UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL General Meeting February 6, 2013

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am.

Opening Ceremony The meeting attendees were delighted with a choral performance by Ft. Couch students.

Approval of Agenda The agenda was approved as presented.

Reading & Approval of Minutes/Correspondence The minutes were approved as presented

Statement of Treasurer

Treasurer Report

1/3/2013-2/6/2013

The USC PTA Council's General Fund had a beginning cash balance on January 3, 2013 of $7,880.53.

Receipts totaled $541.00 from the units for memberships.

Disbursements totaled $47.54 for Gate meeting expenses.

This leaves us with an ending cash balance in the General Fund of $8,373.99 as of February 6, 2013.

The USC PTA Council's Special Account Fund had no activity this month leaving the balance of $1,186.74 unchanged as of February 6, 2013.

Reports: Executive Committee

2nd Vice President – Dr. Patrick O'Toole

It's a busy time of year, while still in this school year, it's also planning time for next year's school term. The budget is in discussion, and last year the strategy was to take a two year approach so that this year would not have a large deficit. Much hinges on the legislature, as Governor Corbett's budget proposal has items effecting PSER's and funds accounted for with the revenue from privatization of liquor sales.

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Curriculum matters were approved in January and the district is rolling out summer enrichment and skill recovery opportunities.

Input and feedback is requested and appreciated.

Board Advisor – Rachel Lowden asked that anyone interested in serving on PTA Council for the 2013/2014 school year, please remain at the end of this meeting for another committee meeting for PTA Council nominations.

School Board Director - had planned to also address Governor Corbett's budget proposal, but that was touched on by Dr. O'Toole. The Post-Gazette had an informative article detailing the issues, as well.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Felicia Musillo

We held our last PTA meeting January 8th. At that meeting, the PTA was able to give a check to Baker to purchase over 32 ipad minis to be shared amongst the classrooms in addition to a new Kiln for the art room.
Baker had two retirements on February 1st. Mrs. Kuzma who was our 1st level teacher and Mrs. Seymor a para professional (aide)

Fundraising:
Since our last meeting Box Tops is our current fundraiser, along with Market Day. Although we have many other exciting fundraisers on the horizons including;

This Thursday, February 7: Barnes and Noble Book Fair at the South Hills Village Mall. Teacher volunteers will read between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. plus a special reading by Judy Press, author of The Doodles of Sam Dibble. Most importantly, Baker will receive 15% of the purchases.

Saturday, February 23 from 8:00 to 11:00 Baker's 2nd Annual Families and Flapjack's pancake breakfast will take place at the Boyce Nutrition Center. Cost is $8 for adults and $5 for children. Yummy pancakes, sausage, pastries and beverages will be served. Facepainting and activities will be available and we will draw the winner of our grand prize raffle at the conclusion of the breakfast. Tickets are 1 for $10 or 3 for $25 and prizes include an ipad mini, beat headphones, nook and digital camera.

Joe Corbi will be going on sale in the next two weeks.

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Student Activities:

- The Spelling Bee was held on Thursday, January 17th in the Baker LGI.

Congratulations to Zain Aizooky on winning the Baker Spelling Bee in the 10th round. Our 2nd place winner is Eric Wang. 3rd place went to Jonah Murray. In 4th place was Evan Jakovac and 5th place went to Anna Rush.
We applaud all 29 students who participated in the Baker Spelling Bee!

- 4th level held bowling day on January 12th.
- The Spoon Man visited Baker on January 18th for a school assembly.
- After School Activities are now taking registrations for the following activities: Snapology, Chess Club and LabRatz. All to start this month.
- Our Outreach program Baker Gives Back collected money for Ms. Hestwood's mission trip to Haiti. She leaves on Saturday. The funds collected will go towards helping to pay the tuition of students to attend school in addition to purchasing school supplies for other Haitian students as well as other items to help their families become more self-sustainable.
- Kindergarten is celebrating Valentines Day with a classroom party on Thursday, February 14th.
- Carnegie Science Center presentations have begun.
    - Kindergarten was on January 30th
    - 2nd level was yesterday
    - 3rd level is today
    - 4th level is February 13th

Sneak Peak of upcoming events:

- February 26 is Kindergarten registration at Baker 9 to 11 and 12 to 2
- Family Bingo will be on March 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the High School
- 1nd level bowling is on March 16th.
- Our next Baker PTA meeting is next Tuesday, Febraury 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Eisenhower – Diane Stief

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- **1/11- Bingo Night -** Bingo night was another huge success and is a great Friday night family activity. Throughout the evening, pizza, snacks, and drinks were served , as well as prize give-aways for the winners.
- **1/16- Spelling Bee-** All 34 fourth grade participants did a fantastic job spelling very difficult words. 1st Place-Christian Chiu, 2nd Place-Reshma Gudla, 3rd Place-Naman Alemada, 4th Place-Marni Zinger, 5th Place-Sadhana Boddhula.
- **1/23- Third Level Social -**The third grade students enjoyed a western style night

of fun with a hoedown and refreshments.

- **1/26- Third Level Bowling-** Eisenhower **f**amily bowling trophy competition is in full force. The third and fourth graders have already knocked down their pins, the younger kids have their chance coming in the next two months.
- **1/31- 100th Day of School-** January 31st marked the 100th day of school, the kids looked awesome and were very creative displaying their 100 items. Ten, $10 Barnes and Noble gift cards were raffled off throughout the day. Each classroom engaged in an educational activity celebrating the 100th day.
- **2/1- Box Tops-** Our winter snowball box top competition ended and we are still calculating whose class is the big winner. The champion class earns a $100 gift card to the Learning Express store.
- **Eisenhower Extras-** Throughout the month of February we are having classes after school for the following activities: Legos, art, tennis, cartooning and basketball.
- **Kelly School-** We have concluded our hat, mitten and glove drive for Kelly School in Wilkinsburg. We have collected enough items for all 428 students in the school to stay warm in these frigid temperatures. In our next drive, beginning in the next two weeks, we are collecting personal hygiene items.
- **Upcoming events for February:**
- **2/7 First level social-animal exhibit featuring live animals**
- **2/8 PTA meeting**
- **2/9 Second level bowling**
- **2/14 Valentine's ice-cream social**
- **2/21 Carnegie Science Center assembly at 9a.m. And 1p.m.**
- **2/23 First level bowling**
- **2/26 Second level breakfast**
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Streams – Michele Fisher

- Streams held the first of two Staff Appreciation Luncheons on January 9, 2013 (the second one will be in May). This year, families donated items & gift cards that were raffled to the staff throughout the day.

- 3rd Grade Open Mike was held on January 10, 2013.

- Streams held its 2nd annual "Learning for All Generations" on January 16, 2013 with the 33 members of the Upper St. Clair Senior Citizens group. 4th grade chorus greeted the guests with a welcoming performance, 3rd grade students served lunch, while the strings musicians played. After lunch, the Seniors visited the classrooms and participated in planned activities and shared stories with the kids about when they were in elementary school. Members of the Elementary Leadership Academy served as Streams ambassadors for this event, escorting the guests throughout the school.

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- Streams Kindergarten Parents participated in KIDS Night on January 15 at the High School.
- The 4th Grade Special Level Night – Hoe Down was held on Thursday, January 17, 2013
- 1st Grade Special Level Night, "Reading is Magic", was held on Thursday, January 31, 2013
- Streams is wrapping up the first session of LabRatz – a weekly after school science club today. Due to the popularity of this program, a second session will be offered in April.
- As LabRatz wraps up, Streams will be offering an After-School Language program for students in grade 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Lingua Stars is the company. The languages offered will be French and Chinese. This program will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45-4:00p beginning February 20, for 8 weeks
- The Streams Spelling Bee was held on Thursday, January 31, 2013. Richa Mahajan was the winner.

Upcoming events include:

- Bingo, this coming Friday, February 8, 2013 at the high school from 6:30pm-9:00pm.
- February 12, 2013 will be our next PTA meeting at 7:00pm.
- Streams' bowling is scheduled for our next day off, Friday, February 15th from 11-1pm at AMF in Mt. Lebanon.
- Our next Chick-fil-A Spirit Night is Wednesday, February 27.
- February 1 through February 22 is our Box Tops and Campbell's Soup labels contest. The winning classrooms will be the recipients of an assembly by the LabRatz Science Club.
- Kindergarten Registration at Streams is Thursday, February 28.
- Streams will be holding its 9th Annual Children for Children's Silent Auction on February 21, 2013. The theme for this year's auction is "Tools for Life". Each week, the kids are learning a different tool for life in their classroom activities, leading up to the Silent Auction. The three charities supported are The Education Partnership, Jameson's Army and Grady's All Stars.

Boyce – Amanda Beggy

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Past Events:

5th-6th grade spelling bee at Boyce Middle School was held yesterday, February 5th, after school.

Feb. 5th- Chess Club – has started up again

Magazine sales have started- The PTA receives 40 % of all magazine sales, good on subscriptions and renewals

Upcoming Events

Feb, 13th- Boyce PTA General Meeting

2/14 Valentines Day Treat- Rita's

March Book Swap

Fort Couch – Deb Levy

Our box tops contest brought in around $800.

A valentine carnation sale was held and close to 200 carnations and candy were sold.

The PTA will help purchase a 3-D printer for the Innovation Greenhouse Club. The basic premise of the club is that (on average) we don't do enough to help kids to find a true passion in technology and to nurture those who have already found their passion, especially at the middle school level. America needs more **makers**, and you make makers by providing interesting and exciting opportunities to tinker and design, whether that be in computers, electronics, robotics, or beyond.

The students are going to build, program and fine-tune the first 3D printer in the school district, right here at Fort Couch Middle School.

This project is practical for a variety of reasons. First, the building of the 3D printer kit from parts will be a worthwhile (and intensive) project in itself. It will build a number if skills, including working as a team to come up with a working project, an introduction to the mechanics and software that runs the device, as well as troubleshooting and maintaining the printer itself.

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Beyond the build experience, we will also end up with a functional 3-dimensional printer that will print 3D models and parts out of plastic filament. So students who are modeling in 3d will be able to see their work transformed into physical forms. Additionally, students who are designing for the Gifted Program's Future City or other projects may be able to envision and create 3D items to their exacting specifications.

Finally, the model that we are hoping to purchase is very moddable and upgradable, so it will act as a platform for future development purposes.

February 19th is the next PTA meeting in the LGI at 9:30 pm.

The next Social is Thursday, February 14th 7-9. Contact Debbie Levy to volunteer.

Standing Committees

Arts in Education – Susan Rosati & Paula Henderson - N/A

Directory – Beth Hornak- N/A

GATE – Lisa Clark

" In November GATE hosted Dr. Mike Ghilani and Mr. John Rozzo to discuss gifted programming, acceleration and diffentiation in our middle schools and high school. The speakers were very informative and a good discussion followed. We had approximately 50 people in attendance. In December we had a Holiday Coffee which was a chance which was a chance for Gate parents to socialize and get to know each other. The coffee was fun and well received.

On February 26 at 9:30 in the Boyce LGI, Tim Wagner and Pat Palozollo will present "College Prep for the Gifted Student". We will discuss what support is offered at the HS by the gifted coordinators in the preparation of college apps and essays. In adiditon we will discuss what is needed for create an attractive college package for your child. Please mark your calendars, all are welcome.

Internet Communications – Sujatha Sundar- N/A
Legislation – Dana Weber-Horton - N/A

Membership –Stacie Pare - N/A

Reporting Organizations

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High School PTSO-Karen Austin

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- Feb. 2 Report cards go out.
- Feb. 6-7 Pittsburgh National College Fair @ David Lawrence C.C
- Feb. 9 Sadie Hawkins Dance @ 7:30pm
- Feb. 13 Dean's Breakfast @ 7:40am
- Feb. 20 PTSO Meeting in rms. 148-149 @ 9:30am
- Feb. 28 PAC Meeting with Dr. Ghilani @ 9:30am
- Mar. 1-3 Spring Musical Anything Goes TBA
- Mar. 9 SAT at USC High School
- Mar 7-9 Spring Musical Anything Goes TBA
- Mar. 13 Dean's Breakfast @ 7:40am
- Mar. 14 HS Staff Appreciation Luncheon 8am-2pm

Community Foundation –Leanne Adamo

Partners In Education – Jan Brody, Carole King

Currently working on rescheduling a presentation for March for next speaker, Melissa Garvin - TBD

TIP/TIE-Susan Speer -

Next presentation is Wed, Feb. 13th at Rec. Center - Technology Teens - includes pros and cons of social media, cyber bullying and how to take action to protect our children, plus more.

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman

SPELLING BEE - all 5 bees took place in the last 2 weeks.

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Upper St. Clair PTA Council Spelling Bee Results

Ft. Couch – 1/15/13 – 20 Spellers

First Place – Aritro Nandi with a winning word of “sporadic”
Second Place- Devon Garcia
Third Place- Jack de la Parra
Fourth Place- Taim Aizooky
Fifth Place- Rustin Pare

Baker – 1/17/13 – 29 Spellers

First Place – Zain Aizooky with a winning word of “integral”
Second Place- Eric Wang
Third Place- Jonah Murray
Fourth Place- Evan Jakovac
Fifth Place- Anna Rush

Eisenhower – 1/30/13 - 34 Spellers

First Place – Christian Chiu with a winning word of “attenuate”
Second Place- Reshma Gudla
Third Place- Naman Alemada
Fourth Place- Marni Zinger
Fifth Place- Sadhana Boddhula

Streams – 1/31/13 – 19 Spellers

First Place – Richa Mahajan with a winning word of “accomplishment”
Second Place- Melanie Geronian
Third Place- Brianna Lin
Fourth Place- Diego Sanchez
Fifth Place- Casey Barker & Gavin Wyland

Boyce – 2/5/13 – 32 Spellers

First Place – Hridhay Reddy with a winning word of “legible”
Second Place- Jason Choi
Third Place- Aleska Rodic
Fourth Place- Anika Sinha
Fifth Place- Jacqueline LeKachman

A big thank you to our spelling bee chairs for all their hard work and effort in making the bees a tremendous success! Many thanks to Stacie Pare at Ft. Couch; Michele Sandford and Ginny Wright at Baker; Kerry O’Toole and Karen Storey at Eisenhower;

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Haneet Laffin and Aparna Ranganathan at Streams; and Lyn Benonis and Tara O'Brien at Boyce.

Old Business

- Directory

Kristen Matheny anounced that there is still no one to assume the Directory Chair, so the Directory is at risk of obsolescence. The PTA Units are researching options for the Directory to go digital with committee comprising the Unit V.P.'s:

Susan Speer, Council V.P. report on the directory

1) We have a committee that is investigating alternative options - however, we are still without a chairperson for the Directory and without a chair, nothing will happen. www.atozdirectories.com is the website
2) The committee unanimously sees AtoZ as the preferred option between the two online options that we found because offers the option to print (especially important at the elementary level) and families can edit their own data
3) We will be asking AtoZ for some more information especially about security and costs, timing
4) We are working with the district on getting a permission checkbox on Infosnap and perhaps other ways Infosnap can be used - this might streamline some of the data collection although we might sacrifice "completeness" of the data
5) Should we survey the district to see whether people would want an online directory/Smartphone app at all or if the directory is most useful printed. (comments from committee on this were pretty evenly split) We can do this on e-alerts. (Committee --Please send me any questions that you think might be helpful for the survey and if you think it would be useful to do a survey?)
Feel free to email comments and questions to Susan Speer

Sylvia Ramos has agreed to manage the Directory project as long there are others who are willing to serve on the committee. Beth Ellis mentioned that she is willing to help, possibly co-chair and Beth Erlanger also offered to help. Dr. O'Toole reiterated that the district will be helpful as well.

New Business

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Today is PTA Founder's Day. Candles were lit and the executive council read from the PTA's ceremony script to honor the 114th anniversary of PTA.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Next PTA Council Meeting
March 6, 2013 at 9:30
- Streams Elementary

School District Web site: www.uscsd.k12.pa.us
For PTA Council, click "Organizations" then "USC PTA Council"

To join the GATE (Gifted and Talented Educ) email group, send an email to:
USCGA TE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

State PTA: www.papta.org
National PTA: www.pta.org (Username - diversity, Password - means)

E-mail subscription to National PTA Weekly and This Week In Washington:
www.pta.org/aboutpta/newssub.asp

USC Community Foundation: www.mainstreetusc.com (E-mail news to:
mainstreetusc@adelphia.net)

Odyssey of the Mind: www.uscootm.com