

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PTA COUNCIL REPORT – SEPT 4, 2013

PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SEPT 4, 2013

9:30– 11:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

The agenda was approved as presented

The minutes were approved as presented

Old Business

1. Dr. O'Toole – School Superintendent

New staff in the District

1. John Rozzo, Supervisor of Middle Level Education (Grades 5-8)
2. Amy Pfender, Boye Middle School Principal
3. Erin Peterson, Middle School Assistant Principal (Grades 5-8)
4. Daniel Beck, High School Assistant Principal
5. Jen Kirk, High School Guidance Curriculum Leader
6. Timothy Wagner, Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Leader
7. Bradley Wilson, K-12 .50 Customization/Instructional Technology Curriculum Leader
8. Jace Palmer, Fort Couch Guidance Counselor
9. Sara Shoemaker, High School Music Teacher

1a. New Food Service Program Directory – Kim from Aramark will be coming in soon to explain the new food service program being offered within the District.

2. Amy (Our School Board Liaison)

- Dr. O'Toole's contract was extended till 2018. Congratulations to Dr. O'Toole
- The district has chosen to replace the High School track by the fall of 2015.
 - The current track is currently 15 years old.
- 12 USC Alumni are being inducted into the Hall of Fame

3. Kristen Buonomo - Treasurer (need update)

- The USC PTA Council's General Fund had a beginning cash balance on May 2, 2013 of \$8,786.93
- There were no receipts for the period.
- Disbursements totaled \$238.23 which includes expense for:
 - Dr. Pope Scholarship
 - Directory
 - Changeover Luncheon
- This leaves us with an ending cash balance in the General Fund of \$8,548.70 as of June 5, 2013.
- The USC PTA Council's Special Account Fund had no activity this month leaving the balance of \$1,186.74 unchanged as of June 5, 2013.

4. Leanne Adamo - Vice President of the Community Foundation

- a. Community Foundation is holding an annual Oktoberfest Craft Beer Tasting event on Sat Sept 28th from 7pm-10pm at St. Thomas More Family Life Center. Tickets are \$35 dollars and deadline date for RSVP is Sept 30...

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- b. Annual Gala's date and location have changed: Location changed from St.Clair Country Club to Valley Brook Country Club. Date changed to Feb 22nd.
 - c. USC blankets are on sale for \$60.00. Online registration still available
5. Kristen Matheny – The Upper St. Clair Magazine will cover Veterans in the Park in Oct. Each unit will need to coordinate something for the Veterans.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am

Respectfully Submitted,

Haneet Laffin

***Next Meeting –Oct 2nd, 2013
Baker Elementary School***

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UNIT SCHOOLS

Ft Couch Report - Chrissy Sileo

All is off to a good start at the Fort! On Tuesday August 20th I joined Mr Demar and the new guidance counselors in welcoming the new families to Fort Couch. There were about 8 families in attendance. To welcome the staff back to school, each staff member received a small bag with a gift card to Chick fil A for either a free milkshake or a free breakfast meal along with some chocolates and a note. The gift cards were all generously donated by Chick Fil A . Thanks to Carole King for organizing this.

Friday August 30th was our annual Welcome Breakfast hosted by the PTA for all staff members. It was very much enjoyed by everyone. All of the staff seemed enthusiastic and happy to be back and ready for another great year. Thanks to Tammy Engle and Lyn Benois for a super event!

Our membership and student dues drives are both underway and looking good. Thanks to Bev Wehrle, Rachel Korpics, Mary Mulkern, Sharon Kretschmar and Melissa Epler. We are looking forward to our first social next Thursday night, September 12th from 7 - 9pm. We are still in need of volunteers. It is hard because it is also elementary open houses so if you know of any Ft Couch parents that don't have younger kids please encourage them to volunteer their time.

PTSO - Shelly Snyder

PTSO Report for PTA Council 9/4/13

- June 6 – MYP Certificate Ceremony
- June 11 – Prom
- June 13 – Commencement
- June 24-28 – STEM Academy
- July 22-26 – Leadership Academy
- August 5-16 – Marching Band Camp

Streams – Christine Vinay

- The Streams PTA held its annual “PTA 101” on Friday, September 6. We had a great turnout and filled three of the four committees which still needed a chairperson or co-chairpeople.
- On Tuesday, September 10 we had our first PTA meetings of the year – one at 9:30 am and one at 7:00 pm. We had about 40 people at the morning session and about 10 in the evening.
- Open House was on Thursday, September 12. We had a little glitch when the power went out for about 3 minutes but then all continued as scheduled.
- On Friday, September 20 the first graders attended an assembly on safety, so now every day my first grade daughter reminds me to protect my brain because I don't want to break it!
- Tuesday, September 24 was picture day.
- This past Monday (September 30) was Chick-Fil-A night for Streams. We're still waiting on the numbers.

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- We started a new fundraiser this year – KidStuff Coupon Books. The sale ran from September 12 – 27, but of course, we're still tracking down money and books this week. We don't have final numbers yet, but as of today, we've sold over 185 books, so we've raised over \$2,300!
- Our Hero Pack Outreach project started at the beginning of September and the response has been fantastic! We're still collecting items and probably will continue to collect them up until we pack the backpacks in November.

We're getting ready for our biggest fundraiser of the year: Stravaganza on Friday, October 18.

Eisenhower – Jeanne McNamara

- School has started and there are a lot of new at Eisenhower. This year that the kids are getting to know. So far our PTA Events have gone well.
- We have had the following events;
 - July 16th Family Movie Night
 - August 16th was the PTA Welcome Breakfast for new families to the school and all kindergartners. We had about 120 people attend. Lots of new families from all over. Our diversity continues to grow!
 - August 21st we held our annual Teacher/Staff welcome back Luncheon.
 - At this time we are preparing for the EISENHOWLER Fundraiser on Friday August 18th.
 - Our Book fair will be held on Sept. 10, 11, and 12th of October.
 - Our Open house will be held on Thursday April 12th. Water and chocolate bars are provided for the Teachers.

Baker - Kim Megonnell

- New Family Welcome and Kindergarten welcome were a huge success. Hard copy directories were given out as well as cookbooks and notepads.
- Membership drive is still underway - officially ends Friday September 6th.
- First PTA meeting is scheduled for September 4th at 7 pm with a morning meeting the following day at 10:30 am. - next meeting will be November 6th at 7 pm.
- Open House is September 12th - we are having two past parents and PTA advocates sit our hospitality table to improve communication and awareness for the PTA's good work.
- Powered by PTA newsletter has been developed and first issue out.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Yankee Candle Fundraiser - September 23rd - October 8th
- Author Day October 8th
- Baker Caper Boo Bash - October 11th

Boyce - Kathy Teresi

Boyce is pleased to be home to plenty of “new” this fall. We are excited for our new leadership under Amy Pfender, Principal, and Erin Peterson, Assistant Principal at Boyce and Fort Couch. Boyce also

recently welcomed a very large fifth grade class which necessitated the addition of a 7th team to the fifth grade. We have many new teachers and staff on hand this year as well.
Highlights of the beginning of the year include:

Student Council School Supply Kits:

Over 200 kits were sold this year through Innisbrook. Student volunteers distributed these on August 20.

Student Activity Fee/Binder Reminder Distribution:

This annual event occurred on August 27-29 with 94% of the student body participating.

Breakfast with the Teachers:

The previously four day event has expanded to five days to accommodate the larger fifth grade. Parents/Guardians and students will be enjoying a meet and greet, bagels, donuts, coffee and juice with their team teachers on scheduled days from September 9-13.

Boyce September PTA Meeting and “Meet the Principals” –

The first Boyce PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11 with the option of attending at 9:30 am or 6:30 pm (this is our only evening meeting of the year). We will be hosting early opportunities at both meetings (beginning at 9:00 am and 6:00 pm) to meet and greet our new building Principal, Amy Pfender and Assistant Principal of Boyce and Fort Couch, Erin Peterson.

Deer Valley Fundraiser: using Great American. Launches September 17

Boyce Open House: September 19

Boyce Book Fair: September 18-19

STANDING COMMITTEES

Directory - Silva Romas

We are happy to note that according to Doreen Leech, the great majority of the USCSD community has welcomed the transition from print to smartphone/web based directory. She reported that there were only 32 Opt-outs so far from families who filled out their Back-toSchool Online Infosnap registration. This is great news!

We have approximately 8-10 advertisers, some are Sponsors and some are Banners. Several local small businesses appreciate the Community Listing Ad, which is very economical. Most advertisers began to take the leap around mid-August... we are now in a time crunch to get the Art ready and the Technical volunteers trained.

The revised FAQ which will give information to the community about when to expect the Directory and how to access it will be added to the navigation panel on the left side of the PTA Council webpage that is on the school district website. Currently we are waiting for final approval from the District.

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We need the FAQ flyer to be distributed to all PTA Council Chairs at Baker, Streams and Eisenhower since their Open Houses are coming up quickly. The FAQ flyer that will be distributed will direct parents to check that webpage for updates. Since there are no "assemblies" at these Open Houses, there is no easy way to personally present a tutorial video to all the elementary school parents. Instead, we plan to include the link to the AtoZ Back to School tutorial (which is featured on their website) and include that link on the FAQ. That way each family receiving the FAQ can access that tutorial on their personal computers as needed. Boyce and Fort Couch may be able to have in person tutorial presentations, depending on how much time is available and if they stick with a format that includes an assembly.

As for the high school, we hope to enlist some student volunteers to distribute the FAQ at the Open House nights at the entrances to the building. We will have a table as well where parents can pick up an FAQ and offer their comments. Listening to feedback from the parents who will be the heaviest users of this Directory is an important way to improve our service to the community.

We further intend to create our own video tutorial on the topic of the Verification Wizard and how to use it- there are some confusing steps in the process and we think we can explain it better in a video. Then we will post that video to YouTube and distribute that link on an updated FAQ.

As we roll out this new Directory, we appreciate everyone's patience as there may be some confusion as we find our way through this unfamiliar process. We will do our best to keep everyone informed as quickly as possible.

Legislation – Dana Horton (no report – just have some information)

Senate approved a new bill, "Sweeping Pension Reform" which addresses changes to the 401K contribution of school staff.

Partners in Education – Jan Broody(no report – just have information)

First meeting being held Sept 24th at the Galleria Mall at Panera Bread. A guest speaker will present at this meeting.

GATE – Gifted & Talented Education – Lisa Clark

"GATE will be having it's first meeting of the year on September 17th at 9:30 am in the Boyce LGI. Melissa Garvin, Supervisor of Special Education, will be our speaker. In addition we will discuss upcoming speakers and topics and our selection for book club. All those interested in Gifted and Talented Education in the district are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Any questions, please contact Lisa Clark [\(412\)851-1667](tel:4128511667)."

Spelling Bee – Collette LeKachman

In September, the Spelling Bee Committee will get together for a kick-off meeting. School chairs will then meet with their respective principals to set dates ahead of the September 30th enrollment deadline. The Western PA Regional Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at Children's Hospital. The Scripps National Bee will be held in Washington DC the last week of May 2014.

TIP / TIE - Brooke Tarcson

No update

Upper St. Clair's Youth Steering Committee – Amy (no report)

Meetings will be held 2nd Wednesday of each month. First meeting will be Sept.

Welcome Committee – Stacie de La Parra

New Family Welcome Event is this Friday, September 6, 2013. Dinner at 6 p.m., football game against Canon Mac at 7:30 p.m.

Set up begins at 4, so units dropping off desserts, keep that in mind. Unit reps attending will be recruited to help in serving line. If you come with your family, please be mindful of letting our guests go through the line first.

Help is still needed for food pickups, which involves going to a restaurants on Friday around 5 p.m. If you are able to handle a pick up or two, email me later today.

Happy to support kids needing service hours, but, prefer that they come with a parent (because I can still really use adult support).