

**UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT--
March 2, 2016**

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2016

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.

Reading of Correspondence -- None

Statement of the Treasurer

The USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund had an opening cash balance on February 1, 2016 of \$9,938.20.

Receipts for this month totaled \$0.00.

Disbursements totaled \$74.00 for:

- Check account service fee \$10.00
- Reimbursement for overpayment on membership \$19.00
- Arts in USC Reimbursements (Fort Couch students) \$45.00

This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$9,864.20 as of March 1, 2016.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Holly Spina
 - Thank you to the Baker PTA and Dr. McClintock-Comeaux for hosting the meeting this month.
 - 1st Vice President, Beth Huzjak
 - Open Mic has been rescheduled to April 18th at 10 am at the Boyce Theater.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole
 - Andy Ruffalo is the custodian here at Baker and does a great job. He is the head of the Labor Union and does a great job with that too. Thank you, Andy.
 - Annual Report is almost ready. We are just putting the finishing touches on it.
 - Need to communicate the pension cost is a yoke around our neck. State has fewer dollars to support programs, and the pension is a huge cost they can't solve. Teacher and Labor Unions helped us with the payback effort. We are in talks now with teachers; their contracts renew this year.
 - The budget requires us to raise taxes. We appreciate the support of the community. It's important for our district to not be stagnant or move backwards. We need to invest what is important for our students. Where we can, we cut back, but we are also try to grow. The governor has a proposed budget for next year even though this year's budget has not passed yet.
 - Board Advisor, Brooke Tarcson
 - The nomination process has begun for the PTC executive board. The positions that need to be filled are Vice President and Secretary.
 - We are accepting nominations for PTC Founder's Day.
 - School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - The 1 to 1 ipad initiative at the HS is gearing up for the incoming Freshman class this fall.
 - There is a lot of energy behind moving forward with the Strategic Plan across the district.
 - Commendations and recognitions can be viewed on the School Board link on the USC website.
 - There is a possibility that the snow day may be made up in June, moving the last day of school to June 9th.

- The Board put together their “5 Beliefs for Growing Learners”.
- There is an opportunity to refinance the bonds issues and save \$600K. The proceeds will fund the capital projects in the next 3 year period.
- The Parkway West and Career / Technical Center provides opportunities for students to earn college credits.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Kristy Polochak

- February 19 was Baker Bingo.
- 4th graders learn basic CPR in gym class.
- February 22-26 Make a Change coin drive for outreach.
- End of February Baker Buddies had meeting.
- March: All wound up yo - yo club.
- March 15 : Spring picture day.
- March 16 : Book fair and Teacher Read-in 5:00- 7:00.
- March 16 : Combined strings concert.
- March 30 : Variety show practice.
- April 1 : Variety show @ HS 6:30 pm.

Eisenhower – Amy Garces

- Eisenhower’s Good Eggs were sharing the love this month! We started off with the 1st Level Social on Feb. 4th. Our 1st graders went “wild” for Grant Kammerer’s Amazing World of Animals. The hit of the night was the Black Leopard and the Eisenhower Zoo photo booth. Next came the rescheduled Bingo Night on Feb. 5th. 341 players went through thirteen rounds of intense competition while dining on pizza and snacks.
- The love continued to flow as we celebrated Valentines Day with our school wide Ice Cream Social and Valentine exchange on Feb. 11th. The morning of February 23rd started early with the 2nd Level Breakfast. The “Winter Wonderland” theme did not quite match the 50 degree day, but those in attendance did not seem to mind.
- Eisenhower also extended the love to those beyond our doors by holding our annual “Heart to Heart” Food Drive for SHIM. The competition for which classroom has the “most heart” is getting heavy as the food drive wraps up the first week of March. The families of Eisenhower also gave back by collecting over \$750 worth of Box Tops for our February event. We love all the good work our Eisenhower “Good Eggs” do!
- Upcoming Events: Book SWAP and “Clue”-themed Reading Night March 1-3.
- Kindergarten “Night of Magic” Social will take place March 8.

Streams – Alissa Mammana

- In February, Streams profited \$200 from the Chick Fil A spirit night.
- Streams bowling Party at AMF was a success.
- Bingo was a well attended and successful night.
- 2/18 was Children for Children event supporting Beverly’s Birthdays. One of the founders is a USC graduate. Raised \$7,000
- Spring portraits on March 16th
- We had 2 special level nights.
- Our band aid drive for Children’s Hospital continues.
- We will be announcing new officer nominees soon.
- PYP projects are coming along for the 4th graders.
- Streams Talent Show is on Sunday May 1st at Boyce Theater.

Boyce – Brenda Tomscheck

- The 2nd annual Boyce Bash was held on Thursday, Feb 11th and was a success, raising @\$4,000. All proceeds are going towards the Megan Ware Scholarship Fund thru the Make A Wish Foundation.
- A Random Acts of Kindness Breakfast was held on Friday, February 17th.
- Valentine’s Grams, organized by the Boyce Guidance teachers, were popular again this year at Boyce and raised \$1,100 for the Education Partnership.
- Boyce has a Spirit Night at Chipotle on Tuesday, March 15th.
- The 3rd Staff Appreciation event will be held on Friday, March 18th.

- Our next General PTO meeting will be held Wednesday, March 9th at 9:30am at Boyce. The Boyce Music Department teachers are going to come talk about the upcoming Spring musicals and concerts.

Fort Couch – Daphna Gans

- The February Fort Couch PTSO General Meeting was canceled due to the weather school cancelation.
- Our Valentine's Dance was very highly attended with over 400 students. We also launched our special coin drive that night, named coins for Hearts by the students, benefiting the USC reach out effort to support the education foundation. The coin drive continued for two weeks and the students raised \$2,394.00, which supports about 120 students for a full year at the Wilkinsburg school District. We also had some other Valentine's Day activities such as carnation and candy-grams sale.
- Nominations for FC PTSO Exec Board positions and for committees are now open, we are recruiting a VP and various committee chairs.
- Our March PTSO meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15th. For our follow-up lecture series, we invited Christina Hostutler, LCSW, Clinical Director at Outreach Teen & Family Services to discuss Stress Management in Adolescents.

High School PTSO – Melissa Epler

- Recent PAC meeting was all about the high school experience and upcoming changes. It was great to have many 8th grade parents there.
- Musical 'White Christmas' opens this Friday night. Still time to get tickets!
- Spring sports start next week.
- The next PTSO meeting is on March 16.

Standing Committees

Arts in Education –

- The Boyce students are moving ahead with the Pennsylvania American Watershed art contest. Teachers are supporting this contest through art club and classrooms.
- The elementary students K-4 art contest, "Tell Me A Story", has been underway to all elementary families, and posted online as well. The deadline is March 14.
- The Congressional Art Competition is open to high school students. 4 pieces from each high school in the 18th Congressional district can be submitted to Tim Murphy's office By April 1.

Directory – Committee

- Directories are still available to purchase.

GATE – Lisa Clark

- March 15th at 7:00 pm at Boyce theater will be a presentation about the middle years math program.

Internet Communications

- All is good.

Partners in Education – Tracy Barnett

- We have coffees scheduled with Melissa Garvin April 18th at Panera in the Galleria from 7-9pm.
- Melissa Garvin has invited a speaker from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to speak on May 16th. At this point, I do not have details on the topic but Melissa said she would provide more information closer to the actual date.

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman

- The first place winner from each building will advance to represent USC at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee at Robert Morris University on Saturday, March 12.

Open Mike – Beth Huzjak

- The spring Open Mic will be held April 18th at Boyce theater @ 10 am.. Open to suggestions for topics, as well as looking forward to presenting information about the budget.

Outreach – Chrissy Sileo / Kathy Teresi

- Umbrellas still available for purchase.
- Units are wrapping up fundraising to go toward the \$12,500 goal to support the Wilkinsburg schools through the Education Partnership.

Community Foundation – Leanne Adamo

- Blankets are available for purchasing as usual.
- The CF Book Club will take place on March 10 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Both meeting times are at the CRC. Contact Beth Erlanger with questions at

berlanger@verizon.net. Our book selection is Swing by Phillip Beard. May 12 we will be discussing The Boys in the Boat.

- The Town Hall South series is almost sold out. Pamphlets and order forms are available. All are encouraged to buy tickets for the season.

Odyssey of the Mind – Allison Hess

- We had a big weekend with Odyssey of the Mind! We had our Spontaneous Fun Day competition on Saturday and three of our Fort Couch teams won trophies!
 - 1st Place Division 2A - USC Dum Dums - Coaches Alison Hess and Ponny Jahn - Sara Hess, Chris Jahn, Shivani Jajoo, Kristian Karidis, Bryce Keating, Max Mandler, Natalie Rach
 - 2nd Place Division 2B - The Problem Children - Jacob Conte, Christina Conte, Vivek Babu, Maggie Lowden, Gracie Lowden, Isabella Putorti, Yash Jajoo
 - 3rd Place Division 2A - The Walking Tacos - Coaches Laura Murtough, Meridith Markovitz and Stacey Seewald - Victoria Cuba, Brianna Lin, Joseph Markovitz, Max Murtough, Sammie Seewald, Constantine Tripodes, Eric Wang
- Our big Regional Tournament is March 12 at Moon Middle and High Schools. We'll have 15 teams competing.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- There is a meeting next week at the CRC about “What students are thinking about.” This is based on the Natural Helpers survey that all USC HS students take in the fall.
- April 16th is the Spring Dodge @ 6:30-8:30 pm, for all USC middle schoolers grades 5-8.

Old Business

- A reminder for the units to turn in forms.

New Business

- USC PTC will be involved with Community Day and will sponsor a booth with a game.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachelle Engel

***The Next USC PTC Council Meeting
April 6, 2016
USC High School***