

Upper St. Clair PTA Council
General Meeting
October 3, 2012

Call to Order

The October 3, 2012 general meeting of the Upper St. Clair PTA Council was called to order at 9:38 a.m. at the Baker Elementary School.

The Opening Ceremony

The students of Baker enchanted the audience with three songs led by teacher Miss Hestwood. Kristin Matheny led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda Reading & Approval of Minutes

To accommodate schedules of participants, the agenda's order was amended. The agenda was approved as presented, the minutes were approved as posted.

Baker Elementary principal, Patrick McClintock-Comeaux was a guest speaker. Mr. McClintock-Comeaux expressed his feeling that he is the luckiest man, and just came on as principal after Spring Break. He shared Baker's continuation of supporting leadership training with the school's monthly Leadership Club. A food drive was organized by the students which yielded more than 183 Trader Joe's bags filled with donations. The children did all the work including advertising on the morning news. Mr. McClintock-Comeaux explained that Baker's 2nd focus is on customized learning, citing the example of Baker Boost. This time was in the past a 2nd chance of learning to help understand a subject, but now also includes extensions of learning for those who "got it" at first. Baker's 3rd graders have seven activities available for extensions and enrichment.

Mr. McClintock-Comeaux shared that the school also comprises Professional Learning Communities, which are teacher led, and meet regularly to discuss the students' needs.

Liz Hall, the Upper St. Clair Development associate thanked the PTA Council and Units for their generous donation to the Gala for our school. She reiterated the importance of the Gala's mission to raise funds to cover items not necessarily funded otherwise. The entire cost of the ticket will go towards the event's proceeds. There is more than \$40,000 raised in local sponsorships and an estimated \$20-35,000 in auction items. Needed are attendees! Go to cfusc.org for additional information.

PTA Council President, Kristin Matheny presented a Gala donation check to Dr. O'Toole and Liz Hall.

Reports

Executive Committee -

2nd Vice President, Dr. Patrick O'Toole

Dr. O'Toole offered a public welcome Mr. McClintock-Comeaux, expressing that though principal for only a few months, it seems like forever due to his ties to USC. Patrick grew up in Upper St. Clair and was a Curriculum Leader for the district before becoming a principal in Mt. Lebanon, and has not returned. Dr. O'Toole expressed his appreciation for his initiative to continue the leadership program.

Dr. O'Toole shared that in addition to Mr. McClintock-Comeaux there are 3 other new leadership positions in the district with Mrs. Garvin, Special Education, Amy Pfender at the middle school level, and the new high school principal, who will report after Thanksgiving.

Dr. O'Toole thanked the PTA for the welcome dinner, recognizing Stacie de la Parra for another great job in organizing the event.

A very powerful event took place on Friday at the high school, explained Dr. O'Toole. USC alum Stephen Chbosky, author of Perks of Being a Wallflower, gave a presentation to the high school students. Over 500 students signed up for the event, with the availability to ask questions at the end. The prevailing message of Mr. Chbosky was to follow your dreams, and fame just sort of happens, as he never sought it. Also impressive was the USC kids who asked thoughtful questions.

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Treasurer Report -

Bea Conte is in the process of preparing unit bills and should have them out this month. There were no outstanding bills to be paid.

The USC PTA Council's **General Fund** had a beginning cash balance on September 6, 2012 of \$9,886.64.

Receipts totaled \$2,250 which included two deposits for advertising prepayment for the 2012-2013 Directory and \$150 from the units for the Gala contribution.

This leaves us with an ending cash balance in the General Fund of \$12,136.64 as of October 3, 2012.

The USC PTA Council's **Special Account Fund** had no activity this month leaving the balance of \$1,186.74 unchanged as of October 3, 2012.

Miscellaneous

Unit Bills will be emailed to each of the Presidents and Treasurers within the week.

President's Report -

Kristin Matheny thanked Felcia Musillo, Baker PTA President, for hosting the general meeting and arranging Miss Hestwood's student performance. Mrs. Matheny mentioned that membership enrollment is wrapping up as well as the Directory. She again thanked Stacie de la Parra for the Welcome Dinner. Some ideas generated by the PTA to boost awareness included putting together a video. Each unit should provide pictures to be included. Pictures can be sent to Kristin for distribution. Also, the PTA Council will keep abreast of the National PTA happenings each month to answer what PTA has to offer. Currently highlighting bullying with the directive of "Connect for Respect." The statistics are astounding for the percentage of children who have reported being bullied. Please check the National PTA's website for important information and great resources.

Vice President -

Susan Speer had no report, but introduce Stacie Sebastian, a representative from Outreach Teen & Family Services.

Stacie Sebastian, a USC community parent, spoke about the resources of Outreach Teen & Family Services. The organization provides education as well as counseling in many areas. Bullying, Family changes, moves, drug & alcohol prevention. Their policy is to not turn anyone away, and no long waits for services, with a 48 hour turn around time. They work with high school guidance counselors also. Parent support is offered and a girls' group, "Speak Up," a CMU developed curriculum that addresses females reticence to negotiate and the middle school aged children's struggle to use words to resolve issues. Soon a boys' group will begin. A program will be offered on Oct. 17, 2012 at the USC Library on self esteem, Kick Start Confidence. More information can be found at their website - outreachteen.org

School Board Director

Amy Billerbeck began with praise for Outreach Teen and the whole USC Board met all the staff and counselors. She was impressed with all of the individual specialties that the counselors represent.. Mrs. Billerbeck recounted the grant awarded to Dr. Colin Syme, High School Biology Teacher, for most Innovative Educator. Awarded a \$2,000 grant, Dr. Syme's project revolved around the correlation of zebra fish to human genes.

The School District's debt service will be reduced by \$3.7 million over 7 years due to completion of the Bond refinancing.

Development by Liz Hall has created \$22,000 in advertising and signage and last year's gala raised over \$55,000. Grants awarded are around \$112,000. The district's board retreat was held in the boardroom, resulting in four hours of brainstorming and dialogue. The focus was on customization, communicating

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with our community and technology enhancements. Board breakfasts also continue with varying topics of discussion. October 19, 2012 is the Hall of Fame Inductions. The Gala is October 20.

Unit Presidents

Baker – Felicia Musillo

would like to thank Ms. Hestwood for organizing Mr. Fee's classroom to perform at today's meeting. We held our first Baker General PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 11. It was an evening meeting and was very well attended. We had an ice cream social prior to the meeting in our cafeteria. During our meeting we had two guest speakers, our own Kristen Metheny from pta Council. And Representatives from the Outdoor Classroom Experience.

Student Activities:

Sept. 10th was our Author Day. Matthew Holm from the Babymouse Series visited Baker. During his visit he interacted with the kids by creating awesome drawings & illustrations, he had lunch with the kids while answering many questions throughout the day. On top of it all over 200 books were sold.

- Sat. Sept. 22nd K-friends had their bowling day from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at AMF Lanes.
- Sept. 27th and 28th our Outreach Committee conducted a school wide food drive benefiting SHIM and it was a huge success. 130 grocery bags were filled and delivered to SHIM this past Monday.
- So far 3 grade levels had visited the Outdoor Classroom.
 - K-friends on Sept. 18
 - 4th Level on Sept. 25th
 - 1st level on October 1st
- Yesterday we had our Bye, Bye, Bullying Assembly take place. The Pittsburgh Puppet Works performed a puppet show for the school.
- Finally, Kim Megonnell our VP held a HR Coordinantor meeting yesterday

Upcoming Activities:

- Staff Appreciation will be held this Friday by creating a smoothie bar for the teachers to enjoy.
- 2nd level will visit the Log House on October 5th
- 4th level will visit Meadowcroft on October 9th and 2nd level will visit it on October 11th
- We have Kang's Black Belt visiting Baker on October 15th for an assembly titled "Become a real hero" focusing on making good choices and stranger danger.
- After school programs will kick off on October 18th with Snapology.

Fundraising:

- Currently our membership has received 62 individual memberships, 127 x2 (254) family and 20 teachers and 1 family teacher.

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- After a 3 week delay, our Spiritwear Sale has kicked off yesterday. This year Baker will be using Jaws Marketing who is offering a nice variety of spiritwear. The sale will run from October 1st to 17th. If you are interested on trying on anything, items will be available to try on at the Baker Caper Boo Bash on Friday, October 12th.
- On October 12th, The Baker Caper Boo Bash will be held from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. We will have food from Chick Fil A and Vocellis will be served starting at 5:00, games from 6:00 to 8:30 including the famous cake walk, and two magic show will take place 6:30 & & 7:30 p.m.
- Classroom Harvest parties will take place on October 31st.
- Our Book Fair will take place on November 5th and 6th with a random drawing to have an opportunity to win a Nook.
- Original Works letter will be sent home on October 5th

Lastly, Baker's next General PTA meeting will be on November 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Eisenhower – Diane Stief

October highlights:

Events:

EISENHOWLER-

October 5th- Our largest fundraiser for the year featuring fabulous silent auction items, dinner catered by Franco's and Ardolinos, many great games, raffle baskets and the ever popular cake walk.

EISENHOWER EXTRAS-

October 2nd-25th- Extra after school activities for the students to enjoy, including art, karate, basketball, legos and jazz and dance.

SPIRITWEAR-

September 27th-October 12th- All orders are on line paying by credit card. Sample sizes are in the office and on display in the showcase at the school. All items will be sorted and distributed by early November. Our vendor will be present at the Eisenhower for additional assistance.

PTA MEETING-

October 11th- Jessica Kester and Barb Williams will be guest speakers. Jessica is the program manager at the outdoor classroom and Barb is the elementary science curriculum leader to discuss field trips to the REEC.

THIRD LEVEL BREAKFAST-

October 16th- Students, parents and teachers in the third grade will wear their black and gold Steeler attire to share in a morning breakfast to start their day.

HARVEST PARTIES AND PARADE-

All students will parade around the outside playground track in their Halloween costumes and celebrate an afternoon of fun fall activities.

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MEMBERSHIP-

As of September 14th, we have 355 members of the PTA including staff, numbers have increased since then so we will have a final count soon.

FIELD TRIPS-

There have been a few September field trips to the REEC, the Log Cabin in USC and to Meadowcroft, for the younger ones.

Streams – Michele Fisher

- We continue to collect PTA Membership. We currently have 281 families and individual memberships (including staff), which means that 62% of our families have joined. This week our membership chair sent out an email to all Chairs, Committee Members and Homeroom Parents who have not yet joined the PTA to remind them to submit their membership.
- Streams held a "PTA 101" meeting on September 7 for anyone who wanted to learn about the various PTA Committees at Streams and how to become involved. Our first PTA meeting was held on Tuesday, September 11. We had both a morning meeting & an evening meeting that day. From these two meetings and our PTA 101, we were able to fill a few of our open Chair positions as well as recruit some volunteers to be committee members. Our next meeting is next Tuesday, October 9.
- School pictures were held on Tuesday, September 25. Many parents volunteered with helping the day run smoothly.
- The school is currently gearing up to go to camp – “Camp Stravaganza”, on Friday, October 12 from 5p-9p. From Tuesday, October 9 – Friday, October 12, our raffle room will be open for classrooms and families to buy tickets and view the various Adult and Children’s baskets that are being raffled off the night of the big event.
- Our Kindergarteners and 4th graders visited the Outdoor Classroom in September, while our 1st graders are visiting it today (October 3).
- Our first Open Mike of the school year will be held on October 18 for the 4th grade parents. The Kindergarten Open Mike will be held on November 1.
- Our Harvest Parade and Harvest Parties will be held on Wednesday, October 31.

Streams’ Spirit wear sale will run Oct 5 - 19th

Boyce Middle School - Amanda Beggy

Past Events:

Breakfast with Teachers

September 20th Open House

Book Fair

Sally Foster Kick Off and Sale

Upcoming Events

10/10 PTA Meeting

10/17 Spirit Night at Chic-fil-a 5:00-8:00pm

Outreach Projects starting in October 3, 2012

- 3rd Annual Coat Drive for SHIM- A 3rd Annual Coat drive. Gently used coats are donated by **Boyce** students and given to SHIM (South Hills **Interfaith** Ministries). These coats will be distributed to families in need the first 2 weekends in **November**. Boyce is hoping to reach a goal of over 200 coats collected this year.
- Sweets for Seniors- Sweets for Seniors" will take place the first two weeks in November. Kids bring in some, or all of their **Halloween** loot to a collection box in the office. The candy is sorted, **organized** and given to senior facilities throughout the South Hills.

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FT. Couch - Deb Levy

The first social was held on Thursday, September 13th. Over 402 students attended.

Working towards a purposeful unit/organization, meeting with teachers for needs as determined by the teachers and staff:

Our new clubs are up and running. FCPTA has been able to help get the new clubs some of the items they need. We purchased some games and movies for games club, items for cosmetology club, art supplies for art club and items for baking clubs. Giant Eagle graciously is donating items as well for baking club, and a baker is coming in to do a demo. Vujevich Dermatology is donating cosmetics as well for Cosmetology Club. And a big thank you to Michele Haverlack for getting West Penn Allegheny Health System's Cardiovascular Institute to generously donate pedometers walking club. Additionally, Dick's Sporting Goods donated a \$50 gift certificate for purchasing Yoga mats for the gym classes. We may also have a sponsor for 65 additional yoga mats. Panther Time. Green club, caring club...

Socials are Thursdays due to the district schedules and the 2013 Valentine's Day occurring on Thursday. The event ends by 9p.m.

If you have games, yoga mats or any other items that could help our clubs, we would greatly appreciate you bringing them up to Fort Couch.

Fort Couch will be having 2 more teacher appreciation events. A warm winter wishes in December, and a we love our teachers event in February.

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

October 16th will be the first PTA meeting in the Fort Couch LGI at 9:30

Thursday October 25th is the next social. We need chaperones.

Concern was expressed by Felicia as to the code of conduct accepted at the Socials and questioned if a form could be signed by those attending.

Deb Levy states that the dancing is not as bad as last year. Mr. DeMar and others have blown the whistle, and Deb feels that parents are responsible for their child's dancing and should be there. Julie Halpner heard that volunteers were not rotated, and in the past it was agreed that they were rotated every half hour. Kristin urged parents to go if they are concerned with their children's behavior, and help is needed.

Standing Committees

Arts in Education – Susan Rosati & Paula Henderson

Reflections:

All of the unit representatives have been advertising the program in their school. We met as a committee last month to 'train' all the new unit chairs and review new rule changes. The hardships on the chairs, that were in place last year, have been changed. So managing Reflections will be much easier on everyone this year.

Entries are due October 18. And the theme is: the magic of a moment. I will send out a few more council reminder ealerts as we get near the deadline. Paula Henderson has touched base with our former judges. But we have 4 levels of judging to manage and could always use more leads. We are looking for either working professionals in their respective fields or trained people who may not be working but are up to date in their art. If anyone has any leads, please pass the name on to Paula or me.

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Directory – Beth Hornak

Our Directories are currently being printed and bound. At this time, it is our plan to begin distribution with the High School Open House while the other schools will receive theirs as the binding is completed over the course of the next week. Once I nail down exact days, I will pass that along to the Unit Directory Chairs and Presidents so that arrangements can be made for a room to label Directories.

All Directories are sent home with the youngest in the family via their homerooms. I always send out an eAlert to families once all Directories have been distributed – but I know that we are missing many families with this announcement. I will need the help of the Unit Presidents to get that message out through any e-newsletters they or their school may send out and through announcements at meetings.

In the past we have given all extra Directories to the Registrar at Central Office to give to new families when they register – until supplies are gone. I have ordered enough extra Directories this year to cover all new families through next August, including those families new when registering “K” students in late winter. We will need to utilize some of our reserves to cover that additional expense.

GATE – Lisa Clark

Our 1st GATE meeting of the year was held on Oct 1st and our speaker was Melissa Garvin, Supervisor of Special Education in USC and giftdr coordinators from our school buildings. We had approximately 50 people in attendance.

The GATE Website has been updated but if you have any recommendations for gifted websites, articles, internships or programs, please contact Lisa Clark at clark1692@verizon.net and she will post your recommendations on the site.

Also our next GATE meeting is on November 9, at 9:30 in the Boyce LGI. Mr. John Rozzo, Middle School Academic Principal and Dr. Michael Ghilani, High School Principal will be our speakers. This presentation will include information about gifted education in Middle School and High School, differentiation in and out of the classroom, summer enrichment (including STEM) and apprenticeship/internship opportunities for gifted students. We are excited to welcome these two speakers to our group and hope to provide our parents with important information regarding their child's middle school and high school education.

If you have ever wondered what middle school and high school will be like for your gifted/accelerated child or if you have questions regarding gifted programming, differentiation or enrichment, this session is for you.

PIE - Jan Brody

On October 23, Kristin Brent will be a guest speaker at the Galleria's Panera Bread. The topic will be the Chatterbox Program from Children's Hospital.

Spelling Bee - Colette Le Kachman

The Kick-off for the committee chairs occurred. All but one unit's dates are set, and all are registered to go on to the regional competition.

TIP/TIE - Susan Speer

Susan again reminded of upcoming dates

Welcoming Committee - Stacie de la Parra

On Friday, September 21, 2012, PTA Council hosted the 8th annual New Family Welcome Event. RSVPs were at their highest historical level with over 180 responding from about 45 families. We received

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donations from 24 different area restaurants/vendors. I brought copies of those donors, so that all can be aware of their generosity and help express our thanks as a community. Food was truly incredible. Bus drivers from Penn Hills probably felt it was the highlight of their nights.

Lots of principals and administrators and their families were present. School board members as well.

Thanks to a terrific committee and to PTA/PTSO board members who were present to help serve.

I am providing a list of attendee families, by school, to each Unit President. All contact info includes email addresses. I would encourage all to offer an intro email, mention meeting dates, upcoming events, etc.

Any thoughts/comments on the event can be directed to Stacie.

Legislation – Dana Weber-Horton Membership

Reporting Organizations

High School PTSO-Karen Austin

- September 6 Freshman Rush
- September 9 Senior Cruise--the students enjoyed it very much.
- September 2 New Family Dinner
- September 28 Homecoming Game
- September 29 Homecoming Dance
- October 4 First PAC Meeting at 9:30
- October 10 High School Open House
- October 16 Dean's Breakfast
- October 20 PSAT at USCHS
- October 25 PAC Meeting (location to be announced)
- October 26 First Marking Period Ends
- October 29 No School
- October 22-26 PSSA Grade 12 Retest—Reading, Math, Science and Writing
- October 30 No school
- October 31 PSSA Grade 12 Retest—Reading, Math, Science and Writing

Community Foundation –Leanne Adamo

Dates reiterated for the Gala. Also a call for chaperones/help with the October 13 event at the Recreation from 6:30 - 9:00 pm.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Next PTA Council Meeting November 7 at Eisenhower Elementary