

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PTA COUNCIL REPORT - MARCH 5, 2014

PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2014
9:30 – 10:25 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 minutes were approved as presented.

Statement of the Treasurer

- Treasurer update – The account balances out. Motion to pay the bills.

Reports

- Dr. Suritsky attended this meeting in place of Dr. O'Toole and reported the following:
 - USC School Board of Education has been selected by the University of Pittsburgh's Tri-State Area School Study Councils for 2013-2014 by the Dr. Richard Wynn Distinguished School Boards. This honor recognizes the USC Board of Education as being in the highest tier of educational administration.
 - Mr. Mark Miller, Eisenhower's Principal, has been given additional responsibilities as the new Supervisor of Elementary Education. He will focus on standardizing educational practices across all the elementary buildings, including the Professional Learning Community model of customizing learning. Mr. Miller will also remain in his position as Principal at Eisenhower.
 - After several months of discussion, the Board voted to replace the high school track, which is over 15 years old. Work will be done over the summer and should be ready for the beginning of fall sports and activities.

Unit Presidents

- Baker -- Kim Megonnell
 - Teacher Appreciation Event - Hot Soup Lunch--Baker Families provided Hot Soups for the teachers and staff for lunch to show our appreciation for their efforts. Recipes were also provided for all soups made.
 - Barnes and Noble Read In--February 6th was the Baker Barnes and Noble Read-In. Mrs. Densmore's class received a \$100 gift card for having the greatest attendance. Mrs. Dillie's class named the special Starbucks drink for Baker - the "Pink Panther Paw".
 - Families and Flapjacks--This event originally scheduled for February 22nd has been cancelled due to weather, competing schedules etc. The event will be included in the 2014/2015 budget.
 - Executive Board search--Baker is looking for someone to take on the role of Vice-President for the 2014/2015 school year
 - Open Chair positions (known as of 3/5/2014)
 - Baker is looking for the following:
 - Baker Boo Bash Chair
 - Baker Boo Bash Food Chair
 - Baker Boo Bash Silent Auction Chair
 - Afterschool Activities Chair
 - Gifts to School--Baker Elementary PTA purchased 5 electronic pianos with full size keys for use by Mrs. Hestwood and the music curriculum.
 - Baker Elementary PTA is sponsoring the 4th level Art Legacy project which will provide sound proofing tiles for the cafeteria behind artwork provided by the 4th grade class.
- Eisenhower – Jeanne McNamara reported the following:
 - Family Bingo was held in January and they had a great turnout.

- Chris Johnson presented “Yes I Can”, a program about self esteem and the students enjoyed it.
- Outreach collected 5 carloads for of nonperishable food items for the SHIM food drive that ended March 4.
- In April, Eisenhower will partner with the Education Partnership and have students assemble kits.
- Book Swap is coming up.
- The upcoming Reading Night is going to be revamped.
- Streams – Christine Vinay
 - “Character band-aid collection” - the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh only provides boring brown band-aids to their patients, so they are always looking for donations of character band-aids to make the kids smile. Streams was able to donate over 120 boxes with characters ranging from Mickey Mouse to Spongebob Squarepants.
 - SHIM collection – each grade at Streams has a “Special Level Night” for the kids in a specific grade and their parents. This year each grade level was assigned a specific item to donate to SHIM. The breakdown was:
 - Kindergarten – boxed macaroni & cheese
 - 1st Grade – canned fruit & jelly
 - 2nd Grade – pasta sauces, canned spaghetti (Spaghetti-Os)
 - 3rd Grade – cereal
 - 4th Grade – soup
 - Our work with the Education Partnership will begin on March 24th. The Education Partnership will provide a list of the school supplies they need and the students will donate what they can.
 - In May, Streams will do its first collection of pet food and supplies. All donations will be taken down to the Humane Society in Washington County.
 - On February 20th, Streams held its 10th annual Children for Children Silent Auction. Hallie Snyder and Dr. Miller worked together to bring this amazing event to life. This year the main charity was Global Links, which is “a medical relief and development organization dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship and improving health in resource-poor communities, primarily in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Through the donations of our Streams families, primarily the children, we were able to raise almost \$6,000! Each grade was also assigned an item (such as onesies, baby blankets, baby washcloths, etc) to donate for maternity bags. These bags will be assembled and sent to new moms in Latin America. This event is an incredible way to show kids that they can actually do something to help other people.
 - Also on the night of Silent Auction, the Streams PTA raffled off an overnight stay at Nemaquin. The proceeds of about \$150 went to the newly expanded Sharing & Caring Committee.
- Boyce – Kathy Teresi
 - Boyce Read-for-a-Reason: this one week read a thon was held for the first time at Boyce in January. Boyce students read over 100,000 minutes and raised over \$4,000. It was designed to replace our second book fair. The Boyce Board plans to make this a standing committee and an annual event.
 - Boyce Spelling Bee: 30 students participated in the 2014 Boyce Bee on Wednesday, January 8th. And special congratulations to our top-5 trophy winners: 1st Place Christian Chiu, 2nd Place, Avaneesh Rade, 3rd Place Nick Kalra, 4th Place Aleksa Rodic, 5th Place Katie McCurrie.
 - Revolutionary War Day: held on January 24 despite the 2 hour delay. Included all day activities for the fifth grade.
 - Author Day: USC graduate and teen author Heather Terrell thrilled the kids with her book Relic. Heather donated her time and the kids really enjoyed talking with a “Boyce alumni.”
 - Book Swap: the Boyce Book Swap was last week. Students were able to bring in used books and swap them for “new” used books during lunch. Books unclaimed were donated to a local school in need.
 - Family Fit Night: Boyce and Ft. Couch PTAs are sponsors. The event is on March 12 at Ft. Couch. All Boyce and Ft. Couch students and their families are invited to attend. The event encourages fitness activities and options outside of recreation programs.
 - Outreach:
 - Friendship Shoe Boxes

- Valentine Gram's for The Education Partnership: Boyce's annual Valentine Grams were sold at 50 cents a piece through the Guidance Office. Proceeds from the sale were over \$700 and went to The Education Partnership. For their participation, all students at Boyce received a coupon to redeem at Panera Bread for a \$5 coupon (Panera is a partner with The Education Partnership) and Boyce was able to hold a Spirit Night at Panera with proceeds going to The Education Partnership as well.
 - Student Council Special Olympics: classrooms competed to build snowmen named Olaf from \$1 donations. Over \$650 were raised for Special Olympics.
 - General Meeting Speaker Series
 - February: Mrs. Holly Fisher spoke on the role of the school nurse in the middle school years, as well as healthy teen bodies, nutritional needs, sleep and warning signs of potential health and body images.
 - March: Guidance Counselors Mrs. Cayuela and Mrs. Antonio will speak about how we are educating the 5th and 6th graders about social media. They will be discussing the guidance curriculum at Boyce on Cyberbullying and helping parents attempt to stay ahead of the latest trends in social media.
 - Boyce March General Meeting:--Our March General Meeting will be held on March 12 in the Boyce LGI.
- Fort Couch – Chrissy Sileo
 - Veteran's Day Coin Drive: The students raised over \$1,400 for the USC Veteran's Memorial. We ran a coin drive from November 11 - 15th. The classroom that raised the most money won a pizza party. Mr Ali's 8th grade homeroom was the winner bringing in \$216. The pizza party was held in the cafeteria on December 5th.
 - 2 Big events kicked off on December 10th. "Caught You Being Good!" and "Reach Out" Both ran from the 9th - 20th.
 - Caught You Being Good! : Is a school wide incentive program aimed to help kids "stay in check" before the holidays. All staff members have coupons that they hand out to students that are "caught being good" (good manners, helping someone out etc). At lunch the coupons are exchanged for pieces of candy and the slips are entered into a daily drawing. Each day 1 boy, 1 girl and 2 teachers win a \$5 gift card. There were 36 daily winners during the event!
 - Reach Out: Students on each team compete to earn / raise the most money for charities . Students are encouraged to earn the money not ask their parents for it. The money goes to several different charities voted on by the student body. The team that raised the most money will get a field trip and also bragging rights. Team 6 (8th grade) won for the second year in a row. In addition Giant Eagle gift cards are given to the USC Police Department which are then distributed to local families in need. This year the students raised \$11426.07!! \$5,250 was given in gift cards to local families. Other charities helped by our students are:
 - Grady's All Stars
 - Junior Partners
 - Hope for Haiti
 - The Education Partnership
 - MS sus (we help to sponsor the Fort Couch Potatoes, a team for the bikeathon that has teachers on it)
 - This is the 3rd year we have sponsored a child in Haiti
 - Warm Winter Wishes: On December 16th a staff appreciation event called "Warm Winter Wishes" was held in the LGI. Staff was treated to a dessert bar (desserts all donated by parents) and a gourmet hot chocolate and coffee bar. We had a ton of delicious desserts donated and the staff really enjoyed and appreciated the mid day snacks. It was a great way to gear up for break and show our staff how much they are appreciated!
 - Assembly: On the morning of December 20th there was a school wide assembly. The band, orchestra, chorus and men's ensemble all performed representatives from local charities as well as \$5250 worth of Giant Eagle gift cards to the USC Police department, delivered them to our neighbors in

need. In addition more names were drawn from the Caught You Being Good raffle bags and 36 more student and teacher names were drawn for \$10 gift cards and 4 lucky names for \$50 gift cards! It was a great time and students really got into the assembly cheering on their teachers and classmates! It was a fun way to kick off the break.

- Third Social was Friday - January 10th from 7 - 9pm. Kona Ice came with a mini truck. They had shaved ice and the kids could put their syrups on. It was a HUGE hit! Kona gave us 20% of the profits which was \$80. It was so successful that we scheduled them to come back in March
- Spelling Bee was January 30th. 18 students participated Suneel Banejee won in the 35th round! Championship word: exteroceptor. Suneel is invited to compete in the regional Scripps Spelling Bee held at Children's Hospital on Saturday, March 22. Good luck and congratulations to Suneel. Many thanks to Lyn Benonis and Colette LeKachman for their help and organization, and to the parents and family members who attended to support the spellers. The top five spellers were:
 - 1st Place - Suneel Banejee
 - 2nd Place - Sahil Doshi
 - 3rd Place - Aritro Nandi
 - 4th Place - Pravalika Ravula
 - 5th Place - Jacqueline LeKachman
- We had a very successful Valentine's Dance on Thursday, February 13th. Over 300 students attended which was great because there were many sport conflicts that same night. The kids were asked to dress up for this dance and they did. Everyone that came looked great and had a good time!
- Our carnation and candy sale was very successful. Kids / parents could send a sweet message and a carnation and / or sweet tart hearts to a special friend. They were delivered on the 13th as well. Over 120 were sold.
- Shrek the Musical is coming to Ft Couch! Students just finished up tryouts and were assigned parts last week. Rehearsals have started!
- Family Fit Night in conjunction with Boyce will be on March 12 from 6 - 8 in the gym. If you have a middle school student please join us for a great night of family fun in the gym.
- Social: Our last social is Friday, March 21 from 7 – 9p.m.

Standing Committees

- Spelling Bee—reported a successful Bee for all participating levels – Elementary thru Fort Couch. Winners will participate at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee on March 22nd at Children's Hospital.
- TIP/TIE – Brooke Tarcson announced that Dr. O'Toole will be addressing the Budget at the next meeting on March 25, 10a.m. at Boyce.

Reporting Organizations

- High School PTSO – Shelly Snyder
 - November 7 – USC's Got Talent Show
 - November 9-10 – PMEA HS Honors String Festival
 - November 15 – Sweet Harmony Festival
 - November 20 – PTSO meeting
 - November 21 – Instrumental Concert
 - November 23 – Madrigal Dinner
 - November 26 – HS Jazz Concert at Boyce
 - November 21 – Instrumental Concert
 - December 2-13 – Keystone Exams
 - December 17 – Choir Concert
 - December 19 – PAC Meeting
 - December 19 – Instrumental Concert
 - January 15 – PTSO Meeting at Central Office
 - January 23 – PAC meeting
 - February 19 – PTSO meeting
 - February 20 – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
 - February 25 – PAC meeting
 - March 19 – PTSO meeting
 - March 27 – PAC meeting

- Community Foundation – Leanne Adamo
 - A new shipment of blankets is available for purchasing.
 - The Foundation gave a grant to support the Family Fit Night to be held at Fort Couch MS on Wednesday, March 12@ 6-8:00 pm.
 - The Foundation will be selling ducks at Community Day.
- Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck
 - A program on “Common Sense Media” will be held at the CRC on March 12 and will provide great tools for parents.
 - 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.

New Business

- Bylaws will be posted on the website for 30 days. They are being revised this year. They will be voted on at the next meeting
- Holly Spina has been nominated for the position of VP for the PTA Council 2014-15. The nomination will sit for 30 days and then the Council will vote.
- School Board Updates – Amy Billerbeck
 - The Board voted to send a resolution to our state legislators and elected officials, calling for reform or increased funding of the state pension system. The District's contributions to the pension plan have increased by nearly \$5M since 2010-11.
 - The first reading of the proposed calendar for 2014-15 was done at the Board's meeting in February. It will be voted on at the end of March. Please submit any comments you may have to Dr. O'Toole as soon as possible.
 - The District's third annual Celebrate Our Schools Gala was held on February 22nd. Many thanks to all who attended, and especially to the committee members who were involved in the planning of this important event.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachelle Engel

***Next PTA Council Meeting – April 2, 2014
High School***