

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PTA COUNCIL REPORT– OCT. 1, 2014

PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2014

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 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 September 1, 2014 of \$10,437.10 of which \$2,486.51 is the Directory reserve.
- There were no receipts this month.
- Disbursements totaled \$650 for:
 - Scripps Spelling Bee Registration
- This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$ 9787.10 as of October 1, 2014.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Brooke Tarcson
 - October is here! September seemed like we were just getting our toes wet with school, but now all fundraisers are in full force planning and almost upon us! It looks like this school year is full speed ahead as we are all busy with school, activities, PTA meetings and events.! Bring it on! Summer is really over!
 - 1st Vice President, Holly Spina
 - Thank you to Karly for hosting the PTA Council.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole (Dr. Suritzky filling in)
 - Dr. O'Toole is at a Superintendents' Forum and not able to be here.
 - Administration is very appreciative of the PTA and all the work we do, helping in ways we cannot imagine.
 - Open houses have all been a success, with only Fort Couch remaining this week.
 - John Rozzo has been named Assistant Superintendent, with Dr. Suritzky holding the title Assistant and Deputy Superintendent. Dr. Suritzky remains the #2 in charge of the District.
 - The Pennsylvania Dept of Education has awarded the district 3 government grant awards at \$25,000 each:
 - Eisenhower –Math instruction: Flexibility in grouping for math levels
 - Fort Couch –Related to math: Moving students from the Proficiency level to the Advanced level in the past few years, reteaching opportunities and how to place students. (Mr. Rozzo addressed this award)
 - High School—Interactive program of studies: Improving the process of allowing students to schedule enrollment; Both AP enrollment and AP exam scores have increased due to the new process.
 - Mr. John Rozzo
 - Update on the comprehensive plan
 - It is not necessary to have a Steering Committee to put together a "Strategic Plan" as in years past, but USCSD is putting in place a "Visioning Team", which is similar to a Steering Committee.
 - Applications are being taken for those interested in being a part of the "Visioning Team". The team will help put together goals, a vision, mission statement and shared beliefs for the district to be in place by 2020.

- School Board Director , Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - Welcome Mr. Rozzo to his new promotion at Central Office. He will also continue his role in Middle School oversight.
 - Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) from USC sent several groups to States, and 2 of those groups made it to Nationals. One of our groups placed 2nd in States and 9th in Nationals.
 - Student Representatives to the School Board: The high school Student Representatives to the School Board this year are Christian Meyer (Sr.) and Dan Quiroga (Jr.) They share information regarding events and activities at the High School as well as sharing the student perspective on various issues throughout the year.
 - The Board recognized Antara Cleetus for receiving the Young Artist Award at the 2014 National Forum on Arts, held in Pittsburgh on Sept 12, 2014. Antara is a 6th grader at Boyce.
 - Comprehensive Plan update: As Mr. Rozzo explained, the District will be going through its strategic planning process over the next few months (now known as the Comprehensive Plan). All interested members of the school community are welcome to apply to be part of the visioning committee for the Comprehensive Plan. It is anticipated that the team will meet 3-5 times during the evening over a six-month period. Applications are available via the district web site, and will be accepted until Wednesday, October 15.
 - Recognition of Gifts to our Schools: The Board annually recognizes financial and other gifts to the school district. Thank you to all the PTAs for their continuing support through financial gifts, as well as the gifts of service and time, for the benefit of the children of the district.
 - “Expanding Excellence Grants”: The School District received three Governor’s Expanding Excellence Grants from the state Department of Education. These grants are awarded in order to “create a culture of innovation and achievement in Pennsylvania’s public schools.” Dr. Suritsky explained that Eisenhower, Ft. Couch and USC High School each received grants of \$25,000 in recognition of excellent achievement in specific areas. These mentor grants will be used to assist partner schools in adopting certain “best practices” in use here in USC. Thank you to the administrators who worked to apply for and obtain these grants.
 - The USC Halls of Fame Induction took place on September 26th. A total of eight candidates were inducted into the Academic, Arts, and Athletic Halls of Fame.

Unit Presidents

- Baker – Karly Cianflone
 - Initial PTA Meetings were well attended with lots of new families
 - Baker Gives Back food drive for SHIM was 9/28 and 9/29
 - Kidstuff Books and Yankee Candle Fundraisers are finishing up
 - Spiritwear sale through 10/10
 - Reflections chair is holding after school workshops for kids to work on contest entries—14 kids attended
 - Spirit Night at Chick Fil A 10/30
 - Homeroom Coordinators meeting on 9/23—planning Harvest Day Parties for 10/31
 - Boo Bash—10/10/14
- Eisenhower – Gail Groninger
 - We hit the ground running in September with the Fall Scholastic Book Fair which ran from September 9th – 11th. The total sales were \$9,454.18. Mrs. Naumann and Mrs. Billak were able to purchase over \$700 worth of books and the remaining Scholastic dollars were spent by Mr. Miller on items for the school.
 - Our Annual Eisenhower Spirit Wear Sale kicked off at Open House on September 11th and culminated on September 27th. We saw an increase in sales from last year which we credit to the samples being available at school for people to see the quality and sizing. All orders were done online.
 - The 4th Level Breakfast was held on September 23rd. This year’s theme was Panther Pride. Students were encouraged to wear their team jerseys or USC spirit wear. There were 180 people in attendance!

- Our Membership Drive is in full swing. Currently we have 204 families and teachers who have joined. We hope to have it wrapped up by mid-October.
- October 2nd is Fall Picture Day.
- October 10th is the Eisenhower. Committees are busy at work coordinating the final details.
- Streams – Ann Rhodes
 - We had our first of 2 Chick-Fil-A Spirit Nights on October 18. We raised \$126.74
 - With 60 books/checks still outstanding, we are in good shape for our second annual KidStuff fundraiser. To date, we have made \$2700.
 - We are offering an after-school Reflections workshop this Friday, October 3.
 - We are getting ready for space themed Stravaganza on October 10. We are trying something new this year – we offered sponsorships for businesses (they will be advertised according to the level that they purchase) and to families (they get to buy a “planet” or “star”) which is a nice way to support the cause in a different way or if the family is unable to attend.
- Boyce – Vicki Strain
 - Our first Chick-fil-A spirit night is this coming Monday, October 6th from 5:00-8:00. Please come out to support us if you can.
 - The Deer Valley fundraiser is almost complete. Catalog orders are over, but we are still accepting online orders through October 3rd. Product pick-up day will be on Wednesday, October 15th.
 - We have our next general meeting on Wednesday the 15th. This month, our music teachers will be our guest speakers. They will be discussing the benefits and importance of music to our students and how they can get involved at Boyce.
 - Also, we have our first Open Mike with Mrs. Pfender on Friday, October 17th at 9:30 in the Boyce LGI. She will be discussing “Positively, Absolutely (Almost) Everything You Need to Know About Boyce”
 - Lastly, we have decided to have 4 separate teacher appreciation days this year aligning with the end of the marking periods. The first teacher appreciation day will be October 24th. More information will follow.
- Fort Couch – Joyce Burton
 - Judge Ron Arnoni (Bethel Park/USC) & Judge Guy Reschenthaler (Jefferson Hills, South Park and Pleasant Hills) held a presentation on Wednesday, September 24th, about internet and social media precautions entitled “Darker Side of Technology”. The judges wanted to bring these issues to the forefront and inform parents, teachers, community leaders, and our children of the dangers that exist on the internet and in social media. They believe this subject matter is relevant because it’s occurring at alarming rates and putting young people at risk. Students were bussed directly to the high school that morning and parents were invited to the same presentation that evening at BP High School.
 - All committee chairs are filled.
 - Box Tops-Now through 10/24.
 - Spirit Wear-11/1 thru 11/23

Standing Committees

Arts in Education – Dana Gnad/Lori Lapham

- Brooke sent an email regarding upcoming Reflections contest.

Directory – Committee

- Doreen will be sending the PDF within the week, then we can send the PDF to A to Z.
- Holly is selling ads which can be print and online ads. Please pick up a form if you have anyone you know who might be interested in this opportunity.

Spelling Bee—Colette LeKachman

- Dates are being decided.

TIP/TIE –Holly Spina

- Dr. O’Toole will be presenting a topic TBD on Monday Nov. 3 @ the Boyce Middle School theater.

Welcoming Committee—Stacie de la Parra

- The New Family Welcoming event was a huge success.

Reporting Organizations

- High School PTSO – Kristy Lee

- On Sept 11 Freshman Rush took place in the gymnasium. This is a festive event in which freshmen are allowed to explore the many clubs that exist at the high school and sign up for as many clubs they wish.
- At our PTSO meeting on Sept 16th, Judge Ron Arnoni visited as a special guest. Judge Arnoni, along with his fellow magistrate Guy Renschenthaler are sponsoring an educational presentation titled “The Darker Side of Technology and Social Media”. This presentation took place on Sept. 24th at Bethel Park HS and was open to the public. The same presentation was also given to USC middle school-age students in 7th through 9th grades.
- Sept 17 was Open House. Parents participated in a shortened version of their child’s class schedule which allowed them to see what a typical day is like for their student. This is always a lot of fun for parents to experience.
- The homecoming dance was this past Saturday night Sept 27 and was a success!
- On October 2nd (this Thursday) the National Honor Society will be sponsoring a Blood Drive in the small gym at the high school.
- At our next PTSO meeting, we may possibly be able to tour the new of the building with the FAB LAB.
- Community Foundation – Leanne Adamo
 - Blankets are available for purchasing.
 - Oktoberfest will be held this year on October 11th at St. Thomas More Church. Tickets are \$40 per person.
 - CF is starting a Book Club. Our first meeting will be November 12 @11am -12:30 and 7-8:30pm. Our book choice is The Rosie Project.
- Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck
 - Fall Middle School event is in the planning stages.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachelle Engel

***Next PTA Council Meeting
November 5, 2014
Eisenhower***