

UPPER ST. CLAIR PTA COUNCIL
General Meeting
September 5, 2012

Call to Order

The September 5, 2012 general meeting of the Upper St. Clair Council was called to order at 9:35 a.m. at the USC Central Office.

Opening Ceremony

Kristin Matheny welcomed all in attendance and asked the council members to introduce themselves. She then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as posted on the PTA Council website.

Reading & Approval of Minutes/Correspondence

The minutes for the June 6, 2012 PTA Council meeting were approved.

Statement of Treasurer

Bea Conte reported the USC PTA Council's General Fund had beginning balance of \$10,016.98 on July 1, 2012. Receipts totaled \$300 for advertising prepayment for the 2012-13 Directory. Disbursements totaled \$430.34 which included Membership envelopes and Publications. This leaves an ending cash balance of \$9,886.64 in the General fund as of September 5, 2012. The Special Account Fund of the USC PTA Council had no activity leaving a balance of \$1,186.74 as of September 5, 2012.

Reports

President

Kristin Matheny began with housekeeping issues, reminding all that when sending items to Sujatha for website posting, please convert the document to a pdf. The PTA website will continue to post the meeting agendas and minutes in an effort to remain green.

Kristin shared the Council's goal this year, as discussed at the Executive meeting, to have the units work together towards common interests, common goals and to encourage uniformity. In a great step forward, the units have agreed to support a common outreach recipient. The Education Partnership, a non profit that provides school supplies for disadvantaged youth and school districts in Western Pennsylvania, is a strong fit for PTA and the students of USCSD.

Kristin spoke about her recent meeting with Dr. O'Toole and their discussion about forming a tag line for the PTA, similar to the USCSD - Customizing Learning, Nurturing Potential, Delivering Excellence. The process of brainstorming, Dr. O'Toole suggested, will help the members to define ourselves, and may offer many good ideas.

Kristin offered that her last note would address the questions of *why are we member of PTA, what does it do?* She contacted the National PTA regarding speaker availability. Most information is available in the form of webinars, with different topics and PTA initiatives. Felicia Musillo had emailed Kristin with the suggesting to highlight one of the current National PTA initiatives at each of our Council meetings. This month the PA PTA is encouraging Family Day, specifying September 24, as a day to dedicate to sitting down to a family dinner. The initiative is bolstered by the Susan Corbett, the governor's wife, and members can go to the PTA site to check out the suggestions including talking points and ideas.

1st Vice President

Susan Speer had nothing to report.

2nd Vice President, School Board Director

Dr. Patrick O'Toole reported a good start to the school year, filled with excitement and a lot of work. They are finished with the difficult topic of budget. The three factors to resolve the issue included the teachers' contract renegotiation allowing for a \$3.7 million savings over 2 years, a tax millage increase, and staff reductions due to retirements.

The district is growing in student numbers, with more students entering the district than leaving/graduating, with an average of 10 new students across each grade level. When asked, the figures were not at hand to say how many of the families are already in the district versus moving into the district. The sense of Dr. O'Toole is that we are getting families from elsewhere, and from all over the world. Dr. O'Toole feels that the finances should be much more stable next year, with the tax increase taking a longer view, and the bond refinancing that will see a \$3 million savings over a 16-18 year basis. Though some sacrifices have occurred in some class sizes being larger and some programs being eliminated.

Tests scores are up in the district and will soon be published. There is a new Transportation Director, and assistance has been provided by the former director. The bus survey distributed over the summer was helpful in route consolidations, with a better than expected response. More than 100 students opted to not use bus transportation allowing for some cost savings.

The high school welcomed a new principal, the best candidate after the many interviews, she begins maternity leave next week. Acknowledging an overall good start, Dr. O'Toole thanked everyone for their support.

Baker Elementary

Felicia Musillo reported that the theme or motto at Baker this year is "We are all part of Baker Family"

Membership:

As of September 4 we have 57 individual and 94 family memberships.

Past Events:

To prepare for and kick off the school year, all of the Baker Committee Chairs met on Thursday, August 23rd. Committee Chairs had an opportunity to meet each other, ask questions pertaining to their plan of works for their event as well as review copying and communication procedures.

Two New Family Welcomes took place at Baker. The first was on Tuesday, August 21st. This welcome was a special welcome for the families transferring over from Streams. We had 7 families attend. Our second new family welcome was on Friday, August 24th with approximately 18 new families in attendance. Pastries and refreshments were served at each meeting, the PTA showed our amazing Baker PTA video, although one session had technical difficulty, and our very gracious principal, Mr. McClintock-Comeaux along with our school counselor, Mrs. Rose, personally gave the families a tour of Baker. Each family received our very useful PTA notepads.

On Friday, August 31 Our Teacher Appreciation committee welcomed back our teachers on with a morning filled with pastries and beverages.

Sneak Peak of upcoming events:

- Monday, September 10th is Author Day. Our committee chair, Kate Mayberry, managed to arrange for author Matthew Holm to visit Baker. Matthew Holm is the co-creator of two series of graphic novels for children; the award-winning Babymouse series and the Squish series. Children have the opportunity to purchase the books as well as have them inscribed.
- September 10th thru 21st we will start our Spirit wear sale.
- Tuesday, September 11th is our first Baker PTA meeting at 7:00 pm at Baker LGI. Prior to our meeting we will host an Ice Cream Social at 6:15 p.m. in our cafeteria welcoming parents and kids back to school.
- Wednesday, September 19th is Picture Day

- Saturday, September 22 kicks off our grade level bowling at Mt. Lebanon AMF Lanes. Kindergarten will bowl from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 25th, our Vice-President, Kim Megonnell, will conduct Bakers Homeroom Coordinator Meeting. Kim is in the process of giving the PTA a larger responsibility for the Homeroom Coordinator involvement. Baker PTA will offer stronger guidelines for parents to follow as well as better financial accountability for each classroom.

Out Reach Committee:

2 Fall Baker Gives Back projects.

In late September, we will be having a Fall food drive, with all proceeds going to SHIM. We have to clear this with the principal, but we are hoping the class that has the first 100% participation will get some sort of award (PJ or movie day).

In early November, before the holiday craziness, we will be collecting change (Tools for a Change) with all proceeds going to the Education Partnership.

Finally, Baker is looking to set up a Twitter account to follow the Baker PTA.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Baker for the next PTA Council Meeting on October 3rd.

Eisenhower Elementary

Diane Stief reported on the Eisenhower happenings:

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT-

July 23rd- Mr. Miller set up a projector in the Eisenhower playground and families are welcome to bring blankets and snacks and watch this year's pick "Mr. Popper's Penguins" under the stars.

August Highlights: Events:

WELCOME TO PTA BREAKFAST-

August 17th- Welcome to PTA Breakfast for new Kindergarten families and new families to the school. After breakfast, alumni were asked to give a tour of the school and all were given packets of information, including a PTA 101 tutorial about Eisenhower PTA. We had between 150- 160 people attend.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL TEACHER LUNCHEON-

August 22nd- The staff and administrators were welcomed back on their first day with a lunch while they prepared their classrooms for the upcoming school year.

September Highlights: Events:

OPEN HOUSE AND BOOK FAIR-

September 11th -13th

FIRST PTA MEETING-

September 14th

SCHOOL PICTURES-

September 20

FOURTH LEVEL BREAKFAST-fourth level students invite their families to share a tasty treat before they start their school day in Cafe Ike.

September 25th

EISENHOWLER-

Preparations are under way for the event which is October 5th.

MEMBERSHIP-

No exact count yet but many received and many still coming to the school.

Streams Elementary

Michele Fisher reported on the following Streams happenings:

- Streams New Family Breakfast was held on Friday, August 24. 33 new families were invited from grades 1-4.
- Kindergarten Orientation was held on Monday, August 27. Our PTA spoke at each orientation regarding PTA Membership, involvement and upcoming events.
- Streams will be having a "PTA 101" meeting this Friday, September 7 at 9:30am for anyone who wants to learn about the various PTA Committees at Streams and how to become involved.
- Our first PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11. We will be having a morning meeting & an evening meeting that day.
- School pictures will be held on Tuesday, September 25.
- Plans are underway for "Stravaganza", our largest fundraiser of the year. This year Stravaganza will be held on Friday, October 12, 2012. The theme this year is "Camp Stravaganza".
- A follow up from last school year: Streams held our first "Kindergarten Connection" on Tuesday, June 12. This was a meet and greet for our incoming Kindergarten families. It was held at the Rec Center on McLaughlin. We had 54 out of 91 registered kindergarteners & their families attend. After this gathering, we held weekly "playdates in the park" at Wilshire Park where families were invited to come and play each week, to meet other kindergarteners and parents. Feedback from this event has been extremely positive and this event will now be a annual PTA event, chaired by the PTA President and Vice President.

Boyce Middle School

Amanda Beggy reported that Boyce's PTA memberships totaled 291, comprising individuals and families. There will be two PTA meetings to kick off the year on September 12th - at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Fort Couch

Deb Levy's report was read as follows:

On August 31st Fort Couch had a wonderful Teacher welcome breakfast. The teachers and staff couldn't thank us enough. Thank you to everyone who helped out and especially to Patti Dubbs who chaired the event. A big thank you to our hospitality chairs as well, Diane Hall and Lynn Amatangelo.

The first social will be held on Thursday, September 13th 7-9. Please consider chaperoning even if your kids beg you not to.

We are still trying to fill Committee chair positions for GATE, PIE, Apples for Students and Campbells. So if anyone is interested please contact me (Deb Levy).

PTA memberships are coming in and so are our students dues.

Picture day is September 6th. Make ups are on October 17th.

October 4th is a half day of school for the Fort Couch Open House at 7:00.

September 17th will be the first PTA meeting in the Fort Couch LGI at 9:30

Standing Committee Reports

Arts in Education –

Susan Rosati reported that October 18, 2012 is the deadline for Reflections contest submissions. A change of the program allows special education students to enter in any specified category, and winners in of the special education submissions will now go onto the national competition, rather than just the PA region. Streams is still in need of a Chair for Arts in Education.

Directory

Beth Erlanger read the report prepared by Beth Hornak. The Directory Committee is completing the data input phase and will begin proofreading on Friday. All forms are requested to be returned ASAP, requests have gone out in e-Alerts and PTA/PTSO newsletters. Please urge any new families you encounter to fill out a form, and email Beth to assure receipt. PTA presidents are needed to proofread Fri., Sept. 7, at the HS rm. 148/149, 11:30 -2. Bring your officer/chair listing, contact info. and calendar. A light lunch will be provided. We hope to finalize the Directory by late next week and hope to get the first distribution to the HS for the Oct. 8th Open House.

Please direct any questions to Beth at uscdirectory@gmail.com.

TIP/TIE

Susan Speer reported that November 7, 2012 the High School will host the next meeting with Dr. O'Toole discussing *Customizing Learning at USC*.

Please contact Susan with any questions or suggestions on topics for upcoming meetings.
speerfamily@gmail.com

Welcoming Committee

Stacie de la Parra reported that the 8th annual New Family Welcome Event will be held on Friday, September 21, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

New families with students in 1st through 12th in USC for the first time have been invited as our guests. Mailed 132 invites on Friday. Also invited School Board directors and Administrators. We will provide them a terrific largely donated meal, then offer them free tickets to the HS football game against Penn Hills.

We will again ask each PTA/PTSO unit, plus Council, to donate 2 desserts. These can be dropped off at the High School after 4:30 p.m. on the date of the event.

We will be meeting tomorrow, and will be discussing dynamics regarding our volunteer needs; we will keep you posted.

To date, donations have been secured from:

Alladin's

Aramark

Bravo's

Burgh's

Chick-fil-A

Houlihan's

Philly Pretzel Factory

Primanti's

Ritter's

Stu Cohen

Still courting Giant Eagle, Sonic, Stone Pepper, Moe's, Chipotle, TGIFriday's, and many others.

Kindly advise if you have a restaurant connection.

Root for good weather on September 21st!

Reporting Organizations

High School PTSO

Karen Austin reported the following:

- August 14 Started off with New Student Orientation
- August 27 First day of school
- September 4 Fall Play and Musical Cast Auditions
- September 4 Senior Parent Meeting
- September 6 Freshman Rush
- September 6 Freshman Parent Meeting
- September 9 Senior Cruise
- September 19 First PTSO Meeting of the 2012-2013 school year
- September 27 First PAC Meeting of the 2012-2013 school year
- October 10 High School Open House
- October 22-26 PSSA Grade 12 Retest in Reading, Math, Science and Writing.

Odyssey of the Mind

Susan Rosati reported that registration is open for OM, is open for grades K- 12, and there is always room for more students and teams. Flyers have been supplied to all the unit presidents, and Susan asked that announcements be made at the unit PTA meetings about the two upcoming informational sessions on September 18 and 24.

Community Foundation

Please remember the October 20, 2012 Gala for our schools. More information can be found at cfusc.org

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

***Next PTA Council Meeting
October 3, 2012 at Baker Elementary***

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 10 School Board Meeting 7:00

September 13 Elementary Open Houses 7:00 (Early Dismissal at 12:45)

September 20 Boyce Open House 7:00 (Early Dismissal at 1:15)

September 24 School Board Meeting 7:00

September 26 First Marking Period Progress Reports

October 3 PTA Council Meeting-Baker Elementary

PTA/PTSO Meetings

September 11 Baker 7:00 p.m.

September 11 Streams 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

September 12 Boyce 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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September 14 Eisenhower 9:00 a.m.

September 18 Fort Couch 9:30 a.m.

September 19 High School PTSO 9:30 a.m.

PTA & COMMUNITY WEBSITES, etc.

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:
USCGATE-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

Respectfully Submitted:

Lyn Benonis

Date Approved:
