

Upper St. Clair PTA Council GENERAL Meeting April 10, 2013

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

Opening Ceremony The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Matheny

Approval of Agenda The agenda was approved as posted

Reading & Approval of Minutes/Correspondence The Minutes were approved as posted. Two thank-you cards were read as written from Principal Karen Brown and Carole King whom were honored at the last General PTA Council meeting.

Statement of Treasurer

The USC PTA Council's General Fund had a beginning cash balance on March 7, 2013 of \$7,770.23.

Receipts totaled \$805.00 from PTA Dues.

Disbursements totaled \$323.45 for reflections and The Founders Day & Hannah Kent Scoff contribution.

This leaves us with an ending cash balance in the General Fund of \$8,251.78 as of April 10, 2013.

The USC PTA Council's Special Account Fund had no activity this month leaving the balance of \$1,186.74 unchanged as of April 10, 2013.

Reports

Executive Committee

President – Kristin Matheny

Then next nominees for PTA Council will be posted for the month to allow for consideration, and then voted on in May, then sworn in if so elected. Next month is the changeover luncheon at Central Office

1st Vice President – Susan Speer n/a

2nd Vice President – Dr. Patrick O'Toole -

The Magma Award is indicative of a National backlash that there is importance on more than the test scores. Dr. O'Toole met recently with Matt Smith our Representative about funding issues. They know that education is important, but they don't seem to be able to help with the growing expenses. The Federal cuts are hurting us, not as significantly as the state. Dr. O'Toole mentions it to all to that the legislators need to hear from all of us. They are looking at future staffing, budgeting for the \$2million hole that will occur next year. The summer has recently shown increases in enrollment, though the Kindergarten class is seeming relatively small. The goal is to not cut programs and to

best utilize our current staff, before hiring. Though seventeen retired, the positions have to be thoroughly investigated before hiring.

There are many unknown variables for the 2014/2105 school year. Will there be pension reform, will liquor stores be privatized and the passport system implemented, etc? The Board remains conservative in these revenues, and

Board Advisor – Rachel Lowden

Read the PTA Council's guidelines for electing the executive board.

Brooke Tarcson has been nominated for Vice President. No other nominations were made. Nominations for V.P. were closed.

Susan Speer was nominated for President. No other nominations were made.

Haneet Laffin was nominated for Secretary, with no other nominees, the nominations were closed. Kristin Bonomo was nominated for the office of Treasurer, with no other nominees, the nominations were closed.

School Board Director - Amy Billerbeck, School Board Representative reported about the expanded offerings for summer activities. The high school is offering 15 4-credit courses as well as more offerings at the middle and elementary school levels.

Another set of bonds was refinanced saving 1.3 million, which must be used for capital projects. Will be used to cover bleacher replacement, 50 iPads at Middle Schools and much more. A new contract with the bus drivers was made for four years, with a pay freeze for two of the years.

We received the top PSSA ranking in the state for 8th year in row. While we are proud, it is not our top focus. A MAGNA Award was issued for our Student Leadership Academy.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Felicia Musillo

Our last meeting at Baker was held on yesterday, April 9th. At the meeting we presented our 2013-14 budget and we elected our Executive Board.

Fundraising:

- Market Day has raised over \$690 to date.
- Joe Corbi Fundraiser in March raised over \$750

- Spirit wear sale started last week and we are using a new vendor, Sports Hut. Orders are due April 19th.

Student Activities:

- 4th level visited the symphony on Friday, April 5th.
- 3 After School Activities are currently in session including: Snapology, Chess Club and LabRatz.
- Family Bingo was held at the high School on Friday March 22nd Over 260 people attended and it was a huge success.
- 1st level bowling was on Saturday, March 16 and 2nd level was on Saturday, April 6th
- March 15 - 1st gr Carnegie Science presentation
- April 24 & 25 - 3rd gr trip to The Frick

Sneak Peak of upcoming events:

- - The always exciting Baker Variety Talent Show will take place on Friday, April 26th. Rehearsal is on Wednesday, April 24th.
- Our final Baker PTA meeting is next Friday, May 17th at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude with our Executive Board Changeover and Thank You luncheon at Panera in the Galleria.

Eisenhower – Diane Stief

3/12-3/14- Book Swap- We had our book swap where the children brought in gently used books, games, and puzzles. We also set aside some wonderful books for the Kelly School. There were many more “picture” books than we needed so they were also given to the Kelly School preschool program as well as the Head Start program.

3/21- Reading Night- We had our snuggle up and read night with 8 different readers and themes. These included the REEC, USC firefighters and Sparky, sports with John Steigerwald, scary stories, therapy dogs, Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, Mo Willems and the pigeon books, and a ballerina from The Academy of Dance by Lori. We also had a mystery reader and a surprise visit from Iceberg. We all gathered in the gym at the end of the evening and Mr. Miller read a version of “Goodnight Eisenhower” written by one of our parents. It was a great night of fun!

3/22- Spirit Wear Sale- Our Spring spirit wear sale ended and all items will be delivered by April 15th.

4/3- Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night- Our last Chick-Fil-A spirit night of the school year was held and Eisenhower brought in a total of \$1,285.37. The PTA receives

15% of that total so we earned \$192.81.

4/4- Programs-We had a morning and afternoon basketball assembly for the students featuring Jim “basketball” Jones. His program centered on character building and it was terrific!

4/20- Outreach/ Educational Partnership- On April 20th, 3rd and 4th grade Eisenhower students and parents are invited to the Educational Partnership's facility to assist during the Spring teacher distribution day. On that day, teachers from all the participating schools are welcomed to the distribution center to shop for supplies they need to finish out the school year, at no cost to them. We will also participate in a cash and coin drive to benefit the Educational Partnership's school supply initiative.

4/29-5/3- Staff Appreciation Week- Our theme this year is “It takes a big heart to shape little minds”. We have some great gifts and activities planned for the week such as each staff member will receive a travel coffee mug with a \$5 gift card attached, a “survival basket” filled with some fun items and chocolate, as well as our annual breakfast, coffee, dessert bar and luncheon. Students will also fill out thanks you notes to create a special binder for their teachers. The teachers doors will be decorated, massages are planned, we will raffle off daily gift cards and finally we will have a chinese basket raffle which the staff really enjoyed last year.

4/30- Eisenhower Extreme- The school's newspaper will have their Spring edition ready for distribution.

4/30-5/2- Book Fair/Star Night-Early Dismissal

5/2- TGIF Charity Event- Come eat lunch, dinner or place a carry out order anytime on Thursday, May 2nd and Friday's will donate up to 20% of the sales brought in to the Eisenhower PTA.

Upcoming Events for May:

5/16- Cultural Arts Day

5/31- Field Day

5/22- Kindergarten Spring Tour
Game

6/2- Eisenhower Family Day at the Pirate

5/30- Fourth Level Farewell

5/30- Kindergarten Field Day

Streams – Michele Fisher

- Streams PTA meeting was held last night, April 9 at 7:00pm.
- 2nd grade Open Mike was held on March 14.
- Snuggle up & Read was held on March 14. Children came to school in their pajamas and had the opportunity to visit three terrific story rooms, and listen to a story read by a special guest reader. They were then treated to cookies afterwards.
- The Book Swap was held on March 14 and 15. This year we included puzzles as well as books. Any of the leftover books were donated to Children’s Hospital through our Outreach program.

- Spring Pictures were held on March 19.
- 3rd Grade Special Level Night occurred on Thursday, March 21 with entertainment provided by the Wild World of Animals.

Upcoming Events:

- This Thursday, April 11 is the 2nd Grade Special Night with entertainment from the Carnegie Science Center. "Fire and Ice" is the name of the program.
- At each of our special level nights this year, our Outreach Program has been collecting new and gently used children's books to be donated to Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald house.
- The Streams Outreach committee is also holding a "Band-aid Drive" to benefit Children's Hospital. The hospital is provided with the standard brown band-aids for their patients. To liven things up for the kids, Children's loves to receive donations of fun, decorated or character band-aids. We will be collecting them April 15 - April 19.
- Spring Spirit wear sale is going on now until April 16.
- Our PTA Vice President, Christine Vinay, will be hosting a "Committee Café" on Wednesday, April 17. This café is designed to help parents gather more information about volunteering opportunities with our PTA for next school year. Current Chairs are invited to answer questions and help recruit committee volunteers and Chairs.
- Streams Pirate Outing is Sunday, May 5. Streams 4th graders will have the honor of singing the National Anthem during the pregame ceremony.

Boyce – Amanda Beggy

Past Events:

March- 5th graders field trip to Carnegie Science Center for space unit

March Madness during gym class

Spring Pictures 4/5

PSSA Testing 4/8-

Upcoming Events

4/15 Parent info meeting for Deer Valley 2 options 3; 30-4; 45 or

4/17-18 6th grade musical 7; 00 pm for students on 19th

4/24-25 Book Fair

4/24 Friday's Spirit Night

4/25 Celebration of learning (early dismissal)

4/26 early dismissal

4/29- Deer Valley trips begin

5/13 5th grade Field trips to NASA space center at Wheeling Jesuit begin

5/20 Spirit Night Chic fil a

5/22-23 and 23 during day for student's 5th grade musical

May teacher appreciation Week

5/31 5th Grade civil war day
May 31- 6th Grade Graduation Party
June 7- Field Day

Fort Couch – Deb Levy

March 15th was our last social of the year and we had a great turnout. Over 300 students came.

We had a TGIF fundraiser for the first time.

PTA is buying 2 new Microwaves for the cafeteria
Our Chick-fil-A fundraiser is (May 8)
Pittsburgh Power fundraiser will be May 25th
Teacher Appreciation Week is (May 20-24)
8th Levy Farewell is May 20th

Standing Committees

Arts in Education

Julie Halpern reported that 3 students moved onto the state level for Reflections. Robbie Halpern went onto the National level competition.

Directory – Beth Hornak

Had a meeting on March 21, with a webinar on A to Z Directories. They are being very flexible with our different needs. There are some legal issues brought to light that are being addressed. They seem to want our business and are flexible on pricing and accommodations. The Directory Chairs will be added to the PTA Council Executive Meeting for next month to provide details regarding the system and pricing.

Legislation – Dana Weber-Horton

Recent legislation requiring that School Nurses be CPR Certified.

Partners In Education – Jan Brody, Carole King - per Deb Levy: There is a program next week, that will come out in an e-alert.

Special Projects – Rachel Lowden

Spelling Bee – Colette LeKachman

On March 25, 2013 the 63rd Scripps Spelling Bee occurred. Three Students of the 5 sent, made it to the afternoon round. Two fourth graders made it to the 7th and 8th spots.

TIP/TIE-Susan Speer - no report

Reporting Organizations

High School PTSO-Karen Austin

- April 17 Dean's Breakfast with Mr. Palmer, 7:40am
- April 17 High School PTSO Meeting in LGI, 9:30am
- April 23 Jazz Festival-Grades 5-12 @ BO Theater, 7:00pm
- April 25 PAC Meeting with Dr. Ghilani in the LGI, 9:30am
- April 30 National Honor Society Induction-HS Theater, 7:00pm
- May 1 HS Talent Show Rehearsal, 3:00-6:00pm
- May 1-31 HS Spring Art Exhibit
- May 2 HS Talent Show-HS Theater, 5:30-10:00pm

Old Business- The Budget is being offered as it stands with the Directory expensed being unclear until the committee decides which direction to go with it. The fund amounts previously used will be used as a placeholder to complete the budget. Any changes can be voted on at future meetings.

The Budget will stand and be posted for the next thirty days; a vote will be taken at the next General PTA Council Meeting.

Adjournment at 10:40 a.m.

Next PTA Council Meeting-
Changeover Luncheon
May 1, 2013 at 9:30 Central Office

Respectfully Submitted,

Lyn Benonis