

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PTA COUNCIL REPORT– JAN. 7, 2015

PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 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.

Statement of the Treasurer

- **The USC PTA Council's General Fund** had a beginning cash balance on December 1, 2014 of \$11,892.81 of which \$2,486.51 is the Directory reserve.
- Receipts this month totaled \$7,200.00 for:
 - PayPal transfer for Printed Directories/Memberships
 - School payments for Printed Directories
- Disbursements totaled \$6,603.68 for:
 - AIM Insurance
 - Reimbursements to Unit PTAs for PayPal Memberships
 - A toZ Directories
 - Holiday Brunch
 - Printed Directories final payment
- This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$ 12,489.13 as of January 1, 2015.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Brooke Tarcson
 - Thanks so much to Streams for hosting this month. It is great to be back at Streams!
 - The Thank You Brunch held at Central Office in December was very festive.
 - January is a time for reflection, and I was thinking that it is wonderful to have a PTA Council Board that is very strong and united, and also works so well together.
 - 1st Vice President, Holly Spina
 - Thank you to Streams for hosting the PTA Council General Meeting.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole
 - Thank you to the PTA Council Board for hosting the Brunch in December. It was great to have everyone together. It is important to have ceremonial events like this to build team spirit.
 - Thank you to Dr. Miller for hosting the meeting. Congratulations on 11 years at the District. It is wonderful to have leadership stability.
 - As required by the state, during the 1st week of December, the USCSD Board has rotated the presidency for the coming year and Frank Kerber is now the President and Buffy Hasco is the Vice President. It is important to have many board members fill the presidency as it makes the team stronger, and allows all the members to appreciate how difficult the decision making can be.
 - Budget planning is coming up.
 - \$700,000 new pension costs on top of millions of dollars of expenses.
 - We want to continue to progress and grow the District rather than cut back on programs and initiatives, as it affects attitude and performance.
 - A Visionary Team of 80 people is being formed to start meeting on upcoming ideas for the District as we move into the future. We were not planning on having such a large team, but we want to encourage the enthusiasm and keep interested people engaged with the process.
 - In December, the USC High School class that has partnered with South Fayette on the Human Design Process class in conjunction with the

Luma Institute presented their projects. They tackled real life problems and came up with innovative ideas for the All Clad company.

- School Board Director , Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - Thank you so much for the Brunch in December. It was a lovely event.
 - The Board had a goals workshop in December for the upcoming year which included continuation of initiatives and working on the state mandated budget.
 - The District will be looking to ask the State for an exception to the 1.9% increase in school taxes (Act 1).
 - January is one of the times in the year when curriculum recommendations are made every year by staff, administration, parents and students. Recommendations that are made in January are usually implanted in September, while recommendations made in June are implemented the following June.
 - Dr. O'Toole has been involved in testifying in front of Congressional Hearing Committees regarding the funding of education in Pennsylvania, which is 1 of 3 states in the US that does not follow a formula for state funding of our schools.

Unit Presidents

- Baker – Karly Cianflone
 - Enchanted Shop was enjoyed by all students. Not intended to be a fundraiser, but ended up raising \$ (waiting to hear from treasurer)
 - Baker Gives Back Outreach program is planning to collect items for the Animal Rescue League – for the division that rescues and rehabs wild animals before release back into the wild. This will take place in February.
 - Secret Holiday spirit wear sale raised \$
 - Grade level socials have been extremely well attended by students and parents. 2nd graders loved the “Wild Animal Show”, 1st grade will enjoy their social on January 8th and Kindergarten will have their pajama dance party on 1/15
 - E book update (waiting to hear back from librarian)
 - Winter parties were fun time for all students—nice way to relax before starting break
 - Spelling Bee—January 20th
- Eisenhower – Gail Groninger
 - December proved to be as busy as anticipated! We kicked off the month with our Annual Holiday Mart.
 - On December 11th the Outreach Committee along with Mark Miller, Sean Casey, members of the DoubleTree Hotel Staff and The Education Partnership took a trip to The Kelley School where we handed out over 500 packets of school supplies. The packets were stuffed by Eisenhower 3rd and 4th grade students and each contained a hand written note. It was a wonderful afternoon and the students and staff were very appreciative of the supplies. We were treated by a song and performance that they had prepared as a “Thank you!”
 - The Winter parties were held on 12/23 concluding with the 2nd Annual Mock New Year’s Eve countdown where all of the school clocks are changed!
 - **Upcoming events:**
 - 1/23 – Bingo Night – High School
 - 3rd Grade Social – Western Rodeo/Dance at the end of January.
- Streams – Ann Rhodes
 - Streams is very honored to host this month’s Council meeting. Welcome to everyone!
 - Continuing with our grade level open mics and special level nights. We also have our staff appreciation lunch next week.
 - We are continuing to feature speakers at our PTA meetings. This month we will be hearing from our own Reading Specialist (Mrs Quinn). Next month we will host a child psychologist who will speak on the difference between “bullying” and “conflict” and how parents can help their children know the difference as well as how to handle the basic conflicts.
- Boyce – Vicki Strain

- Our Spelling Bee is tomorrow, the 8th and will be held in the library as we have done in years' past.
- Our next general meeting is on Wednesday the 14th. Mrs. Pfender will be discussing the "Common Core" curriculum.
- Our second Staff Appreciation day is on the 16th of January. The staff will be having a soup luncheon with all of the warm, wintery fixins'. (The next ones will be in March and May.)
- And last, but certainly not least we are kicking off our second annual Read-For-A-Reason fundraiser. It is similar to a walk-a-thon whereby children can be sponsored by family members or friends for an amount of money per minute read or a flat donation. It will run from January 16th through the 26th. The highest reading classes for each grade will have a random drawing for one winner per class. The top winning classes for each grade for the entire 10 day period will receive a movie day.
- Fort Couch – Joyce Burton
 - December was a short month but a big one at The Fort! We raised over \$600 from our Chick-fil-A, Spirit Wear, and Box Tops fundraisers.
 - The PTA held a Warm Winter Wishes dessert/coffee/hot chocolate bar for the teachers and staff on Friday, the 12th. All went well and the staff was very appreciative.
 - Caught You Being Good, a positive reinforcement program, ran from December 11th-23rd. The staff recognized the students who were "caught being good" by writing their good deeds on a slip of paper. Each day at lunch, he or she could then turn in his/her slip for a piece of candy and a chance to win a gift card at the end of the day. It was a huge success and everyone had a great time!
 - An annual tradition, the Fort Couch Reach Out program, also ran December 11th-23rd. Led by student Council and assisted by PTA, Fort Couch students were encouraged to raise funds for charity. Part of these charity funds went to local families in our community. Other charities supported this year were the student-selected Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Junior Partners, MS Bike Ride and Hope for Haiti. To make this a fun and healthy competition, students were encouraged to earn their donated funds through chores, jobs, babysitting, skipping an activity, and other fun ways like "caroling for a cause". Team 1 raised the most money and was rewarded a skate party at Ice Castle. The most exciting part was the amount raised by all 6 teams. This year, drum roll please, Fort Couch raised over \$23,000 more than doubling the \$11,000 raised last year.
 - The Winter Assembly was held on Tuesday the 23rd to celebrate the very successful Caught You Being Good and Reach Out programs. The students, staff and teachers were entertained by our very own FC Band, Chorus, and Orchestra. A check for \$5,000 (part of the \$23,000 raised from the Reach Out program) was presented to the USC police department to buy Giant Eagle gift cards which they distributed to local families in need. Caught You Being Good ended that day with multiple drawings throughout the assembly. To wrap things up Mr. DeMar and Mrs. Peterson held a final drawing for 4-\$50 iTunes gift cards which went to one boy and girl student, and one male and female teacher. It was energetic, emotional, and a wonderful way to kick off the winter break!

Standing Committees

Arts in Education – Dana Gnad/Lori Lapham

- Reflections-
 - Judging is completed and art shows are currently running at each school.
 - An e-alert will be coming this week with the local winners. Council winners will be announced after the Thanksgiving break. Council-winning entries will be going to Regional judging on Nov. 26

Directory – Committee

- A few Directory issues are still being resolved . We will be reviewing the process for next year going forward.

Reporting Organizations

High School PTSO – Kristy Lee

- On Nov. 10 The Veteran's day assembly program took place in the Theater. The assembly began with performances by the Chanteclairs and the Marching Band. Mr. Zelinski recognized and paid tribute to numerous former and current faculty and staff veterans as well as staff family members who are current or former members of the armed forces. Students were moved by veterans as they recounted personal experiences and conveyed life lessons learned while serving. All in all, it was a great assembly honoring our veterans.

- At our PTSO meeting in November, we learned that students from the STEM Design Lab (mostly juniors and seniors) are currently working with executives at All Clad in Canonsburg to assist them in solving real-world challenges within the company. Our USC students are collaborating on this with South Fayette students in partnership with the LUMA Institute.
- The Junior Class is busy focusing on SAT/ACT tests and visiting colleges. Seniors have been occupied with college applications, and according to Mrs. Kirk in the counseling department, most of them are finished with applications and are in “waiting mode”.
- The music department has been extremely busy:
 - In addition to performing at the Veterans Day assembly on November 10th the band performed in the Pittsburgh Veteran’s Day parade as well as the USC Township Veteran’s Day ceremony.
 - Nov. 16 the USCHS Pantheon Choir joined the Westminster Choir, professional soloists, and the Academy Chamber Orchestra in a performance of Verdi’s Requiem.
 - Nov. 20 High School Instrumental Concert
 - Nov. 21 Madrigal Dinner @ Westminster
 - Nov. 25 Jazz Concert @Boyce Theater
- International Education Week took place in December with the theme being “Think Global” ...Take Action” Each day there was a different activity or presentation such as the Travel Fair, Global quiz bowl, Speaker day (featuring newscaster Sally Wiggins), Human Rights Day, Skype Day, as well as a Multiple language breakfast. These activities encouraged students to think about and get involved in global issues in our society.

Community Foundation – Leanne Adamo

- Blankets are available for purchasing.
- CF ‘s Book Clu will be discussing All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr on January 14 at the CRC @11am -12:30 and 7-8:30pm.

Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- Working on some things for the Spring. Stay tuned!

Old Business - None

New Business –

- We have some positions to fill for next year’s PTA Council Board. We are looking to nominate a Treasurer and Vice President for the 2015-16 school year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachelle Engel

***Next PTA Council Meeting
February 4, 2015
Boyce Middle School***