

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & PTA COUNCIL REPORT – JUNE 5TH, 2013

PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 5, 2013

9:30– 11:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40am

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

The agenda was approved as presented

The minutes were approved as presented

Old Business

1. Dr. O'Toole Update – School and activities are winding down. Many retirements are occurring within the school district that is leading the district to hire and protect integral positions. All teachers that were leaving, were replaced except for one.
2. Buffy Hesco – School Board budget approved in May. Level funding was done across the board. Many retirements within the district.
3. Sylvia Ramos Update – Bigger named advertisers are getting interested in the directory however the team still continues to solicit for advertisers. Get word out through the PTA. Upper St. Clair Patch Magazine will put the Directory on display. Goal is to lock down all advertisers by July 2013. Informational seminars will be conducted when school starts in fall of 2013.
4. Vice President Leanne Adamo of the 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.
5. The Youth Steering Committee will meet the second Wednesday of the month (starting in Sept) at the Rec Center. New program is starting for those parents whose kids that have gone away to school.
6. Family Day – Raise money for those schools that are under served. The teachers can pick their supplies with the donated funds. There are corporate donors that will help in this effort.
7. Susan Rosati – Reflections. Need to seek chairs for the next year and need a replacement for Paula.
8. 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 10:52am

Respectfully Submitted,

Haneet Laffin

Next Meeting –Sept 4, 2013
Boyce Mayview Recreation Center Community Room

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Ft Couch Report - Chrissy Sileo

Chick Fil A Fundraiser: We had our first ever Chick Fil A fundraiser on May 8th. We ran a contest to try to raise enthusiasm. The winning team won coupons for free milkshakes. Team 2 won by \$3.19! The cow also came during lunch and the kids really got a huge kick out of that! Our overall sales were \$1,089.59 with a profit of \$163.44. We are looking forward to doing more fundraisers with them next year.

Staff Appreciation: Was held May 20 - 24th. It was the first time that Ft Couch ran a full week. It was really well received that the staff really appreciated all that was done for them. They were treated to a breakfast on Monday, Dessert and coffee bar on Tuesday and luncheon on Thursday. All food was donated by parents. The staff really seemed to be touched by the homemade touch. In addition to the great meals each staff member also received a gift bag with chocolates and a \$10 gift card inside. All gift cards were also donated by Ft Couch families. Thanks to everyone that helped make this week happen!

Field Day: Field Day was held last Friday, May 31st at Boyce. 7th grade went in the morning and 8th grade in the afternoon. Other than it being extremely hot the kids seemed to enjoy themselves and everything ran smoothly. We had plenty of cold water but did run short on cups at the end. Next year we will purchase at least 500 more cups. Everything was well staffed and coordinated. Thank you to all the volunteers and to Ronda Smith for all of their help. Even though the games are all run by staff members many parents were still instrumental in making it a great day.

Eighth Grade Farewell: Was held at Ft Couch this year on Thursday May, 30th. Over 200 students attended. Which was really a great turnout. The kids had a great time. There was a dj, tons of food and drinks and games.

Directory - Silva Romas

Silvia will not be able to attend meeting

The Directory committee has created flyers which were posted on the school district websites and which sparked a lot of interest and positive feedback. Flyers are available at this meeting, please take a few and feel free to make your own copies to hand out at your meetings. Several volunteers have stepped forward and meetings were held to discuss approaching advertisers. The advertisers that were featured in past Print Directories have all been notified about the change and a few have already had meetings or requested one. One advertiser has already expressed interest in taking the Sponsor Title slot (our most prominent ad space) for the full year, although we are holding off for now due to that advertiser requesting a reduced price. We want to give a chance to other advertisers to have a look and give feedback on our pricing structure. We believe that we will have a few serious offers soon. Upper St. Clair Today magazine intends to include a small article about the new Smartphone App Directory in their Back to School issue. That article and the information sessions we plan to hold at the various schools will help spread the word and make our USC families feel comfortable with the transition. The district has been a real help with giving us meeting space and helping us plan to attend Open Houses in the fall.

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Legislation – Dana Horton

The **House of Representatives** passed [HB 930](#), which makes extensive changes to the Professional Educator Discipline Act. Among the changes, HB 930: expands the jurisdiction of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission to include educators holding Private Academic School certification and educators working for independent contractors in public schools; expands the bases for discipline to include founded and indicated reports of child abuse as well as “grooming” behaviors such as sending a student sexually explicit text messages; shortens the time period for mandatory reporting to Pennsylvania Department of Education; requires an educator arrested or indicted for or convicted of certain enumerated crimes to report the indictment, arrest or conviction to the employing school entity within 72 hours; prohibits school entities from entering into confidential settlement agreements that interfere with a school entity’s mandatory reporting; and eliminates the current statute of limitations for the filing of misconduct complaints.

The Senate Education Committee approved these bills of interest: [SB 34](#), which amends the Professional Educator Discipline Act; and [SB 46](#), which requires an employment history review for all prospective school employees as it relates to any investigation concerning sexual misconduct. The bill applies to all prospective employees of public and private schools, nonpublic schools, intermediate units and area vocational-technical schools, including, but not limited to, teachers, substitutes, janitors, cafeteria workers, independent contractors and their employees, except those employees and independent contractors and their employees who have no direct contact with children.

The House Judiciary Committee approved [HB 284](#), which prohibits the use of tobacco and nicotine-based products in public schools, school buses and school property.

The **House State Government Committee** will conduct a hearing on pension reform, including discussion of [HB 240](#), which would allow future state and school employees to opt into a defined contribution retirement program in lieu of becoming a member of the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) or State Employees' Retirement System's (SERS) or defined benefit program.

DWH/vat

PTSO - Shelly Snyder

May 1-30 – Spring Art Exhibit
May 15 – PTSO meeting
May 6-24 – Keystone, AP, and IB exams
May 21 – Awards Night
May 23 – PAC meeting
May 23 – Senior Banquet
May 28-30 – Music Concerts
June 3-7 – Final Exams
June 5 – Dean’s Breakfast
June 6 – Seniors Last Day of School
June 6 – MYP Certificate Ceremony

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Streams – Christine Vinay

- STAR Night was scheduled for May 2nd, but due to a water main break, had to be cancelled. It was not formally rescheduled, but each teacher provided a time during the school day where the parents could come in and see what the kids have been working on all year.
- Sunday, May 5 was Streams' Pirate Outing where the 4th graders sang the National Anthem. This was the same day as the Pittsburgh Marathon, so it was a little tricky, but overall, was a huge success.
- Tuesday, May 14 was the 3rd & 4th grades String Concert.
- Wednesday, May 15 was the 4th grade Choral Concert.
- Monday, May 20 was the Beginning Band concert at the High School. All three elementary schools combined to create a fantastic show.
- Wednesday, May 22 was Spring Into Kindergarten, which is an information session for all incoming Kindergarteners. We explained Kindergarten Connection at this meeting and told all the parents to save the date!
- Friday, May 31 was the 4th grade Graduation Party at the High School. The kids swam, played and danced. It was an amazing night, and as my 4th grader said, "It was the best night of his life."
- Tuesday, June 4 was Move-Up Day for the 4th graders. They had the chance to go to Boyce to tour the school and eat in the cafeteria.

Reflections – Susan Rosati

1. Our National Winner within Pennsylvania:
 - Joseph Lapham, Photography Special Artist, National Award of Excellence, for I Am Sunshine.
2. Our State Winners:
 - Photography – Special Artist: Joseph Lapham, I Am Sunshine, Fort Couch MS—1st in State
 - Musical Composition: Robbie Halpner, Full Circle, Fort Couch MS—1st in State
 - Literature: Mahima Reddy, Rags to Riches in a New Light, Fort Couch MS—2nd in State

Baker - Kim Megonnell

- May 2nd – Baker Star Night cancelled due to water main break – rescheduled by individual grade level before and after school hours.
- Week of May 6th – Teacher Appreciation Week – the week went well and was very successful.
- May 9th – Baker Spring Musical @7:30 – 101 Dalmations
- Week of May 13th and May 20th – Keystone Exams
- May 14th – Baker Strings concert
- May 16th – 2nd grade outdoor classroom field trip
- May 17th – PTA changeover meeting – teachers and students made a thank you book for the Ipad mini's and kiln purchased by the PTA for Baker
- May 20th – Band Concert
- May 21st – 3rd Grade outdoor classroom field trip
- May 22nd – 4th grade Pool Party
- May 30th – Spring into K
- June 2nd – 2nd grade field trip to Phipps Conservatory

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- June 4th – 4th grade move up day
- June 7th – Field Day

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Treasurer - Kristen Buonomo

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.

Boyce - Kathy Teresi

Past Events:

- 5th Grade NASA Trips
- 6th Grade Deer Valley Trips
- 6th Grade Graduation Party at Fort Couch
- 5th Grade Civil War Day
- Spring Musical
- Spring Band Concert
- Move Up Day for incoming 5th graders was June 4
- Staff Appreciation was held the last week of May with events and special treats each day
- Gift to School: the Boyce PTA voted to gift to Boyce \$14,000 for an additional 16 ipads to complete the library cart, umbrellas for the outdoor patio eating area, funding to repair the basketball rims (if not deemed defective) and includes a \$5,000 green space grant for landscaping and an outdoor classroom space in the front of Boyce.

Upcoming Events:

- Move Up Night for incoming 7th graders is today, June 5
- Field Day is June 7
- Retirement of Mrs. Brown and promotion of Mrs. Pfender
- Boyce will be hosting the Elementary and Boyce Leadership Camps as well as Camp Invention this summer