 - Excited about the changes and trying to work through them with minimal disruption.
 - In today's economy, it's tough to keep doing all that we have been doing and meet budget needs. Our tendency is to resist change but change can be good. Asking for patience as these changes take place.
 - Commencement is next week.
 - Board Advisor, Holly Spina
 - Thanks everyone again for a fabulous year. Congratulations to the new officers and happy summer to all!
 - School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - Circulated Commendations and Recognitions for May 2016 for staff and students and specifically congratulated Dr. O'Toole for having received the 2016 Clairion Distinguished Alumni Award.
 - Capital projects are in the consideration phase. An ad-hoc committee has been tasked with looking at possible capital projects. Projects being considered include:

- The stadium – the press box, restrooms (to make them handicap compliant), and the ticket booth
- The swimming pool - to make in at least a 6 lane pool
- Paving needs
- Boyce field – building a restroom
- Budget – Thank you Dr. O'Toole for all of the work you and your staff have given to the budget.
 - Raising the taxes by 1.3 mils will cost \$261 annually on a \$200,000 property in USC.
 - Pension is costing the district 30 cents additional currently, which used to be only 5 cents additionally.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Kristie Proud

- Busy time of the year wrapping up year-end activities including Move-Up Day, Field Day, and year-end plays.
- Visit from Dan Fox last week, the Director of Pirates Baseball Informatics. He met with the 4th grade students to explain how what they are learning in the classroom really can change their lives -- real life application of skills on a level that all students can relate to.
- 3rd grade tile wall – the tiles that the students created are in and will be installed over the summer so that when they come back next year as 4th graders, they will see their work.
- Looking ahead to next year, we will be having a PTA 101 meeting to better explain clearances and eAlerts.
- Kinder coffee – new event for kindergartner parents to meet at a kindergarten parent's home for a casual get together, starting next year.

Eisenhower – Jill Hicks

- Eisenhower was buzzing with activity in May! We kicked off the month with our Staff Appreciation Week which ran from May 9-13. Our theme this year was "Out of This World" Space Theme. Teachers were treated to a breakfast, luncheon and dessert day throughout the week. They also won \$5 gift cards to Starbucks, Giant Eagle or Target, were treated to massages and could enter a drawing to win a variety of magnificent Chinese Auction baskets including a Date Night Basket, Travel Basket, Automotive Basket and much more!
- Next, Eisenhower celebrated Cultural Arts Day on Friday, May 20th. This year's focus was on Latin America. Kids spent the day listening to various speakers from Latin America who discussed their country's culture, customs and history. Students also were taught a very fun Spanish game that promotes friendship. Finally, students were treated to the sounds of a Latin mariachi band for an afternoon assembly.
- Eisenhower's Outreach efforts continue to soar. Our last Outreach fundraiser was a coin drive that raised \$1,500 to support The Education Partnership! Each grade level competed against each other to fill a jar the fastest. The winning grade (third grade), won the opportunity to cut our art teacher's beloved locks, who will then donate his hair to charity. Two lucky third graders have been chosen to cut Mr. Cosgrove's hair in June.
- Also in May, our kids were treated to a wonderful assembly, sponsored by Chick-Fil-A and The Pittsburgh Pirates. We are proud to say that out of all of the schools in the South Hills, Eisenhower raised the most money at Chick-Fil-A for a Spirit Night! Because of this, Chick-Fil-A and the Pittsburgh Pirates awarded our school with a special assembly about health and wellness. The Pittsburgh Pirates Parrot and the Chick-Fil-A cow were on hand to get the kids excited and a representative from the Pirates led the assembly with incorporating fun games and activities. To top it off, each Eisenhower student went home with a Chick-Fil-A coupon and a free ticket to a Pirates game!
- Finally, Field Day is set to take place on Friday, May 27, weather permitting. It is sure to be a day filled with fun and great times!

Streams – Leria Miles

- Streams has had a very busy month of May! We started the month with our bi-annual talent show, held at Boyce Middle School which was a great success and really allowed the student's an opportunity to shine.
- The house was packed for our fourth grade Spring Musical in the theme of Heroes. Our fourth graders have also been extremely busy showcasing their talents and preparing for the end of the school year and their transition to Boyce.
- Their end of year, PYP Inquiry Project Exhibition was held on May 13, and they had a chance to show off all of the research they have done on a charitable organization of their choosing since January! One student in

particular, Jackson Angelici, was able to highlight the Noah Angelici Foundation. A foundation dedicated to funding research and awareness of Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS) which is characterized by an unequal exchange of blood flow between the twins. This condition required a unique and lifesaving fetal surgery performed by only a few surgeons worldwide. After birth, Noah bravely fought for 2 1/2 years before it eventually claimed his life in December of 2007. Jackson presented about his family's trials and losing his twin brother Noah in a way that was so inspiring and encouraging and really reflected a spirit of commitment to a cause and service on such a personal level.

- All are a buzz about the Fourth Grade Farewell Pool Party and singing at the Pirates game! One of the most impactful ways that the fourth graders were able to leave their mark on Streams was to be a part of our Walk...Run...Play Fundraiser, held on May 15. We had over 400 individuals to participate in such a meaningful even! In donations from Streams families, we raised over \$3,000.00 towards our new playground equipment purchase and installation!
- We are all looking forward to a restful summer!!!!

Boyce – Katy Loomis

- Celebration of Learning took place on Thurs, May 26th from 7-9. It was a great success!
- Teacher Appreciation Day was celebrated Fri, May 27th with a picnic theme/lunch. Gift cards from favorite restaurants and shops were raffled off to the staff. A great event!
- The 6th Grade Graduation Party will take place Thurs, June 2nd at Ft. Couch. The students will celebrate the completion of two years at Boyce with snow cones, popcorn etc.
- Civil War Day will take place for the 5th grade this Fri, June 3rd. With the help of parent volunteers, they will be making hardtack in the FACS room, as well as enjoying soldier reenactments, drums and more!
- Many 5th grade students will be traveling to Gettysburg and Hershey Park on June 4-5th for the annual Gettysburg Trip.
- Field Day will take place for the 5th and 6th grades on Mon, June 6th.
- Thank you to all the amazing parents volunteers this year that have made all the special events possible. You have definitely gone above and beyond!! Have a Great Summer

Fort Couch – Melanie Lenthall

- The Fort Couch PTSO General Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 17th 2016.
- Board installations took place.
 - Hemina KrishnaBachia was voted as the board VP and Brenda Tomsheck was voted as the new board Secretary.
 - Only part of our board was installed due to Hemina and Brenda being at Deer Valley.
 - Those installed were:
 - President: Melanie Lenthall
 - 2nd Vice President: Joe Demar (ex officio)
 - Treasurer: Alison Hess
 - Board Advisor: Daphna Gans
 - Upon our first Fort Couch PTSO meeting in September 2016 we will install Hemina and Brenda, close that meeting, and reopen for the regular slated meeting.
- Our committee chairs are set for next year.
- Staff Appreciation was very well received we had gift basket raffle that was new this year. Many thanks from the staff.
- On Thursday, May 5th Fort Couch had its "Celebration of Learning" and it was a very well attended event with students presenting/visiting the science fair.
- We had a successful Chick-fil-A fundraiser on Thursday, May 23rd
- The 8th Grade Farewell was May 19th. About 140 students attended out of around 320 8th graders. Mr. Demar and I discussed doing it differently next year for the large upcoming 8th grade class which will be around 390 students. Perhaps the second half of the day when the students have Keystone exams we could do the Farewell. We will revisit closer to the date next year 2017.
- Field Day is also ahead on June 2nd (rain date the 3rd) at Boyce, with 7th grade from 9-11am and 8th grade 12-2pm. All students will be receiving Rita's Ice at school.
- And we will finish the year with 8th Grade Move Up Day-Thursdays, June 9th (last day of school).

High School PTSO – Sally Ondrejko

- At the High School, we closed out our year with a meeting here at Central Office two weeks ago (due to testing) with our changeover.
- My first official duty was attending Awards Night last Tuesday in order to present this year's four \$250 PTSO Book Awards. Each April, we draw the names of four seniors whose families have belonged to PTSO to receive these awards. They have one entry for each year their families have belonged.
- Because the last day for seniors is tomorrow, finals are over for many students already. The transition from all traditional finals to a mix with performance-based assessments continues. The Math Department chose to continue using traditional finals, for example, while most English classes are using performance-based assessments. Decisions are made by department. Even in classes using traditional finals, however, students whose class average is at least an 85% may opt not to take the final.
- If you visited the high school last week, you would have seen a totaled car parked outside the Arts entrance. This car was used in the Mock Car Crash simulation which is an annual part of pre-prom activities for the seniors. Prom is next Tuesday for the seniors, and graduation is next Thursday. In a break from tradition, the speaker for Commencement will be a USC alumnus, Brian Gaudio, who graduated approximately 7 years ago, rather than an administrator from the district.
- If you are at the high school tomorrow, be sure to stop by the swimming pool area to watch the AP Physics cardboard boat races. The boats are constructed completely of cardboard and covered in tarps (so as not to disintegrate immediately in the water). On Friday, another fun annual event takes place: the Pickleball Tournament. This event is a fundraiser sponsored by the Kids Helping Kids club. There are competitions for male teams, for female teams, and for mixed doubles.
- Have a safe and relaxing summer!

Standing Committees

Arts in USC – Rachelle Engel

- All is well! Every level had participation and positive feedback this year. We learned a lot throughout the year and will be able to make the process for each level even better. Looking forward to next year! Look for the Arts in USC article in the USC Today Fall edition! Happy summer!

Directory – Brooke Tarcson

- I met with Tina from Central Office, who is lovely, and when the school district starts planning Back to School Online, we are going to meet again to discuss revamping the district-wide communication for the directory. I'm also redoing the letter that will be sent home to each family in the official school district mailing.

GATE – Lisa Clark – No report

Internet Communications – Brooke Tarcson - No report

Open Mike – Daphna Gans

- Fall and spring open mikes are planned for the 2016-2017 school year.

Outreach – Chrissy Sileo / Kathy Teresi

- There is a great blog post from Dr. O'Toole on this subject. Please check it out.

PIE – Tracy Barnett – No report

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman

- No summer activity planned. We will return in the fall.

STEAM – Suzanne Wynne

- STEAM is a new committee aimed to enhance the STEAM-related activities already planned by the district.

Welcoming Committee—Stacie de la Parra – No report

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Leanne Adamo

- The Giving Tea is today, June 1st.

Odyssey of the Mind – Alison Hess

- Two Fort Couch teams advanced to World Finals to compete in Iowa from May 25-28. Both teams did tremendously well. The classics team came in 3rd place for their problem. The vehicle team came in 23rd out of 85 teams for their problem. Congratulations to these two amazing teams!!
- Looking ahead to next year, we are trying to work on ways to handle being able to find practice space for our teams to use throughout the OM season.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- No report

Old Business

- Community Day – The event went as well as could be expected given the weather conditions. The Panther Pig Derby was very popular among the attending children. A huge thank-you to Amy Garces for the awesome game! Being the first year for the PTC to have a booth, start-up costs were high (to cover the game and the new banner) and no profits were made. Next year, the booth is expected to be profitable.

New Business – None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Friday

***The Next USC PTC Meeting
September 7, 2016
Central Office***