

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PTA COUNCIL REPORT– APRIL 8, 2015

PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2015

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

In Attendance

*Denotes USC Council Voting Members

- *Brooke Tarcson – PTA Council President
- *Holly Spina – PTA Council Vice President
- *Kristen Buonomo – PTA Council Treasurer
- *Rachelle Engel – PTA Council Secretary
- *Karly Cianflone – Baker PTA President
- *Amy Garces – Eisenhower PTA Vice President
- *Ann Rhodes – Streams PTA President
- *Alissa Mammana – Streams PTA Vice President
- *Vicki Strain – Boyce PTA President
- *Brenda Tomsheck – Boyce PTA Vice President
- *Daphna Gans – Fort Couch PTA Vice President
- *Dr. Patrick O'Toole -- PTA Council 2nd Vice President
- *Lisa McQuade --Eisenhower Treasurer (Gail Groninger alternate)
- Leanne Adamo
- Beth Huzjak
- Cara Corona
- Julie Halpner
- Lisa McMillan
- Dessie Dinova
- Amy Billerbeck
- Debbie Munson
- Deb Levy
- Bonita Allen
- Beth Erlanger
- Kristy Lee
- Melissa Epler

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda/Minutes

The agenda/minutes were approved as presented.

Motion to approve each by Vicki Strain. 2nd to approve each by Karly Cianflone.

Statement of the Treasurer

The USC PTA Council's General Fund had a beginning cash balance on March 1, 2015 of \$14,042.34 of which \$2,486.51 is the Directory reserve.

1. Receipts this month totaled \$29.00 for:
 - Membership dues from Eisenhower
2. Disbursements totaled \$8,114.41 for:
 - Incorporation Fees
 - Reflections
 - AtoZ Directories for 2015-16
 - Dr. Pope Scholarship
 - PTC account
 - TIP/TIE meeting

This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$ 5956.93 as of April 1, 2015.

3. The proposed budget for 2015-16 has changed a small amount due to the monies that will be received through the PayPal account. Also to note, some committees have been renamed that include the

following: Arts in USC, Open Mic, Outreach Committee, and Appreciation Award. The budget is on the website and any questions are welcome.

Special Announcement regarding the Council General Membership – Brooke Tarcson

Voting members: As we have all been learning through out the year...Council works a little differently than the school units. Our voting process is made up of officers and delegates instead of a general membership. Anyone can attend Council meetings, but only a select number of individuals have voting rights. At this time I would like for all of the school unit presidents and vice-presidents to stand up to be introduced. (Please see attendees at the top of the minutes for the current, present officers and delegates.)

Special Presentation to the Kids Helping Kids Club at the USC High School

PTA Council presented a gift of \$750 to the Kids Helping Kids Club to help get involved with the “Blessings in a Backpack” initiative. Three students were present to accept the gift: JP Schrott, Larry Manalo and Cullen Murin. The students were very grateful for the gift to help the club with this new outreach opportunity. They reported that it costs \$80 to sponsor to feed 1 child for the year with this program.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Brooke Tarcson

Thank you everyone for coming to the meeting today. Thank you so much to the High School PTSO for hosting us and providing us with snacks. Today’s meeting marks the end of our tour through all the schools...As I have said nearly every meeting...It is so nice to see all the schools and see the new people that attend our meetings because you feel comfortable attending a meeting in your own school. It introduces the awesomeness of council to many people who otherwise might not know of this strange group of people who talk about umbrellas.... It is a brilliant set up! This is also the time where I am going to talk about the special guests we have with us today. We have:
Debbie Munson - President-Elect
Bonita Allen - Region 3 Director with us today.

They are here to speak about the benefits of staying affiliated with Pennsylvania and National PTA. This is a good time to mention that our Council Officers and Unit Presidents are all in agreement that the State and National PTA do good things for our country’s children and the parental involvement in school districts around our country. This issue is strictly about Upper St Clair volunteerism and not a reflection on anyone’s negative opinions of the PTA. This is NOT a PTA VS. PTO. This is a PTA OR PTO issue. We are not fighting against anyone. Technically, we are all here for the exact same reason. We are all here to work with the schools and community to provide quality education, we are here to work to enhance the health and progress of our children, to promote collaboration among parents, schools, and the community. All of us in this room represent one or more of these goals. We are very fortunate to have the unique privilege of having teachers and school administrators actively involved in our volunteering efforts. How many times have each of you walked down the halls of a school and had a teacher thank you for helping? Not many school districts have such a fantastic working relationship with teachers, school principals and the superintendent. We have a superintendent who is available every month at a meeting to ask him anything! Maybe you have a question about Volunteer Clearances? Maybe you want to know why he didn’t call a delay last Wednesday. And twice a year he hosts an OPEN MIKE to discuss any questions that are circulating throughout the district. The teachers and school district personnel create an atmosphere in our district that we, the parent volunteer, are welcomed and appreciated. That climate encourages us to work hard for the school’s! We are a complete circle at Upper St Clair.

And so the question will later be raised: What is the best course of action for USC parental involvement and our kids in our district? We will have a vote by ballot and decide to stay affiliated with PTA or to dissolve PTA Council and operate under a new entity called Parent Teacher Council.

Council is committed to making the right choice for USC's future
 - 1st Vice President, Holly Spina
 - It’s great to be here. Thank you to Kristy, Melissa and all of the high school PTSO volunteers for everything. Thank you to Dr. O’Toole for the recent Open Mic he held which addressed information on the budget and other topics.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O’Toole

- Thank you to Holly for all your working organizing the recent Open Mic. It was the best attended Open Mic we have had in a long time. It is nice to have people see what Frosina Cordisco has to do to make all the numbers work. Staffing drives the budget, and I appreciate the opportunity to present that to the attendees.
- Regarding the budget;
 - We are still \$1,000,000 apart in revenue vs. expenditures.
 - Everyone has a wish list, and we have to make cuts that do hurt to make the budget work.
 - May is the target date for the preliminary budget. The final vote on the budget will take place in June.
 - The Strategic Plan is pleased with the progress that the Vision Teams are making. The collective goal progress each team is making will provide good guidance in each area. There has been good dialogue amongst enthusiastic members of each team. We want to make sure we do not stop the progress of our mission – for example with our 1 to 1 iPad initiative for the 5-8 grades. This progress still needs to be reflected in the budget.
- School Board Director , Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - The “Night at the Races” will be held the evening of Saturday May 2 at St. Clair Country Club @ 7:00 pm to 12:00 am. Proceeds will benefit the USC Community Foundation, which donates funds to the USCSD. Derby attire is encouraged. Please come and wear hats, and name horses and have fun with your friends! We hope this is a huge success! Tickets can be purchased online @cfusc.org.
- Susan Speer, Board Advisor
 - Present

Unit Presidents

Baker – Karly Cianflone

- Variety Show went off without hitch—90some kids involved in some capacity; evening started with a staff performance to “shake it off”. Thanks to the high school students who helped make it a success!
- Spring Book Fair was very successful. Teachers came to read for 2 hours on Thursday evening and we raised over \$1700. We are very pleased with our decision to do another book fair instead of a Read In in Barnes & Noble as we’ve done the last few years.
- Spirit Night @ Red Robin Wednesday, April 29th from 5-9. Baker PTA will receive 10% of all sales from anyone who takes in a flyer.
- Next Meeting, April 9 @ 10

Eisenhower – Gail Groninger

- On March 12th we had our Kindergarten Social which featured Weird Eric (a local magician). Over 50 kindergarteners and their parents were in attendance. A magical time was had by all!
- On March 19th we had our Annual Snuggle Up and Read. This year’s theme was **Reading Road Trip!** Over 150 Eisenhower families attended.
- Our annual Book Swap was on March 17th – 19th.
- **Upcoming events:**
 - 5/11 – 5/15 – Staff Appreciation
 - 5/12 – 5/14 – Book Fair
 - 5/14 – Star Night
 - 5/21 – Cultural Arts Day
 - 5/28 – 4th Grade Farewell
 - 5/28 – Kindergarten Field Day
 - 5/29 – Field Day

Streams – Ann Rhodes

- We hosted WTAE weather team last month. It was an amazing presentation and very fun experience for the kids.
- As we continue with the PTA meeting speakers, we hosted a child psychologist who spoke about how to foster emotional intelligence in kids – especially how it relates to conflict resolution.

- We had our first ever spring book fair (we moved it from the fall) and got good feedback about the timing. We made \$2,500.
- Streams' next PTA meeting is Tuesday, April 14.

Boyce – Vicki Strain

- March 13th, we hosted a Staff Appreciation Massage Day including lunch. Massage Envy of Mt. Lebanon donated two masseuses for the day and staff members signed up for 15 minute time slots during their breaks throughout the day. This was very well received by everyone.
- The 6th grade musical was held March 25th, 26th and 27th and the 5th grade musical is tonight and tomorrow night and a closing performance on Friday at 2:00. The cast members will be having parties during Pride Time with Rita's ice treats and a video of their performances.
- Other than that, with Spring Break and PSSA testing starting next week, time is quickly passing us by at Boyce. We will then head straight into 6th grade Deer Valley trips from April 29th through May 15th and also our 5th grade NASA trips and it's June!
- I would like to note that we have a full executive board for next year and we are well underway to filling all of our committee chair positions.
- Boyce's next general PTA meeting is tomorrow April 9th.

Fort Couch – Joyce Burton

- Our Board positions have been filled for the 2015-16 school year. Melanie Lenthal (VP) and Alison Hess (Treasurer) have graciously accepted. We will nominate them at our April 21st meeting and vote on that at the May 19th meeting. We have also started to fill many of the Committee Chair positions. Emails will go out this week to advertise.
- We will also be presenting our power point presentation and discussion of what a PTA and PTSO might look like at Fort Couch. An invitation has been given to the PAPTA to attend our May meeting.
- Spring Sports have started which include Boy's Volleyball, Girl's Volleyball and Track and Field.
- The last social of the year was held on Friday, March 20. Attendance was low. Discussion is in the works as to what we can do differently next year.
- PSSA testing begins April 13.
- Chipotle fundraiser is April 21, 2015 from 4- 8pm. Box Tops brought in \$270.

Standing Committees

Arts in Education –

- We are in need of chairs for this committee.
- Six USC students placed in the State's Reflections contest.
- There will be a new district wide arts program for all students K-12 in the 2015-16 school year, "Arts in USC".
- Look for the Logo Contest for the Arts in USC program. There will be information about this opportunity in the USC Today summer edition.
- We are in the development phase of this new program. The following will be included in the Arts in USC program so far:
 - K-4 will have a locally judged and recognized contest
 - Grades 5-6 will participate in the Pennsylvania American Water Watershed Art Contest. This fits in perfectly with the Earthwarden program already in place at Boyce.
 - Grades 7-12 can submit artwork to the Scholastic Art Competition.
 - Grades 9-12 are also able to submit works of art to the Congressional Art Competition.
- Today the PTA Council is giving to each USC school 's library a \$300 gift card to Barnes & Noble in honor of the Arts in USC initiative. Each school expresses gratitude to the Council for these gifts, and is excited to go back to each unit and present them to their respective librarians.
- In addition, the PTA Council presented a \$500 Michael's gift card to the HS Art Department. On behalf of the HS Art Department, Kristy Lee accepted the gift and expressed how grateful the HS Art Department is for this gift.

Directory – Committee

- We will be concentrating on any changes in the next couple of months.
- We hope to get the directory out earlier, which will mean getting out the information to the parents earlier as well. We have a potential chair for this committee.
- A to Z is going to take over selling our ads. We are thrilled about this!

GATE – Lisa Clark

- Lisa will be staying on as the GATE chair. Thank you, Lisa.

Internet Communications – Susan Speer

- It's going great.

Spelling Bee

- Congratulations to Boyce 5th grader, Daniel Wang, who, on Saturday March 24th, placed 2nd at the Western PA Scripps Regional Spelling Bee at Robert Morris University. Collette is stepping down as Spelling Bee Chair....Council will look for a new Chair. Collette did an amazing job as the Chair. She is willing to train the new chair.

Reporting Organizations

High School PTSO – Kristy Lee

- The musical production of “Kiss me Kate” took place Thursday through Sunday of the first two weeks of March. Performances were awesome and very well attended with many shows being sold out!
- The music department is now busy with Spring instrumental concerts.
- Spring sports have moved from indoor practice to outdoor practice and seasons have begun for tennis, track and field, boys and girls lacrosse, baseball, and softball.
- Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors have scheduled their classes for next year.
- Student Council has been busy working on the Community Day Festivities (May 16th) and planning for the prom which will take place on Tuesday, June 9th.
- At our PTSO meeting on March 18, we elected our executive officers for next year.
- Students will be inducted into the National Honor Society on April 23rd.
- PTSO is sponsoring a visit from author Amy King on Thursday, April 23rd. Her visit will include a creative writing workshop and a presentation on “How to be a Superhero: Speaking out about bullying and staying safe in school and beyond.”

Community Foundation – Leanne Adamo

- Blankets are available for purchasing.
- Ducks are for sale for the Community Day Duck Race. 1 Duck for \$5, a Quack Pack of 6 for \$25, and more pricing options are listed on the website @ CFUSC.ORG
- CF 's Book Club will be discussing The Bolter by Frances Osborne on Thursday, May 15 at the CRC @11am -12:30 and 7-8:30pm. Hope to see you then!

Odyssey of the Mind – Susan Rosati, Stacey Seewald (present)

- States is this coming weekend. 4 USC teams advanced to the states level. Congratulations and good luck.
- More teams went to regionals than ever before. It is a really great experience for the kids.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- The next event for middle school students grades 5th – 8th will be held on April 25th at the CRC from 6:30—8:30 p.m. We need volunteers to make this a successful event!

Old Business - None

New Business –

- Nomination of new Board -- Susan Speer
 - The following have been selected to be nominated for the 2015-16 PTA Council Executive Board:
 - Holly Spina-- President
 - Beth Huzjak – Vice President
 - Lisa Henricks – Treasurer
 - Rachelle Engel – Secretary
 - Brooke Tarcson – Board Advisor
 - Motion to accept this nominated board by Vicki Strain. A 2nd motion by Karly Cianflone. The voting will take place at the May general membership meeting.
- PA PTA Representatives to speak –
 - Debbie Munson, President-elect
 - Thank you for having us. You are doing a lot of fantastic stuff here.

- The PA PTA helps our constituents with the following:
 - 501c3 regulations
 - Clearance issues up to date
 - Legislation at the state and national level
 - Family and education engagement Act -- working for all children together
- Bonita Allen
 - Thank you for the opportunity to speak to all of you today.
 - At the council level, the PA PPTA provides resources for your units.
 - You can look at the PTA website to see what programs are available and be up to date on what PA and National PTA is doing.
 - You need 3 units to have a council in PTA.
 - Financial information (including that of paid PTA workers) are on the website
 - Current national PTA public policy agenda includes
 - Juvenile justice / delinquency
 - School safety
 - Child nutrition
 - Title 1 – No Child Left Behind Act
 - 10% of our revenue is spent on administrative costs. 90% on programs.
- **Vote to dissolve council's affiliation with PTA or stay affiliated with PTA**
 - Motion to vote to dissolve by Deb Levy. 2nd by Cara Corona.
 - By secret ballot, and counted by the 2 PA PTA reps and 2 USC PTA members, the vote is unanimous to dissolve Council's affiliation with the PTA.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachelle Engel

***The First USC PTC Meeting will be held
May 6, 2015
Central Office***