

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PTA COUNCIL REPORT– SEPT 3, 2014

PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2014

9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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 July 1, 2014 of \$10,351.52 of which \$2,486.51 is the Directory reserve.
- Receipts this month totaled \$85.58 due to re-absorbing an expired check as per the auditor.
- Disbursements totaled \$0.00
- This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$ 10,437.10 as of September 1, 2014.
- The books have been audited.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Brooke Tarcson
 - Welcome everyone to the new school year!
 - Directory committee worked throughout the summer on bringing back the hard copy of the directory for the 2014-15 school year, in addition to the online directory.
 - 1st Vice President, Holly Spina
 - Wishing everyone a great school year.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole
 - Brooke Tarcson represented the PTA at the opening day assembly and did a great job of welcoming the district staff.
 - A lot has been going on in the last month to provide a successful start to the year.
 - 7th graders have all received their iPads, as a part of the 1 to 1 initiative. Next year we will put iPads in the hands of every 5th – 8th grader in the district.
 - At the High School, the Innovation Hub is well under way as a part of STEM, combining the old shop, the clean lab and the Shop USC Lab. Equipment has been brought in over the summer. The Life Skills class will be among the students utilizing the Innovation Hub by making creative and innovative items in the FAB LAB. External funding has been utilized to provide upgrades to the existing space and bring in the necessary equipment to make the Innovation Hub possible.
 - The high school is introducing a new STEM Design class in collaboration with South Fayette HS, All-Clad Corp and EA Fab Corp. Students from both schools will be working together throughout the year to solve real world problems given to them by the corporate partners.
 - The District will be updating its Strategic Plan over the next few months, and we will be looking for volunteers to participate, including representatives from many stakeholder groups (students, parents, teachers, PTA/PTSO, administrators, community members, Board members, etc.) This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in setting the vision for the District for the next six years.
 - There continue to be facility challenges. The track project was completed over the summer. The stadium has issues that need to be addressed.
 - 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.

- Thanks to the PTA for their continued support throughout the coming school year.
- School Board Director , Amy Billerbeck (Member)
 - The Board passed the budget at the end of June. We have a slightly lower tax rate than both Mount Lebanon and Bethel Park.
 - Much of the funding for the Innovation Hub has been provided by private donations.
 - Summer was very busy with new teacher hires, contracts and bus stops.
 - The University of Pittsburgh Health Career Scholars Academy was held over the summer. This is a highly selective group that shadow doctors and other healthcare professionals. At our August Board meeting, the following students were recognized for their participation: Ashwanth Kumar, Carson Mafrice, Teja Polisetty, Sindu Sekharan. The following students also participated, but weren't available to come to the Board meeting: Dilanka Dharmasena, Deepika Narayanan, Shivani Patel, Tony Wang.
 - The following retiring staff members were recognized for their service to the district: Retiring bus driver-Linda Noonan; Retiring HS Cafeteria worker - Karen Green.
 - Upper St. Clair placed six individuals and three relays on the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association/Speedo All America list. They include: Ryan Dudzinski, Alex Hardwick, Patrick Lersch, Fynn Minuth, Tomos Williams and Nathan Novak. In addition to the All America awards, USC captured the “Virtual National Championship” for boys’ teams with total enrollment between 901-1400. The girls finished fourth. Overall, the boys finished fifth in the country among all public high schools. The boys’ and girls’ programs ranked among the top 10 in the country for all school sizes.

Unit Presidents

- Baker – Karly Cianflone
 - New Family Welcome/Kindergarten Orientation
 - Supply Kit fundraiser was very well received. Staples worked with Baker for the kits.
 - Author Day 9/25/14
 - Boo Bash—10/10/14
- Eisenhower – Gail Groninger
 - Everyone enjoyed a much needed summer vacation at Eisenhower; however Mr. Miller still planned the ever popular Eisenhower Movie Night on July 16th. This year the families enjoyed Turbo!
 - On August 18th the PTA hosted a Welcome to Eisenhower Breakfast for Kindergarten and new families. We had roughly 150 people in attendance.
 - On August 21st the PTA hosted a Teacher/Staff Back to School lunch. During which time Mr. Miller conducted a meeting.
 - September 9 – 11 we will have our Fall Scholastic book fair.
 - September 23rd is our 4th Level Breakfast.
 - October 10th is the Eisenhower. Committees are busy at work coordinating the details.
- Streams – Ann Rhodes
 - The Stream’s PTA had our 3rd annual “Kindergarten Connection” This event is held in June of each year to welcome new kindergarten families. It is done at the old rec center where we have games, crafts and Rita’s Ice served by PTA board members. This year we had 51 families attend!
 - We also planned “Play Dates in the Park” so the incoming Kindergarten students who met at Kindergarten Connection could stay “connected” throughout the summer and make friends before going to school. They met weekly at the park behind the library.
 - The week before school started, we had our Welcome Breakfast for new families. We had 20 families come to eat, get tours of the school and hear from the PTA and Dr Miller.
 - We are just kicking off our second year of KidStuff books. Last year this brought in an unexpected \$2,800 so we are excited to see what we can do this time around!

- Boyce – Vicki Strain
 - Handout of Binder Reminder and collection of the Student Activity Fee yielded a 93% return
 - Breakfast with Teachers will be next week the 9th-12th from 8:00-8:30.
 - We have our first general meeting on Wednesday the 11th and will be continuing with our guest speaker series. This month, Mr. Clark and/or Mr. Dudley will be coming to talk about Deer Valley
 - We will kick-off the Deer Valley fundraiser on September 9th to the students
- Fort Couch – Joyce Burton
 - All 7th grade students are participating in a one-on-one iPad learning initiative. Some of the goals of the program are to increase engagement and motivation in the learning process, increase opportunities to apply 21st Century skills, customize learning styles, and provide a "learn anytime/anywhere" approach. I have had the opportunity to speak with many 7th graders and teachers from different teams/sections and there is positive consensus.
 - The "Welcome Back Breakfast" for teachers and staff was this morning. We hope this annual event will continue to strengthen the PTA bond between teachers, staff, and parents.
 - Tomorrow night (Thursday) will be the 1st social of the year. Open gym, DJ, and snacks will be the highlight.

Standing Committees

Arts in Education – Dana Gnad/Lori Lapham

- There will be a Webinar tonight for the upcoming Reflections contest.

Directory – Committee

- As soon as Back to School Online has closed, data will be gathered to make available the online directory. An E-Alert will be sent out this week to update district parents and students on the status of the directory.

Internet Communications – Brooke Tarcson and Susan Speer

- All is running smoothly.

Partners in Education –Jan Brody

- One speaker is set up. Many speakers are willing and able, but Jan needs a co-chair to assist with coordinating the rest of the speaker engagements.

Spelling Bee—Colette LeKachman

- All the chairs are returning and there will be a kickoff meeting in the next couple weeks.

TIP/TIE –Holly Spina

- Holly is reviewing dates with Dr. O'Toole.

Welcoming Committee

- The 10th annual New Family Welcome Event will be held this Friday, September 5th. PTA Council will host a dinner in the Nutrition Center at the high school at 6 PM, followed by the football game against Peters Township at 7:30. Dr. O'Toole has promised that his staff will be in full force in the serving lines!

Reporting Organizations

- High School PTSO – Kristy Lee
 - STEM Academy took place in June
 - Leadership academy took place in July
 - Over the summer we looked at making changes to our membership drive in an effort to increase our numbers.
 - Thanks to Brooke Tarcson, and the directory team for their efforts to make the online payment option happen through A to Z directory.
 - This year we were able to send our paper mailing in the packet along with the back to school information sent out by the high school instead of separately as had been done in the past.
 - Hopefully, these two changes will result in an increase in our membership and subsequently our revenue which is important since the high school does not do fundraisers.
 - Senior cruise is coming up on Sept 7 and homecoming on September 26th with the dance on Sept 27th.
- 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.
- Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck
 - New members are welcome and encouraged to join. There is 1 meeting per month. Next meeting is Wednesday September 10.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachelle Engel

***Next PTA Council Meeting – October 1, 2014
Baker***