

Eisenhower PTO
General Meeting
November 15, 2024
9:30am (Virtual)

PTO Executive Board: President – Rebecca Thornsberry
1st Vice President – Juli Kosovec
2nd Vice President - Mark Miller
Board Advisor – Jen Zofchak
Treasurer – Katie Heitman (unable to attend)
Secretary – Jolien Geis

Attendance: 13 Total attendees

The meeting was called to order by President Rebecca Thornsberry

Welcome – Rebecca Thornsberry

Approval of Minutes – All (Approval by Jen Zofchak and Juli Kosovec)

Guest Speaker: Libby Mascaro & Katie Talarico-Ramirez, The PTC Wellness Committee

Libby Mascaro: The PTC Wellness Committee in partnership with the school district is offering the: Healthy Habits – Happy Kids program. A little about me, I have 2 kids in the USC school district. My mother suffered from mental illness and died of suicide. After this I dove into mental health and suicide prevention where we directly influence our USC kids and community. This has grown into a wonderful organization where we work with our administration along with other organizations to grow mental health wellness. In the past, we read the book, *UnSelfie* by Dr. Borba.

Katie Talarico-Ramirez: I have 2 kids, one at USC HS and one in college. We are currently reading the book *The Anxious Generation* by Johnathan Haidt. The book is research based. It begins by discussing what the mental health crisis is, which can be heavy, and then moves lighter into the why and offers solutions. Over the years as a society, we have lost the sense of community and free play, which he calls the great re-wiring of our children. He discusses how our kids have traded in our play-based model for devices. Multiple solutions are offered including legislation at the federal and state levels but ultimately explains that parents can come together and delay electronic usage to help our kids.

The book club is open to grandparents, parents/guardians of our school district. If you haven't joined, please come and participate. You'll find a non-judgmental group discussing tech, mental health and our children.

Discussion:

- Mr. Miller: There is strength in numbers and the community is needed for a change in the culture. This group is helping parents to gain the ability to parent children the way they want.
- Libby Mascaro – Examples of solutions: My brother started a tech free, unstructured play group on Tuesdays at another elementary school in the district. They offer children the opportunity to gather without devices and have unstructured play. Our group PTC wellness group gathers to discuss solutions for our children.
- Is there a PTC Wellness meeting in the evening?
 - Yes, March 11 @ 6PM in the high school LGI room. Our next meetings are at 9-10:30AM in the USC HS LGI on February 11 and April 8.
- If folks have questions, where do they go?
 - You can visit the PTC website (<https://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/usc-ptc/committees/ptc-wellness-committee>), join our Facebook page, or reach out to me with any questions
- The PTC Wellness committee has copies of the book, *The Anxious Generation*, discounted for \$15. Please reach out if you're interested.

Treasurer Report: Katie Heitman

Jolien Geis (filling in for Katie Heitman) – Our beginning balance as of 10/1/2024 was \$30,625. Our ending balance as of 10/31/2024 was \$43,877.

This number includes almost all the proceeds from the Eisenhower. It doesn't include all the payments for putting on the Eisenhower. We are in a good financial situation for the beginning of the year. For those of you who are chairing events in the Winter/Spring, once we have received all our receipts, we will confirm the budgets for more of the wonderful events that the PTO sponsors.

President's Report: Rebecca Thornsberry

- Recent and upcoming events/activities
 - **Eisenhower: Alex Fadick, Chair:** Thank you to those parents, PTO, chairs who helped to make the event happen. It's great to hear that one night of the year means so much to the kids and families of Eisenhower.
 - **Eisenhower Extras: Laura DiSimone, Chair:**
 - Thanks to the volunteers who helped.
 - We had just under 200 kids participate.

- Early feedback is that the 5-week program was long and 4-weeks would be better.
- Discussions surround whether to offer all classes for kindergarteners. In particular, the coder school was a bit too hard for our younger kids, especially kindergarteners.
- Winter Extras are being planned; robotics can only be offered during the fall due to availability.
- PTO member feedback (Lexi): My kindergartener enjoyed his class. I hope you continue to offer options for them to join.
- **Harvest Parties and Parade:** Thank you to all the volunteers. It was fun to have so many parents in the building. It went great.
- **Math Night: Jen Zofchak, Chair:** A huge thank you and shout out to Mrs. Dominic and Mrs. Lolomia. This was our first time doing this and all the questions of how to engage the kids and make sure the parents are engaged were met. They did amazing.
 - There was no restriction on the number of people who came. The cut off was November 1. The handful of people who reached out due to late registration were still able to come.
- **Spirit Wear** – Orders due on Sunday, November 17.
- **Holiday Mart dates below.**
- **Winter and Spring Events:** We are waiting for the budgets to come in to start planning those events.

Vice President's Report: Juli Kosovec – Nothing to report.

Principal's Report / Eisenhower Update: Mark Miller

- The PSSA testing has an achievement piece and a growth piece. We don't talk about the PSSAs much. We believe that if our instruction matches our children where they're at, they'll grow. We received our scores and Eisenhower did great! This is a credit to our great staff who collaborate through flexible instruction among other ways to meet our kids and help them grow.

Dates to Remember:

11/27 – 11/29 No School / Thanksgiving Break

12/10 Holiday Mart

12/12 Holiday Mart

12/15 Spirit Night at Panera 8am – 8PM

12/19 Winter Parties

12/20 ½ day of school (dismissal at 11:55AM)

12/23 – 1/3 – No School / Winter Recess

1/17 – Next PTO General Meeting at 9:30AM

1/17 – Bingo Night