

**Meeting of the General Assembly
Boyce Middle School PTO
March 13, 2019**

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The March 13, 2019 General Meeting of the Boyce Middle School PTO was called to order by Jennifer Schnore at 9:40AM in the Boyce Middle School LGI. Secretary Penney Miller recorded the proceedings. Nine (9) people attended including the following executive committee members: Jennifer Schnore, Stacey Cobb, Gina Swanson, Daniel O'Rourke, and Penney Miller. Special guest was Dr. Daphna Gans.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading & Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A motion to approve the March 13th Agenda and February 13 Committee Chair meeting minutes was made by Andrea Amorose and seconded by Susan Coyle. The motion carried unanimously.

Statement of the Treasurer- Stacey Friday

Mrs. Friday presented the Treasurer's report (see attached document) and reviewed all itemized income and expenses. Mrs. Friday noted the following items:

- The beginning balance on the PTO checking account was \$38,718.09 on January 9, 2019.
- Read for a Reason (RAR) raised a total of \$1976.90.
- Chess club expenses included trophies for the Fall and Spring session too
- Caring and Sharing expenses covered the cost of gift cards for families in need at Christmas and the Tauch family.
- The check for Image 360 was part of Gift to School for a new wall decal.
- Staff appreciation reimbursement to Jamie Burnett was for sandwiches at the luncheon.
- The check for \$233.97 from Caring and Sharing was for a Boyce family in need.
- The ending balance on the PTO checking account as of 3/12/2019 is \$38,526.89.

The Deer Valley account earned \$0.50 in interest over the reporting period (Jan 9, 2019 to March 12, 2019).

Correspondence- Penney Miller

Mrs. Miller read a note of Thanks sent to the PTO from Mr. and Mrs Tauch.

Reports

- Executive Committee
- President- Jen Schnore—no report
- 1st Vice President- Gina Swanson-no report
- 2nd Vice President- Dan O Rourke—will present after Mrs. Schnore's committee reports and business.
- Board Advisor- Stacey Cobb—no report
- Teacher Representative- Matt Henderson—no report

Standing & Reporting Committees/Reporting Organizations

- Authors Day- Ponny Jahn
 - Author's day will be held on April 9. The author of "Amal Unbound", Aisha Saeed, is coming to Boyce. An eAlert, Boyce bulletin, and flyer will explain how to order a book

for the author the sign. For every book ordered, the company will donate 10% of the price to Boyce Middle School library.

- Box Tops- Aylin Aksehirli
 - Box Top drive completed at the end of the February.
 - Team Eagle gets an extra recess.
- Deer Valley Fundraiser- Stacey Cobb—the 5th grade spring Candle sale is over.
- Field Day- Stacey Cobb—no report.
- Read for a Reason raised \$1976.90 and was successful in providing support for the Panther Paw Program.
- 6th Grade Graduation- Susan Coyle
 - The party is schedule for June 5 at Ft Couch Middle School from 7-9PM.
 - Mrs. Coyle has booked the DJ and a photo booth for the event.
 - Snacks will be served.
 - Chaperones---need about 20 parent volunteers to help with the party serving food and stationed around hallways.
 - Mrs Coyle asked Mr. O'Rourke if she can get 5th graders to make posters to wish 6th grade students well on their transition to Ft Couch and Mr. O'Rourke agreed.
- Spirit Night- Toby Sirota, Cara Lindstrom---The next spirit night is March 20 at Chick-Fil-A from 4:30pm-8pm.
- Spirit Wear- Hani Piano, Shannon Rosenberry---Spirit wear committee is trying out a new vendor for the spring sale. More information is coming.
- Staff Appreciation- Michelle Mandler---Mrs. Swanson reported on the February Staff Appreciation event. Staff were treated to a Summer Picnic theme. The event went well and the PTO thanks all the families for their donations and contributions. The next event will be announced soon.
- Youth Steering--- Mrs. Schnore reported that the Winter Blast was successful event. It was the first time that the PTO to coordinated with Youth Steering to help. Mrs. Schnore reported a good response with 3 parents thanking the PTO.
 - Mrs. Coyle commented the event seemed crowded. Dr.Gans reported that 270 kids attended, the kids had a good time, and all went well.
 - YSC has spring blast in April for children in grades 5-8. Look for announcements.

New Business

- Committee chairs 2018/19---Mrs. Schnore and Mrs. Swanson are currently recruiting for new PTO Committee Chairs. Mrs. Schnore has published a description of the chair duties and has a sign-up sheet. Mrs. Schnore and Mrs. Swanson are traveling to different schools to recruit volunteers and are generating good interest.
- Board Positions for Boyce PTO--- The PTO is also looking for Secretary and VP. Please submit names of people interested in these positions.
- SHIM---The district-wide SHIM drive has concluded and Mrs. Schnore indicated that USC donated 4147 lbs of food to SHIM.
 - Streams Elementary is on track to earn at least \$4000 with coin drive.
- Proposed budget for 2018-2019—The proposed budget for the Boyce PTO will be available on the PTOs website for next 30 days to review. Anyone interested in a Committee position can review that committee's proposed budget. The PTO general assembly will vote to approve the budget at the next General Meeting in April.

Principal's Report

Mr. O'Rourke reported the following items:

- **STEAM Supply Drive.** Please consider what you can donate to STEAM program. A collection bin is located in the Boyce main lobby and collection runs through Friday, March 22. Please contact Catherine Deep catherinedeep@yahoo.com with any additional questions.
- **1,000th Day of School Activities.** Mrs. Kennedy calculated that the 100th day of school is also the 1,000th day of school for 5th graders. To celebrate this occasion, fifth graders at Boyce worked together on their teams collected a total of 1,000 quarters and \$1,000 will be donated to [USCHS Mini-THON](#), which raises money to fight childhood cancer.
- **Valentine Grams.** In conjunction with Random Acts of Kindness Week, Boyce Student Council sold Valentine Grams through Feb. 13 to benefit the USCHS Mini-THON. Because of the generous contributions from our Boyce students and community, student council donated \$1,040 to USCHS Mini-THON.
- **Boyce Teacher Honored at Statewide Conference.** Congratulations to [Mrs. Kelly Pascarella](#) who received the Promising Practitioners Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education at the PAMLE 2019 Conference in State College in February.
- **Author's Day.** On April 9, 2019, [Aisha Saeed](#), author of *Amal Unbound*, will be visiting Boyce. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book and have it signed by the author, please fill out the order form below and return it to Mrs. Husak. Ten percent of the book sales will be donated back to Boyce Middle School. Order forms will be provided through an eAlert or Boyce Bulletin.
- **National Geographic Bee.** Congratulations to sixth-grader Rohan Mehta, the first-place winner in the school-level National Geographic Bee at Boyce Middle School. Rohan advanced to the qualifying exam and is now one of the top 100 students who will participate in the 2019 Pennsylvania State Bee on March 29, 2019, in Harrisburg.
- **6th Grade Students Team with French School.** Students from 6th Grade French Class have engaged in penpal activities with students from the Saint Francis Notre Dame school in Lesneven (Brittany) France. Our students decided to provide them with a video tour of our school and the Saint Francis students reciprocated by sending their year book, and our students sent back a copy of the Panther Paw. This experience is good for Boyce students.
- **The 6th grade robotics team, the Gear Grinders won the state championship beating out teams up through 8th grade.** They will be advancing to National Competition in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. O'Rourke commended the team for their remarkable effort. When asked if the school sponsored this activity, Mr. O'Rourke responded that the school does not sponsor the students but all on the team are Boyce Students.
- **School Picture Day** is March 29.
- **PSSA Dates.** Mr. O'Rourke has been advertising PSSA testing dates a lot lately. The date are:

PSSA Assessment	Grade	Dates of Administration
English Language Arts	5 & 6	April 23, 24, 26, 2019
Mathematics	5 & 6	April 30 - May 1, 2019
Make-up ELA	All	April 25 & 26
Make-up Math	All	May 2 & 3

 - The break on April 25 is for "Take your Child to Work" day. Fort Couch is testing the same dates. The later PSSA dates are nice to allow the students to master more material. Also, a Tuesday start gives students to adjust to back to school after break and the weekend. Mrs. Cobb asked if they tested during certain hours and Mr. O'Rourke responded that testing starts at 8:50AM and ends around 11AM, when teachers can confirm that no more than 5 students are still working on exams. The State has a policy

requiring all students have appropriate testing time, and Boyce has testing plan that meets all of the state PSSA policy requirements. PSSA officials can spot check Boyce at any time to ensure compliance.

- **Deer Valley Dates** are posted on the [Deer Valley webpage](#) for more specific details.
- **Spring Recess: April 15-19, 2019**

Special Guest-Dr. Daphna Gans, School Board Report

- School Board approved the 2019-2020 calendar.
 - The 2 teacher professional training days in October have been changed to fall on Halloween and the day after. This was in response to parent request.
 - School will be held on Election Day in November. Procedures to isolate election areas from students will occur at Boyce and Fort Couch.
- The board forgave 3 out of 4 snow days this year. The last of day of school in the 2018-2019 school year is June 12.
- The Board decided to purchase new buses based upon wear and tear on the vehicles from constant starts and stops. The old buses have reached the end of their lifetime. New busses will be equipped with all the latest security cameras, similar to the other new buses.
- Dr. Rozzo has changed Board meeting formats to bring in various presenters to inform the board about programs within the schools and in the community. So, once a month a presenter from outside the community or from the district is brought in to talk about specific programs, and on alternate committee meeting dates (non-voting meetings), the presenter will be someone from the central office administration to talk about the district in general. Student and Staff representatives from Boyce recently presented the positive action program and led a meditation exercise. Dr. Gans commended Boyce in their efforts to change the culture at Boyce, and the Board is getting a good response from parents. Along those lines, Dr. Gans commented the new football coach, Coach Junko, wants to foster a family-like culture in the athletic departments. Kids are regularly attending the games of other athletes to support one another.
- Judge Armoni gave a presentation about what risks kids are exposed to that can lead to truancy and dangerous behaviors. He covered topics such as Drug Use, Safe Driving (no Text and Drive), safe internet practices, smoking, alcohol etc. His office developed a new program called LEAD program to organize an effort to explain these risks to kids to encourage them to make good choices. He will start reaching out to High School level and work down to reaching out to kids as young as 5th grade, when the program is fully implemented.
- Construction Projects. Boyce construction project is finished. The Central Office construction is proceeding on time and on budget. The swimming pool area is behind by about 2 weeks due to the weather but still on budget. The board anticipates all will be completed by the beginning of the next school year based upon regular reports and that minimal change orders have been submitted. Dr. Gans commented that 0.4 of the budget was set aside to accommodate plan changes, if needed.
- A couple of District and Board members made presentations at the National School Board Association Meeting. USC representatives presented in 2 areas:
 - SHOP@USC
 - Social and Emotional Support Programs in the High School. Dr. Gans was a participant in this presentation. Her interest, beyond the improvement of the quality of life for the students, was to achieve this quality of life improvement at neutral cost. In other words, to see if the programs could be altered in a way that did not increase the budget.

- Lauren Madia, Fort Couch Counselor, was selected to replace Melissa Garvin, the former assistant director for student services and support. Ms. Madia will stay at Fort Couch until a suitable replacement can be found. The announcement was made so that the Board could vacate the position to start the search. The Board will carefully select a replacement to find the right person for the position.
- Along those line, the board is seeing a higher percentage of kids with physical and emotional issues. The board was unable to find a nurse's aide to fill a position open at one of the schools and therefore, have decided to hire an RN instead. This is a more costly position but it would provide a person with the credentials to meet these and other needs in the district. This is all part of the process to improve safety and security in the District.
- The District also hired another police officer to fill needed position to allow Chief Bryson to coordinate safety and security programs across all schools. Mr. O'Rourke, as part of the interview team on police officers, was very impressed with the quality of candidates and he is thankful the Board seeks to bring in the best people. Mr. O'Rourke feels the officer at Boyce is very helpful and part of the family now. Mr. O'Rourke also appreciates what Dr. Gans stated about the rise of mental health issues and appreciates the Board being proactive in addressing these needs. Mr. O'Rourke added that Boyce addresses needs at the back-end, such as teaching social and emotional learning and mindfulness activities to help students deal with anything that comes up. Mr. O'Rourke confirmed that all staff hired are top notch and experienced. Mr. O'Rourke said he couldn't speak highly enough of Chief Bryson because he is so student centered and concerned about the community.
- Mr. O'Rourke commented how police officers have been great in helping with Safe2Say. Dr. Gans commented that thus far, the district has received 80 calls, of which, 40 have been deemed to be not of true concern. The state is serious about taking legal action against people who make false claims to eliminate spam calls. Safe2Say has added to the volume of the work and it is nice to have the USCSD police to help with Safe2Say implementation.
- The Board also approved ALICE. ALICE (**A**lert, **L**ockdown, **I**nform, **C**ounter and **E**vacuate) is a emergency response that is going to be implemented in USC so that USC can better coordinate with other townships to address events. All administrators, officers, and teachers will be trained how to respond in ALICE. This training will start on Friday with an online class and proceed through Monday. Ms. Mussomeli is being trained this week on how to train the teachers at the inservice. On Monday afternoon, teachers will be taking seminars of their choice on student needs (emotional needs, IEPs, autism, English as a second language, etc).
- Dr. Gans also reported that Monday is the end of the induction period for first and second year teachers (22). The district has a special 2-year training program for new teachers in which they are paired with a mentor, given time for planning, go through an induction program where they learn about Upper St Clair, the administration, the buildings, and student learners. It is a program designed to give them the support level they need from the start of their career at USC. Mrs. Swanson commended the district on this practice.
- Dr. Gans commented that the District takes training teachers very seriously so they are ready to go when they start. Judith Bulazo, Head of Curriculum and Professional Development, works closely with administrators to develop these programs. They keep changing based on the needs and requests from teachers.
- Dr. Gans commented that the board learns about all these programs because Mr. Rozzo having presenters speak to the board. The board is hearing from administrators like Dr. Bulazo, Brad Wilson, etc. These presentations help the Board to learn detailed information about the needs so they can act. Dr. Gans encourages parents to attend Board meetings because they are

educational and interesting. She commented extensively that very few people show up unless there is a specific issue they want to address. Dr. Gans said that if issues are brought up by parents they will be addressed. She gave the example of how some parents shared a concern about antisemitism at school. The board formed a committee which led to curriculum changes across the district to strengthen anti-hate, promotion of kindness, and empathy programs. Dr. Gans remarked that open mike meetings are a better forum to open up such conversations with parents, and the next Open Mike is tentatively planned for May 2.

- Mrs. Coyle asked the status of the basketball floors in the high school. Dr. Gans responded it will be another 6-8 weeks. Because of the other construction work, PJ Dick was able to assess the work needed and see that it also gets done. The floors still need to dry properly and the correct flooring replacement needs to be ordered. All games have been moved to Ft Couch and the contractors are working as fast as they can to fix things. The other areas affected, Cafe 321 and a classroom, are back to working order. The athletic office is still being renovated. All repairs are covered by insurances. Dr. Gans anticipated the gym would be ready by May 22 for scheduled activities.

The next Meeting of the PTO General Assembly is April 10, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Date Approved: April 10, 2019

Boyce PTO General Meeting - March 2019

Treasurer's Report

PTO Checking Account

Beginning checking cash balance as of 1/9/19: \$ 38,718.09

PTO Income from 1/9/2019 to 3/12/2019

\$ 1,976.90 Read for a Reason PTO fundraiser
\$ 250.00 Chess Club
\$ 40.00 Miscellaneous income - yearbook
\$ 2,266.90 Total

PTO Payments from 1/9/2019 to 3/12/2019

\$ 104.84 Check #1248 Jamie Burnette for Staff Appreciation
\$ 13.02 Check #1250 Sarah Mittleider for Chorus
\$ 195.24 Check #1251 Batool Nulwala for Chess Club wrap-up party
\$ 350.00 Check #1252 Stacey Friday for Caring and Sharing gift cards
\$ 15.00 Check #1253 Commonwealth of PA for Institution of Purely Private Charity Registration
\$ 19.12 Check #1254 Andrea Amorose for Boyce Pride pictures
\$ 473.57 Check #1255 Michele Mandler for Boyce Pride Pictures and Staff Appr'n
\$ 64.80 Check #1256 USC School District for STEAM cart supplies
\$ 595.26 Check #1257 Image 360 for wall decal (gift to school)
\$ 70.60 Check #1258 Jennifer Schnore for Read for a Reason prizes and yearbook copies
\$ 200.00 Check #1259 Stacey Cobb for Read for a Reason prizes
\$ 72.63 Check #1260 Jamie Burnette for Staff Appreciation
\$ 50.05 Check #1261 Stacey Friday for Read for a Reason copies, postage and food for
committee chairperson meeting
\$ 233.97 Check #1262 Dan O'Rourke for Caring and Sharing
\$ 2,458.10 Total

Total PTO checking balance as of 3/12/2019: \$ 38,526.89

Deer Valley Account

Beginning Money Market cash balance as of 1/9/2019: \$ 6,162.34

Deer Valley Income from 1/9/2019 - 3/12/2019

\$ 0.26 Interest payment on 1/31/2019
\$ 0.24 Interest payment on 2/28/2019

Deer Valley Payments from 1/9/2019 - 3/12/2019

No payments

Total Deer Valley Money Market Balance as of 3/12/2019: \$ 6,162.84