

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PTA COUNCIL REPORT – APRIL 4, 2014

PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2014

9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda/Minutes

The agenda was approved as presented.

The March General meeting minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Statement of the Treasurer

- **The USC PTA Council's General Fund** had a beginning cash balance on March 1, 2014 of \$10,702.13 of which \$2,486.51 is the Directory reserve.
- Receipts totaled \$418.00 from Streams membership dues and Ft. Couch updated membership dues.
- Disbursements totaled \$682.35 which includes expenses for:
 - Spelling Bee registrations
 - GATE meeting refreshments
- This leaves us with an ending cash balance of \$10,437.78 as of April 1, 2014.
- **The USC PTA Council's Special Account Fund** had no activity this month leaving the balance of \$1,186.74 unchanged as of April 1, 2014.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - President, Susan Speer
 - Welcome and thank you to the High School PTSO for hosting us.
 - 1st Vice President, Brooke Tarcson
 - The power point presentation at the Open Mike on the Budget will be available on the PTA District website.
 - 2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole
 - Open Mike –Appreciates the attendance and good feedback at both Open Mikes, with the most recent topic being the budget. The budget process is at the forefront of big decisions as the District tries hard to preserve the instructional programs and the fidelity of the District's high standing in academics.
 - Technology –Rolling out the technology budget to strive in the next 2-4 years, to have iPads for every student in the Middle School grades, 5th-8th.
 - Brad Wilson, a Fort Couch teacher has received a "20 to Watch Educator" designation for his work in the area of technology. His work has been helpful not only to students, but also to teachers as they implement new technology in the classrooms to enhance both learning techniques and teaching skills.
 - The successful Gala held in February raised \$60,000 for the District which will be put into technology initiatives.
 - Received 2 state grants for security. A security officer has been added and is utilized throughout the District at all the buildings. The crisis and communications plans for safety and security at the schools are being updated throughout the District as well.
 - Regarding the 4 snow days this current school calendar, the School Board has decided to make up 2 days on May 23 and June 13, and to forgive 2 days.
 - The track project will begin in May and be completed in August.

School Board Director, Amy Billerbeck -- Liaison

- Recognition of the students are a highlight at the School Board meetings, and the long list this year has included (among others) honoring the musical cast, high school swimmers, as well as the High School custodian Louise Means and teacher Brad Wilson for being a "20 to Watch Educator".

- The District's E-Blasts and website has received an award from the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association
- Due to the large number of Special Education students the District services, Ms. Garvin is working on a special plan for the Special Education program.
- Sheila Gargonia, Director of Advancement, has been with the District for 6 months now. She worked on the Gala, and is now focusing on the "University Model" of giving. This will include tapping new avenues for receiving income such as Annual Giving, Major Giving, Planned Giving and a Capital Campaign.
- A big part of the school budget focuses on technology, including software licenses, maintenance agreements and networking costs.
- The USC Township will have a new Magistrate (shared with Bethel Park), replacing Judge Rob Wyda who passed away last summer. Ronald Arnoni will be installed in April, and has big shoes to fill as Judge Wyda had a reputation of helping kids and having a positive influence on students who were found to be getting into trouble with the law.

Unit Presidents

- Baker -- Kim Megonnell
 - Baker received a grant for 20 Kindle Fires for the students.
 - The By-laws have been updated and approved by the national PTA.
 - The budget will sit for 30 days.
 - Spirit wear sales were a success.
 - Box Tops fundraiser is finished, raising \$1,500.
 - Baker Bingo will be held on April 11th.
 - The last fundraiser for the year is "Flower Power"—spring bulbs. The PTA receives 50% of the proceeds.
- Eisenhower – Jeanne McNamara
 - An assembly was held to kick off the Education Partnership event with the school. There was a coin drive, and students, parents and teachers will be volunteering to help assemble kits.
 - Reading night was a success.
 - Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up and will be a big week.
 - Box Tops raised \$1,700.
- Streams – Christine Vinay
 - At the PTA meeting on Tuesday, March 11 we introduced the new members of the Streams PTA Executive Board. Heather Ziegler will replace Roland Gargani as the Treasurer, and Alissa Mammana has agreed to become Vice President next year. We are very excited to have them join our team. We are, however, still looking for chairs for Stravaganza for the event in October 2014.
 - We had Book Swap and Snuggle Up & Read in March. Both events are designed to promote students' love for reading and both were a huge success.
 - We finished our Special Grade Nights by second grade taking its turn in March. The Carnegie Science Center came and awed students with different experiments and scientific exploration. The kids (and parents) enjoyed it.
 - We are gearing up for our bi-annual Talent Show, which takes place this Sunday, April 6 at the USC High School Theater.
 - Spiritwear is coming up.
- Boyce – Kathy Teresi
 - March: Guidance Counselors Mrs. Cayuela and Mrs. Antonio spoke about how we are educating the 5th and 6th graders about social media. They discussed the guidance curriculum at Boyce on Cyberbullying and helped parents attempt to stay ahead of the latest trends in social media. They reviewed many social media sites to be concerned about, techniques and tips for keeping your student safer and provided great online resources for parents to reference.
 - April: Assistant Principal Erin Peterson is working on a video with Ft. Couch students themed "What you wish you (and your parents) knew before you went to Ft. Couch" to present at our April 9 General Meeting. Information will include ways to get adjusted to the move to Ft. Couch, how to navigate the building, clubs and socials. Also on topic is the best way to use your time at Ft. Couch to manage school and homework efficiently!
 - Other Activities Coming Up
 - Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night: is April 10 from 5:00 -8:00 PM

- Science Extravaganza: is April 10 all day at Boyce
- Sixth Grade T-Shirts: new initiative provided at no cost to families are on order and will be coming in before the first teams leave for Deer Valley
- Student Garden Club: is back after several years after taking a break due to remodeling at the building. Teacher supervised and PTA sponsored, the club will work to beautify the grounds at Boyce and potentially include growing food.
- Boyce Spring Musical Performances: Boyce Band, Jazz Band and Orchestra participated in combined concerts with Ft. Couch and the High School in March. 6th Grade Chorus is performing Annie this week. 5th Grade Chorus will be following up with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory next week.
- Fort Couch – Chrissy Sileo
 - Family Fit Night: was held at Ft Couch (in conjunction with Boyce) on March 13 from 6 - 8 in the gym. It was a great night of family fun.
 - Social: Our last social was Friday, March 21 from 7 -9. It was a good turnout but lower than previous socials. About 250 kids. Kona Ice came with their mini truck again and was another HUGE hit! The school earned 20% of their sales which came to about \$60.
 - Spirit Wear: We ran a spirit wear sale through March 20th. We worked with Shields Embroidery. Orders will be delivered next week.
 - We have a Chick Fil A Spirit night coming up on May 1st.
 - Our April PTA meeting date moved from Tuesday, April 22nd to Thursday, April 24th.

Standing Committees

- Directory --Sylvia Ramos
 - Looking for a signed contract. Anticipates the same numbers from last year. We are charged per family that signs up.
 - Security – Rethinking losing and redoing all the information that is already in the directory. This might not be necessary.
- Membership—Pinki Sehwat
 - The units have decided that Membership will be handled at the unit level.
- Spelling Bee --Collette LeKachman
 - The Spelling Bee Committee is proud to announce that Upper St. Clair dominated and won the Scripps Western Pennsylvania Regional Spelling Bee held at Children's Hospital on Saturday, March 22!
 - Approximately 110 fourth through eighth grade students competed in the 64th annual spelling bee. Upper St. Clair took 4 of the top 10 spots! Special congratulations are in order for: 1st place Champion: Suneel Banerjee of Fort Couch Middle School After 20 rounds of competition lasting 3 1/2 hours, Suneel won the bee by correctly spelling the word "unadulterated". Suneel will now compete in the National Spelling Bee held annually in May in Washington DC.
 - Congratulations are also in order for the rest of the USC winners:
4th Place: Alex LeKachman of Eisenhower Elementary School
9th Place: Christian Chiu of Boyce Middle School
10th Place: Daniel Wang of Streams Elementary School.

Reporting Organizations

- High School PTSO – Shelly Snyder
 - March 3 – Celebrity Night at Texas Roadhouse, benefitting the Life Skills Class
 - March 7-9, 13-15 – Spring Musical, All Shook Up
 - March 19 – PTSO meeting
 - March 27 – PAC meeting
 - April 23 – PTSO meeting
 - May 1 – PAC meeting
- Community Foundation – Leanne Adamo
 - Blankets are available for purchasing.
 - The Foundation will be selling ducks at Community Day, pricing is as follows: 1 duck for \$5, 6 (a Quack Pack) for \$25.
 - Octoberfest will be held this year on October 11th at St. Thomas More Church.
- Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck

- The Spring Dodge will be held on April 5th at the CRC. Cost is \$10 and the event is open to 5th-8th Graders. HS students volunteer to help make this event a success.

Old Business

- Bylaws have been posted on the website for 30 days. Motion to approve the Bylaws is unanimous, and there is a 2nd motion. Approval of the Bylaws was put to vote and passed unanimously.
- Holly Spina's nomination for the position of VP for the PTA Council 2014-15 has sat for 30 days. There is a motion and a 2nd to approve Holly Spina's nomination, and she has been approved unanimously.

New Business

- The Budget will sit for 30 days and be voted on at the next meeting. Changes to the Budget are in bold print.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachelle Engel

***Next PTA Council Meeting – May 7, 2014
Central Office***