

UPPER ST. CLAIR PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL REPORT– September 2, 2015

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2015

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.

Reading of Correspondence

Brooke Tarcson received the Dissolution Statement of the PTA Council from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Upper St. Clair Parent Teacher Council has official status as a 501(c)3.

Statement of the Treasurer

The USC PTA Council's General Fund has been closed.

The USC Parent Teacher Council's General Fund had a opening cash balance on July 1, 2015 of \$4,834.05.

- Receipts this month totaled \$0.0
- Disbursements totaled \$80.00 for:
 - Checking account fee \$10.00
 - Dissolution of USC PTA \$70.00
- This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$ 4,754.05 as of September 1, 2015.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Holly Spina
 - Thank you to Central Office. Welcome and thank you for coming. It's going to be a great year!
 - 1st Vice President, Beth Huzjak
 - Welcome to everyone.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole
 - Looking at enrollment numbers across the District. We have 170 new enrollees, we lost 75 students. Net gain of 95. Smallest kindergarten class this year. We graduated 349 students in June. This is consistent with the trend of a depopulation in the western Pennsylvania region.
 - Baker is the smallest elementary with 381, then Eisenhower with 473, and Streams at 501.
 - We have our eye on all of this but no decisions have been made yet.
 - Transportation is always the biggest challenge with back to school issues. Middle school has the most issues with delays, since they are picked up in the morning last and delivered home in the afternoon last.
 - Holly did a wonderful job with a great message to all of the staff at the District's welcome back assembly.
 - The 1 to 1 iPad initiative for grades 5-8 was the biggest implementation ever!
 - Students, parents and teachers need training, and there has been very good feedback about the parent training sessions offered before school started.
 - October 19 the Strategic Initiative Planning group will reconvene and put the final touches on what the teams have been working on. The teams have been very supportive, and we would like to keep them connected to the initiative.
 - PSSA tests given this past spring had significant changes made to them without alerting administrators and teachers of the differences in the new exams. The scores are not as good as previous years, and we are working with

staff to figure out how to explain this message to teachers, parents and students so that they realize this does not in any way reflect on the students' performance, nor the district's teachers. The state averages are way down, as there was a statewide reaction to this very different type of exam that was given. This is going to be controversial statewide.

- The keystones and SATs had very high scores this past spring. Students performed very well on IB exams, AP tests, and ACT scores were very strong. And the IB Diploma students did very well.
- Open houses are coming up, and it has been a great start to the school year!
- Board Advisor, Brooke Tarcson
 - Present. No report.
 - If anyone is hiring I could use a job, since I have a lot of time on my hands now.
- School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck (Member) No report.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Kristy Polochak

- August 21st was new family welcome and it was a success.
- August 27th meeting for committee chairs was held and was well attended.
- This week we are having our Kidstuff sale.
- September 3rd Baker is holding first PTA meetings at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm
- September 10th is Open House
- After school workshops for Reflections are planned for September 17th and 24th. Entries to be submitted to Baker's front office by Monday October 13th. This year's theme is Let Your Imagination Fly.
- As far as gifts to school, just a few to mention are a Buddy Bench, classroom sensory libraries and playground stencils.
- Week of September 21st is Baker gives back food drive.
- Week of September 28th Yankee Candle sales.

Eisenhower – Amy Garces

- Eisenhower kicked off the new school year with our Welcome Breakfast for New and "New to Kindergarten" families. The morning went well, with the highlight being tours of the school conducted by some Eisenhower alumni.
- Our staff also received a Back to School welcome with a luncheon catered by Family Deli.
- Despite these wonderful events, the biggest treat of the Back to School season was our basketball court, with three new hoops and blacktop area. This gift from the PTO is causing great excitement during recess as all kids can now have a shot, and outside play can be extended to snowier days when the asphalt is cleared.
- Coming up, we are looking forward to our Fall Book Fair, which runs Sept. 8-10, with the event culminating in the parent shopping time during the evening of Open House.
- September wraps up with our "Pather Pride" themed 4th level breakfast on Sept. 22nd.
- Our 1st PTO General Meeting is September 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Streams – Alissa Mammana

- The new family welcome breakfast was on August 19 and we had about 20 new families in attendance, some from overseas. The new kids got a tour of the school by some current students in attendance.
- Teacher survival kits were distributed and given by the staff appreciation committee a couple days before school started. Included were calendar magnets, and gift certificates to local businesses. We have 8 new teachers at Streams.
- We are adding the following after school activities:
 - STEM bricks Lego in fall
 - lab rats in winter
 - golf in the spring

- Gift to school from last year and this year includes an enhancement to the playground. Work will begin in the spring of 2016, and should be completed by Streams' 50th anniversary November 2016.

Boyce – Brenda Tomscheck

- The first annual Family Welcome Day was held at Boyce on Tuesday, August 18th from 3:00-6:00pm. Parents and students were able to tour the school to find homerooms, pay Students Activity fees/PTO Membership fees and get assistance with MMS/eAlerts. It was very well attended and we received very positive feedback about the event.
- The Deer Valley Fundraiser will run from September 16th thru the 30th. This year's fundraiser is going green! Students will be selling 100% recycled plastic trash bags. The profits from this optional fundraiser will go directly into the student's individual Deer Valley student account. Students will earn 50% profit from their sales.
- The Book Fair will be held September 22nd thru 25th.
- Boyce's Open House night will take place on Thursday, September 24th and there will also be an early dismissal for students @ 1:15pm that day.
- The first General PTO meeting of the year will be held Wednesday, September 16th at 9:30am at Boyce.

Fort Couch – Daphna Gans

- The Fort Couch first PTSO General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15th.
- Following our upcoming PTSO meeting, we scheduled a special presentation by our Counselor Mr. Palmer and a guest speaker Mr. Mike Burch titled "Bryan's Choice". Mr. Burch's son passed away of a heroin over-dose several years back. For the past several years, this presentation has become a part of the 8th grade Guidance Curriculum and is delivered to the 8th graders in Guidance Class every Spring. Mr. Palmer wanted "to offer this presentation to parents so that they can see "in person" this powerful, emotional message."
- Our committees are almost all set for this year with the exception of art and orchestra parents.
- Welcome Staff Breakfast which took place at the August 28th was a big success and we received thanks from the staff.
- Our first social of the year is tomorrow, Thursday September 3rd.
- Fall Spirit wear and Box Tops fundraiser activities are in planning.
- Open house at Fort Couch is October 1st.
- Last year's gift to school contributed to the desks, chairs and lockers for the 7th grade class. The lunch schedule changed to accommodate the large class.

High School PTSO – Melissa Epler

- Busy summer at the high school with summer gym, STEAM Academy,
- Leadership Academy, and camps/practices for cheer, band, and fall sports
- New family orientation held on 8/11
- Senior cruise held on 8/30 - chaperones/clearances were an issue
- First PTSO meeting will be 9/16 at 9:30 a.m.
- Early dismissal/open house 9/17
- High school alumni band festival 9/19 at 7:30 p.m.
- PAC 9/22 at 9:30 a.m.

Standing Committees

Arts in Education –

- The committee has met and is in the process of working out the logistics of the contests for each level—elementary, middle and high school.

Directory – Committee

- Holding pattern until families have all filled out the Back to School Online.
- Please fill out the Back to School Online ASAP if you have not done so.

GATE – Lisa Clark

- An email went out regarding upcoming events.

Internet Communications

- No report.

Partners in Education – Tracy Barnett

- Tracy Barnett is heading up this committee.

Spelling Bee – Beena Reddy

- Working on having a Spelling Bee Club in each school. Contacting school principals and unit chairs.
- Enrolling the 5 schools in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Open Mike – Beth Huzjak

- The Boyce theater has been reserved for November 2nd at 7:00pm for the 1st Open Mike. A topic is being decided.

Outreach – Chrissy Sileo / Kathy Teresi

- The units are discussing the level of involvement each is able to take on.
- The chairs are willing to meet with units to answer questions/ concerns.

Welcoming Committee—Stacie de la Parra

- The 11th annual New Family Welcome Event will be held this Friday, September 4th. PT Council will host a dinner in the Nutrition Center at the high school at 6 PM, followed by the football game against Penn Hills at 7:30.
- Also, as a reminder, Units are asked to bring two desserts each to the Nutrition Center beginning at 4 PM. Also, each unit is asked to send two representatives from your board, to participate in the event. If we get those names today, we can make your name tags in advance!
- Dr. O'Toole has promised that his staff will be in full force in the serving lines!

Reporting Organizations

Community Foundation – Leanne Adamo

- Blankets are available for purchasing.
- The CF Book Club will return on September 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. berlanger@verizon.net. Our book selection is The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt.
- Save the date for the 3rd annual Oktoberfest on October 3 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the St. Thomas More Family Life Center.

Odyssey of the Mind – Allison Hess

- Registration has begun for the 2015-2016 season of Odyssey of the Mind. Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem solving program for students of all ages, grades K-12. The foundation of Odyssey of the Mind is that creativity is a skill that can be taught.
- Last year, Upper St. Clair had 17 Odyssey of the Mind teams – and with great success! One team and one judge received special “OMER Awards” at the Regional Tournament, and four teams moved on to compete at States.
- You can register at uscootm.com until September 23rd.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachelle Engel

***The Next USC PTC Council Meeting
October 7, 2015
Boyce Middle School***