

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL

General Meeting

January 2, 2013

9:30 – 11:00 a.m

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

Opening Ceremony The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President, Kristin Matheny

Approval of Agenda The agenda was approved as posted

Reading & Approval of Minutes The minutes were approved as presented

Correspondence Statement of Treasurer:

The USC PTA Council's General Fund had a beginning cash balance on November 8, 2012 of \$21,687.24.

There were no receipts for the period.

Disbursements totaled \$13,806.71 which included expenses for:

- ❖ Insurance
- ❖ Gate
- ❖ Directory
- ❖ Treasurer Expenses

This leaves us with an ending cash balance in the General Fund of \$7,880.53 as of January 2, 2013.

The USC PTA Council's Special Account Fund had no activity this month leaving the balance of \$1,186.74 unchanged as of January 2, 2013.

Executive Committee

President – Kristin Matheny welcomed Bonita Allen, PA PTA representative, to the meeting. She will be available to answer PTA-related questions.

1st Vice President – Susan Speer had no report

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

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Dr. O'Toole is proud of the district's accomplishments that are being put out in the USC Annual Report. He expressed gratitude to many including Paul Fox, Maryann Stabile and many others.

The Board is currently in talks and seeking a wage increase for the 2nd Union members, classified union, that includes secretaries and maintenance. The proposed amount would be a roughly 1% increase, and while they would have like to have done more, it is difficult in these economic times.

Impending talks will involve budget, and they plan to work hard to avoid a tax increase. The board calendar is set that the preliminary budget will be decided in April and the official budget adopted in May.

Dr. O'Toole is sure that everyone is shaken by the horrific events in Connecticut, which harkens back to Columbine. The district personnel will handle the subject as appropriate to grade level. Most importantly they must keep a sense of normalcy and assure students that schools are safe. USC has taken additional security measures and agreements with local police. More has to be examined, but additional security has been attained in the short term in the upper schools.

He is aware that the school entrances are different, some being a captured entry and some require being buzzed in. He included that they are evaluating everything the district does and also welcomes input.

Questions included the Ft. Couch entry and elevator. Deb Levy, Ft. Couch PTA President, answered that the elevator is not restricted, and only key-accessible. One of the most important preventative measures is a caring community. Also keep observing your children, other children, other adults, etc.

School Board Director, Angela Peterson:

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Angela Peterson stressed that the board is in agreement with any security measure that Dr. O'Toole sees necessary to protect our children.

Angela went on to express appreciation to Dr. O'Toole, his staff, aid and secretaries. She informed that even administrators are taking on more work with not replacing Dr. Bornyas, and a secretary from admin.

Thanks again were expressed for those that supported the gala. It grossed over \$95,000 with a net over \$80,000. Please consider items for the the auction to donate.

The Board is committed to no rise in taxes for this year. Millage amounts may change due to county reassessments, but there is a law against a district gain due to reassessments. Barb Bolas is the Board President this year, with Louis Malfrice as Vice President. The board is an amicable entity.

Ms. Peterson was commended for serving the school district for 16 years.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Felicia Musillo:

Baker's last meeting was held on Tuesday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Student Activities:

- Baker has 16 entries for the Reflections program. 14 out of our 16 entries moved on to Council level judging. 8 of those winners were acknowledged at a recent assembly at Baker with trophies. Also, 2 participants received honorable mentions and all students received a participation ribbon at the assembly.
- 3rd level bowling was held on Saturday, November 10th at AMF Lanes.
- The Lab Ratz Assembly was held on Wednesday, November 28th.
- The Saddecky Puppets came to perform on Thursday, December 20th.
- The Winter Parties were on Friday, December 21st.
- Our Outreach Program sent home post cards for students to draw a picture on and those pictures will be sent abroad to soliders for the

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holiday. They also collected money to donate to the local Veteran's Memorial.

Upcoming Activities:

- 4th level bowling at AMF Lanes will be on Saturday, January 12th
- Baker Spelling Bee will be held in the Baker LGI immediately after school on Thursday, January 17th.
- The Read In at Barnes and Noble will be on Thursday, February 7th
- The 2nd Annual Families and Flapjacks Breakfast will take place on Saturday, February 23 at Boyce School.

Fundraising:

- Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night was on Thursday, November 15th Baker brought in 1507.72, earning 15% of that total of \$226.16 profit.
- Baker conducted our first KidStuff Coupon Savings Book fundraiser. We sold over 100 books raising over \$1,250.00 profit.
- The kids had a great time shopping at The Enchanted Shop. It was held from Wednesday December 5th to Friday December 7th, raising over a \$800 profit.

Lastly, Baker's next General PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8th at 9:30 a.m. in the Baker LGI.

Eisenhower – Diane Stief:

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- 12/3- **Math-A-Thon**-benefitting the Make-A-Wish foundation. When students turned in their donations, their name was entered into a drawing. One name was drawn from each grade level and they went on the live Make-A-Wish TV

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broadcast at the mall at Robinson, representing Eisenhower school.

- 12/5 and 12/6- **Holiday Mart** was in full swing and kids enjoyed shopping for their loved ones. We used a new company this year, Green Top Fundraising, very easy to work with and the quality of items seemed to be better.
- 12/21- **Winter parties**- our winter parties took place in which the students enjoyed an afternoon of winter games and activities. Upon arrival, we created a master list and checked in each grade level's parent volunteers for the parties.
- **Eisenhower Extreme**- our first newspaper was published and distributed to the students this month. The club consists of approximately 35 fourth grade students who meet every Tuesday after school to gather news and views from everyone at Eisenhower.
- We concluded our Shim food drive and filled many vans full of food for the South Hills Ministries. We also sent an overwhelming amount of school supplies to the Kelly School. In an effort to get the students more involved, we had some fourth grade classes organize the supplies prior to distribution. We are also in the process of collecting hats, mittens and socks for the school to be distributed this month as their district is a walking school district.

Upcoming Events for January:

1/11-Bingo Night at the HS, 6-8

1/16-Spelling Bee Qualifier

1/23-Third Level Social-Annual Third Grade Hoe Down

1/26-Third Grade Bowling at the AMF lanes

1/30-Eisenhower Spelling Bee

Streams – Michele Fisher:

- Streams held its annual Holiday Shop on December 6 & 7.
- Winter parties were held on December 21.
- Streams held a writing contest for the 4th grade students. 8 students submitted articles with the topic of "What is special about my school?" Richa Mahajan was

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the winner. Her article will be published in the spring addition of the USC Today magazine.

- In January, Streams will begin the 18 week “Kids of Steel” program as well as in the “Jump Rope for the Heart”.
- Streams will have the first of two Staff Appreciation Luncheons on January 9, 2013 (the second one will be in May).
- 3rd Grade Open Mike will be held on January 10, 2013.
- Streams is holding the 2nd annual “Learning for All Generations” on January 16, 2013 with the Upper St. Clair Senior Citizens group. Last year, the USC Seniors Citizens were divided among the various grades. While they visited the classrooms, they participated in planned activities and shared stories with the kids about when they were in elementary school. As they dined on their lunches, they were treated to a concert by the chorus. Activities are being planned for their visit next week.
- Streams Kindergarten Parents will participate in KIDS Night on January 15 at the High School
- In January, we look forward to the following upcoming events:
 - The 4th Grade Special Level Night – Hoe Down will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2013
 - 1st Grade Special Level Night, “Reading is Magic” , will be held on Thursday, January 31, 2013
 - LabRatz – a weekly after school science club will begin on January 9 and run every Wednesday for 5 weeks. Sixty 2nd & 3rd graders are participating in this program.
 - The Streams Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, January 31, 2013 from 6p to 8p. The Pre-Qualifying Round is scheduled for January 24, 2013 from 6p to 8p.

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One last note: 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". Three charities will be supported with one of them being The Education Partnership (as well as Jameson's Army and Grady's All Stars).

Boyce – Amanda Beggy :

Past Events:

Author's Day- November 8 Adam Gidwitz author of Glass Grimmly and A Tale of Dark and Grimm

Random Acts of Kindness Week- can food collection, boxes for military

Random acts of kindness Breakfast 11/13

PTA Meeting- 11/14

12/13- Choral and Band Concert

Upcoming Events

The USC PTA Council is sponsoring a 5th-6th grade spelling bee at Boyce Middle School, which will be held on Tuesday, February 5th, after school. If necessary, an Elimination Round will be held on Tuesday, January 29th, after school.

1/9 is Boyce PTA General Meeting

2/14 Valentines Day Treat- Rita's

Fort Couch – Deb Levy:

The two spirit wear sales combined raised \$800 for Fort Couch. We are considering running a spring one.

The warm holiday wishes teacher appreciation event was a huge success. All breakfast and lunch items were donated from local businesses.

Caught you Being Good had another fun week. Teachers and staff give out tickets to students for random acts of kindness and good behavior. The daily tickets are redeemed for candy at lunchtime. The daily tickets are then entered into the daily raffle for a \$5 gift card. One boy and one girl will win one daily. All the tickets are kept and entered into a grand prize raffle that is held at the Reach Out/Caught You Being Good assembly. The final prizes are \$50 gift cards.

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Teachers also win daily prizes. The students write their homeroom teachers names on the back of their tickets and those teachers also win a gift card if their student wins. There is a final prize for teachers as well.

Fort Couch had their annual reach out charity fundraiser. Students are encouraged to raise money to donate themselves. Each team competes to see who raises the most and the winning team wins a day trip-last year it was skating with the penguins at Southpointe. (not sure what we are doing this year. The total raised was: \$11,885 and the charities who were given donations were:

Hope for Haiti

Autism Awareness

Giant Eagle Gift Cards

The Educational Partnership

JR. Partners Thanksgiving

Junior Partners Christmas

Sponsor Haiti Child

MS Bike A thon

Grady's All Stars

An assembly was held on December 21st. The chorus, band and orchestra played a winter concert. Then the students got to present checks to all of the charities. The students learned about how their money was helping each group. We ending with the Caught you being good final drawings.

Finally, our Art Teacher Mr. Criswell had the students makes over 300 snowflakes on the last day of school before break. The FCPTA sent those snowflakes to the CT PTA to help decorate the new school that students from Sandy Hook will be attending.

January 15th is the next PTA meeting in the LGI at 7:00 pm.

The next Social is Friday, January 11th 7-9. Contact Gary DeCock to volunteer.

Standing Committees

No Reports

Reporting Organizations

High School PTSO-Karen Austin:

Dec. 3-14 December started with the first Keystone Exams.

Dec. 12 The Dean's Breakfast was held at 7:40am.

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Dec. 20 The HS Instrumental Winter Concert was festive.

Dec. 24-Jan 1 Winter Recess

Jan. 14-18 Retakes of the Keystone Exams

Jan. 14-16 HS Semester Finals

Jan. 16 PTSO Meeting @ 9:30

Jan. 21 Teacher In-Service (no school)

Jan. 24 PAC Meeting with Dr. Ghilani @ 9:30

TIP/TIE-Susan Speer/Angela Petersen :

TIP/TIE and Youth Steering Committee are partnering on projects. On January 9th will be a Drug Awareness presentation. A USC parent who lost his child to heroin addiction will share the story that he has shared with USC Freshmen for the past several years. All are invited to attend 7 - 8 p.m at the Community and Recreation Center.

February 13, 2013 features a presentation on Technology Teens: Parenting in the age of iPhones and facebook.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Kristin Matheny offered to open the floor to questions for Bonita Allen of PA PTA.

Stacie de la Parra questioned about Bonita's meeting with Ft. Couch regarding dues and fees. Bonita said question was about dues and how they are presented, meaning the language. It was looked at, and have a better working draft to describe. Wording and spending issues need to be amended. "Dues" implies membership. Another issue is the Time Tracker, that must go to all students if found as valuable to learning, regardless of payment.

Discussions arose on the Directory and its continuance as an important tool for communication, yet too time-consuming and costly. The conclusion has been reached that there may not be a Directory going forward. The commitment is greater than a

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volunteer status, even with 7 volunteers. PTA is member driven, if the members want the use of the Directory and funds are put towards it, it is okay for PTA to support the Directory.

Dr. O'Toole has committed to help research the technology hardware/software fix. However, can not allow for staff. Willing to do what the district can do to keep it going, but cannot take it on.

Can make the next general council meeting a Directory Cliff meeting informing the general audience that there will be no Directory in an predate e-alert sent by Kristin Matheny.

Per Deb Levy, Bonita was shocked at how low our PTA dues are. PTAs should be able to run without fundraising and sustain itself on dues. Bonita says that the average is \$10 - \$12 for an individual.

Deb Levy, Fort Couch President, and Bonita Allen are working together to assess the dynamics of dues income related to PTA cost. Dues does not cover the costs of accounts payable billing to the units. Every unit is probably in the same situation.

Bonita Allen directed attendees to Money Matters Reference Guide online on the PTA website.

President Matheny thanked for everyone's input. Please continue to direct communications, concerns and questions to her.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.