

**PTO General Meeting Minutes
Boyce Middle School PTO
September 11, 2019**

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The September 11, 2019 General Meeting of the Boyce Middle School PTO was called to order by President Gina Swanson at 9:33 AM in the Boyce Middle School LGI. Secretary Natalea Oliverio recoded the proceedings. Twenty-seven (27) people were in attendance. Gina Swanson introduced the following executive committee members including herself, Jennifer Schnore, Andrea Amorose, Stacey Friday, Daniel O'Rourke, Christine Mussemeli and School Board member Daphna Gans, and Natalea Oliverio.

Prior to the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Swanson led the meeting in a moment of silence to remember the tragic events of 9-11-2001.

Reading & Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was read silently and approved. The Minutes from the May 2019 meeting have been posted online. A motion was made to approve the May 2019 minutes by Susan Coyle and seconded by Yesha Katukota.

Statement of the Treasurer - Stacey Friday

Mrs. Friday provided a Treasurer's report for the interval of July 1, 2019 thru August 1, 2019 (see attached). Mrs. Friday reported that the PTO had a beginning balance of \$17, 515.57. The PTO collected \$18, 312.62 from the payment of Student Activity Fees and PTO membership dues. This gives a balance of \$36, 257.09.

A report was given for the Deer Valley account. A balance of \$6, 164.38 was noted which included \$0.28 in interest in July 2019 and \$0.25 in interest in August 2019.

The Treasurer's report will be placed on file for audit.

Correspondence - Natalea Oliverio

There was not any correspondence noted this month.

Executive Committee Reports

- President - Gina Swanson gave the floor to Ms. Daphna Gans from the School Board.

- 1st Vice President - Andrea Amorose had no report

- Teacher Representative- Mr. Matt Henderson, the STEAM teacher for 5th and 6th grade gave a report.
 - He reported that Mr. Gremba's math classes have been using RUBIX cubes for different activities including mosaics.
 - Mr. Madge is beginning band lessons. The following information has been made available.
 - Band lessons for all returning students (kids who were in band last year) have begun. Students should have received their band lesson schedule via their homeroom teacher. If any student has NOT yet received a schedule, parents can email me and I will email their child's lesson schedule directly to them.
 - Full band rehearsals will start up this week-Wednesday 9/11 @ 7:45 am for 5th grade, Thursday 9/12 @ 7:45 am for 6th grade.
 - Beginner band try-outs for interested first-time students will be held daily at pride time in the band room for the next 2 weeks. Additional band info can be found on my teacher page: www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Domain/367
 - Mr. Dudley's Eagle Sweets program has been working on new products. Eagle Sweets is a student-led, community service program working within Boyce Middle School. The students will be releasing their new chocolate covered pretzels at Open House to support the "Grow Club".

- 2nd Vice President - Dan O'Rourke. Mr. O-Rourke presented several items through a power point presentation (see attached copy of slides).
 - Mr. O'Rourke thanked the board and all attending for their time and contributions to the education of the students of Boyce Middle School.
 - The theme for the 2019/2020 Boyce school year is Rise By Lifting Others. Mr. O'Rourke discussed the positive benefits for all when people take the time to do good for others. He discussed the biochemical effects of these things, particularly oxytocin, endorphins, and dopamine. This theme will be emphasized all year.
 - Mr. O'Rourke recognized new staff at Boyce Middle School. New hires this year are Nicole (Serafini) Kelly, an ELA teacher on Team Wind and Stacie Paronish who teaches FACS.
 - Boyce Middle School is applying for a fourth resignation as a "Schools to Watch".

- There have been many updates to the school building over the summer. These updates include improvements to the courtyard where a sustainable garden has been growing and seating is available. Other improvements include signage outside the SHOP at Boyce, Vision Statement graphics around the building, Faculty Room and Counselling suite updates.
 - District-wide, new safety and security protocols have been implemented. All teachers and staff, as well as many parents, have been trained in the ALICE program. This program is meant to raise awareness in all areas of life. Being aware of surroundings and having a designated plan in the event of an imminent threat are parts of the ALICE program. The school district is implementing the training on all levels, in all schools at age appropriate paces. Training is ongoing.
 - An update on the PSSA test scores was given. The scores increased again this past year. It was the highest collective score across the board since the test changed.
 - Mr. O'Rourke gave an overview of the Panther Program discussing school-wide positive behavior/social and emotional learning and CASEL.
 - Questions - Pride time for clubs
- Board Advisor - Jen Schnore had nothing to report.

Special Guest

- School Board - Dr. Daphna Gans.

Dr. Gans introduced herself to all attending. She reported that the school year was off to a smooth start district-wide. She thanked the teachers, staff and parents for all of their efforts. Teachers this year began with four (4) days of staff development and training. This is one additional day to previous years. Along with typical pre-planning, teachers also underwent follow-up ALICE training. ALICE training is an initiative based in research geared toward enabling teachers, staff and students in how to handle themselves in the event of a real-world violent event. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Confront, and Evacuate. Teachers and staff have been trained. Next, schools district-wide will be implementing age-appropriate curriculum to train students. More information is available on the district website.

Dr. Gans discussed the progress of the construction projects throughout the district. The work done at Boyce has been completed. The construction of the aquatic center at the high school should be completed min-November while the work on the new USCSD office complex should be ready by October 12, 2019. Due to labor issues with the construction company, these work projects have been delayed.

Dr. Gans announced that database for volunteers is in the creation process. This database will help keep school volunteers up to date on the expiration date for their clearances so that they are aware of then to re-apply. More information on this will be made available at a later date.

Dr. Gans has invited parents to attend any school board meeting to observe or they can request an opportunity to speak. All school board meetings are available to watch on local cable channels. She also asked for the PTC to grow in its involvement with the school board. Dr. Gans can be contacted by email at dgans@uscscsd.k12.pa.us.

Standing and Reporting Committee

- Book Fair Committee: Natalea Oliverio

Natalea Oliverio is the chairperson of the 2019 Fall Scholastic Book Fair committee. The Scholastic Book Fair will be held on Wednesday, September 25th during school hours and Thursday, September 26th both during school hours and during Open House in the evening. There will be a preview day for students and teachers on Tuesday, September 24th. There will be a Book Fair committee meeting immediately following the General PTO Meeting. Ms. Oliverio gave details regarding book fair scheduling, volunteer opportunities, and electronic payment options.

- Membership: Stacey Friday - Membership details are listed on attached Treasurer's Report
- Family Welcome Day - Gina Swanson. On Wednesday, August 14, 2019, Boyce PTO hosted a welcome event at the middle school for all families from 5 - 7pm. This event allowed families to familiarize themselves with the building, meet Mr. O'Rourke, visit with members of the USC School Board, talk to the guidance office staff, discuss payment options with the nutrition center manager, pay student activity fees/ membership and enjoy Kona Ice provided by the PTO. The evening was well attended.
- Spirit Night - Toby Sirota and Cara Lindstrom - Two Chic Fil A Spirit Nights have been scheduled for September 18, 2019 and April 22, 2020. Proceeds go to fund the Boyce Caring & Sharing Committee.
- Spirit Wear - Hani Kelly and Kris Jenkins - No specific details available yet. There will be 2 sales, one in the fall and one in the spring. USC and/or Boyce branded items will be available. Any questions or suggestions can be direct to Hani Kelly via email at hanikelly@sbcglobal.net.
- Field Day - This committee is seeking a chairperson or team. Email Gina Swanson if interested.
- Deer Valley Fundraiser - Stacey Cobb - Fundraiser information for Deer Valley will go out and begin on September 27th. Students can sell candles and gift wrap items in order to off-set the cost of the Deer Valley trip for 6th graders to take in the spring.

New Business

- USC Wellness Committee

The USC Wellness Committee is hosting an Author Talk on November 11, 2019 at 7 PM at the high school. The author will be Michelle Borba sharing “Un-Selfie: Raising caring, successful kid in a plugged-in, trophy driven world”. The Wellness Committee is asking for support and participants in a book club hosted at St. Paul’s church in Mt. Lebanon. If you are interested in participating in the book club, please email Gina Swanson. Anyone participating in the book club will be invited to the Meet and Greet at St. Paul’s prior to the speaking event at the high school on November 11th.

- Recess Enhancements

Lauren Fritz-Gibbs, a Boyce Parent, has come forward with a desire to lead a group in enhancing the Boyce Middle School playground. These proposed enhancements include using stencils to paint games on the black-top such as Four Square, Hopscotch, etc. This also includes providing non-physical activities for students to participate in during recess. These non-physical activities include letter writing for nursing home patients or veterans, crafts, etc. Ms. Fritz-Gibbs will work to create a committee to continue looking into these enhancements.

- Yearbook

The 2018-19 yearbook is available in the office for anyone interested in seeing it. The typical cost of the yearbook is \$17.99 if pre-ordered. It was \$30 after the books arrived last year. Information usually is available in January.

- A suggestion was made by the board to relocate surplus funds from the 2019 Budget (\$4, 970.06) to use for other projects (see attached proposal). A motion was made by Susan Coyle and the motion carried by voiced vote.

Next PTO Meeting

The next General PTO meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2019 at 9:30 AM in the Boyce Middle School LGI.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

This report is submitted by Natalea Oliverio.

Date Approved: September 18, 2019