



# United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.  
Steele Elementary School Library

## Attendees

Jennifer Cooper  
Trudi Jackson  
Alisha O'Connor  
Ann Griner  
Amber Anderson  
Don DeLoach  
Cindy DeLoach  
Roxaneh Khorsand  
Megan Harris  
Christy Howard  
Alison Ogren  
Ryan Capp

## Governance

President Jennifer Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. A quorum was present.

The first topic of discussion was Green Team Superheroes. Megan Harris provided a proposal along with a letter of recommendation from the teacher where this was first implemented.

There are concerns about funding; the program is \$1500 to implement for one semester. Lisa Dewil would want to stay engaged for more than one semester. We would only commit to one, so as not to commit the next school year's PTA. We would do Jan. 2020 through May 2020, and evaluate over the summer. Mr. Capp came up with \$1200, and PTA funds the remaining \$300.

Megan said what's provided in the guide is the framework. If we can get it up and rolling, January is a doable time frame for launch. All we need is 12 kids to cover the school classrooms, though they would not turn down additional volunteers. We will work with Lisa to design how the program will look at Steele, with the possibility of including 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Megan volunteered to be the liaison. Megan met with Mrs. Matthews, who's running Yes Club with a curriculum from Catamount. Mrs. Matthews is really excited – there is a lot of cross interest, but they are very separate programs. This is about shifting how our school thinks about sustainability.

Mr. Capp said his hope is 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be a great starting point, since the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are busy. We would not turn down 5<sup>th</sup>, but this is a great opportunity for 4<sup>th</sup> to be leaders.

Don DeLoach asked what the difference is between this and the school's existing Green Team. Megan said this isn't a parent-driven program, it's student-led. Green team wasn't a student club. Jen said they could have visibility via Steele TV.

Amber asked how this will impact the classroom teachers and their workload. Jen said this isn't involving the teachers, other than help answering questions on audits, such as lighting and electronics use. Sarah said that's what takes a bit of class time, when students go in and present. Megan said that when we have the students do it and Lisa puts together the scripts, we are all speaking the same language and working together as a school. Mr. Capp said we'll know what to do when we see who volunteers.

Jasmine asked what time investment is happening on the kids themselves. Megan said none for parents other than support. For kids, there's a weekly meeting. Mr. Capp said when you give kids leadership opportunities, there may be some parent support required, but it shouldn't be a big ask.

Mrs. Ogren asked if we ask a teacher to head this up. Jen said the motion should specify that Megan Harris will head this up, and Mrs. Matthews will want to help, too. Jasmine Marchman moved to adopt the Green Team Superheroes program for one semester with Megan heading it up, Steele committing \$1200 and PTA \$300. The motion passed with 1 abstention and 1 opposed.

Cindy asked where the \$300 PTA contribution is coming from. It's new money.

The group moved to discussing the remaining 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library project. Jen presented the original 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library proposal memo, along with a set of emails from last year's PTA suggesting holding back some funds raised at Sips for Steele to ensure the current PTA's solvency. Today we are discussing how to fulfil the commitments from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library effort.

Mrs. Ogran said the equipment from the initial order is finally here. Last year, Mike Herr had a vision of the library including many tvs with individual work spaces. One was installed before 2019's Sips for Steele event. Seeing how it is used now, we are thinking we don't need the tvs. The furniture is great, and there are enough stools in the community room for now. It would be nice to add stools to library, and maybe another whiteboard table. Mrs. Ogren is trying to get more teachers to get their classes in to use the learning spaces. The puzzle tables and wobble stools can be a great help to collaborative learning.

Mr. Capp said the graffiti wall was on the wish list from last year, but it is still not installed. He's been working with Brian Risley on a less expensive option than the

original \$6000 pricetag, but waiting on exact quote. The original design was tempered glass with curved finish on top. Plain whiteboards get dirty, so we want the tempered glass, but maybe something simpler. Looking for a price of \$2500, but no idea if that is reasonable.

Mrs. Ogren said people looked at the interior design concept drawing that was displayed at last year's Sips for Steele. The original concept featured curved library shelves and large pieces of furniture, but these are not practical for this library space.

Jen said we bring this info forward because as we plan for Sips for Steele this year, we want a goal. Maybe 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library 2.0?

Jasmine said we could come up with a few goal proposals to work on and bring back to the next PTA meeting for vote. Also, looking back at the last few years of Sips, funds of about \$25000 were raised. We should adjust expectations to \$10k, and anything above should not be committed to a particular project.

Don says it sounds like we're thinking of two different things. We're talking about what we want to do in the future vs. promises we've made in the past. Jen said that's why the minutes and email were presented. We need to discuss the remaining list of items, since it will be less than originally thought. In May we decided we won't give the full \$25,000 to the library. We kept some money back for the solvency. Now we ask do we want to fund the remaining \$13,000, or make it a goal for this year's Sips for Steele?

Cindy said she felt like we were too conservative holding onto \$13,000, since we're now sitting on \$28,000. Jasmine said we should compare to other years and see if this is an expected amount.

Jen said we need the final costs from the school on what the updated list of library equipment will be. Once we have that number, we can decide if we want to fully fund it now, or wait until Sips for Steele.

Don said the idea of breaking a promise to our donors really bothers him. Sarah said it would sound weird to ask this Sips for the same goal as last Sips. Cindy agrees, Jasmine agrees.

Amber asked if the list is the final wish list. Mrs. Ogren said yes, either the roundo lift table, or two puzzle tables, and a less expensive graffiti wall. Jasmine asked what the educational value of the graffiti wall. Mr. Capp said he's trying to expand his thinking about it. There are a lot of opportunities for delivering messages – like from the Green Team, or a busy brain session with Mrs. Korte. We could use a place in the building where students are showing their own work and their own leadership.

Cindy asked Jen and Alisha if it is a financial possibility to separate it? Can we re-address and consider the funds again for the modified wish list. Jen said this has been brought up at every PTA meeting since August – it was never settled. Jen suggested the Sips pitch may have been out of turn since we didn't think about next year's operating budget – Don said last year's board approved all messaging.

Amber said that as a past treasurer, looking at the numbers and remaining balance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library, if we were to pay this in full, the PTA should still be in good standing financially to settle up the rest of the year. We would have approximately \$12,000 for operating funds. We would need to use Sips monies for next year's budget. Sarah asked how much we'd need to raise at Sips for next year to be solvent. Amber said \$10,000 is a really good number.

Cindy said if we consider this and reconsider what our goal for Sips is, then we can say Sips is general fund, and we then don't have to explain why we didn't pay for last year's commitment. Alisha agreed the Sips goal should be general funds. Jasmine said we'd always intended that for Sips – with a few specific wish list items, and then money raised beyond that would go to general funds.

Megan pointed out we don't have to purchase items all at once. Jen said Mr. Capp is looking at what additional costs could be incurred by breaking up shipments.

Jen said when Mr. Capp hears back from Brian, he could share those number so when we come back in January, we can make a decision about what to fund. Alisha and Amber feel comfortable with these numbers given the upcoming expenses. Jen would like to start the year clean.

Alisha said when the numbers come in Jan, Alisha can bring the dollar amount for what we absolutely NEED to fund the rest of the year. Amber said we had about \$9,000 at this time last year.

Don said he hates the idea of breaking the promise. Cindy said we haven't broken it yet. Sarah said if she saw the library put together at the end of this year, she would not feel the promise had been broken. Mrs. Ogren pointed out the concept drawing was not what we actually wanted the library to look like. Megan said it ended up being good to have time to watch how the kids use the space before finishing it out.

Alisha said it's a good time to be looking at this – we're doing ok, and we didn't know how the lack of Apex fundraising would affect us. Jasmine said our promise isn't broken until we ask for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library funding at this year's Sips. She said she doesn't think it's a bad idea for us to hit some things like funding the food pantry, but leave larger portion of funds raised for the PTA's general fund.

Jen said it's important to have final numbers in January, and then we will vote on this. Jasmine said if we fund the library in January, we don't need to present the different goal proposals.

Megan asked if we can just decide in this meeting that we aren't doing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library 2.0 as a goal for this year's Sips for Steele. Jasmine likes that idea. Cindy says it's going to be a different way to pitch the Sips goal since it's not a shiny new gadget. If we're going to remove library funding from Sips, Jasmine would like to get together with someone to decide a few smaller ticket items. Cindy said she is curious about why we are voting not to do something. Don disagrees – this frees us up from obligating ourselves to pursue 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library.

Cindy moved we invest our Sips fundraising efforts in a to-be-named direction that is not 21<sup>st</sup> c library.; Jasmine seconded. Motion passed.

Jasmine requested anyone interested in helping with Sips for Steele contact her.

Secretary Ann Griner requested approval for the November 2019 PTA Meeting Minutes. Sarah Pont moved and Don DeLoach seconded; motion carried.

### **Principal's Report**

Principal Ryan Capp provided the Principal's Report.

- Things in motion that we can discuss later, or at SAC, or at next meeting. Our small committee (SEL) met on Monday. We are gathering info for counselor (MLO Override) position for next year. We still have to apply to get our position, and Jan. 10 is the deadline.
- We are working on marketing Steele – mostly through our website and social media. Focus on the great things at each grade level. We will work on that messaging.
- We would like to build numbers in upper grades.
- Choir and band concerts upcoming.
- Caroling at 5 on Monday night.
- The choir performed at a D11 faculty luncheon and knocked them out of the park.
- Genius hour projects last week were a great success.
- Continuing work on math education.
- Pancake breakfast on the 20<sup>th</sup>, organized by staff. Amber purchased supplies, and the griddles are on hold.

### **Budget**

Treasurer Alisha O'Connor gave the budget report.

- Staff massages raised \$375, all of which goes to teachers.
- Only one invoice received for fall enrichment, more to come.
- Amber asked where leftover funds from Apex last year that we were giving to the gym teacher. Trudi said Sallie Kate Angelidis provided documentation that \$1650 promised from last year. Alisha will break that out. Mr. Marchiani is brainstorming right now, will get a wish list to Sallie Kate.
- Amber moved to approve the November 2019 Budget Report; Cindy seconded. Motion carried.

- Two grant requests received from Mrs. Howard:
  - CCIRA \$125.
  - National Social Studies Conference \$125 (has already happened).
  - There is \$375 left in teacher grant account.
  - Mrs. Howard received a creativity award from a geography teachers' association and presented twice at the conference.
  - Sarah moved to approve \$125 for the CCIRA grant and the social studies conference; Amber seconded. Motion carried.
- Cindy moved we take \$125 from Teacher Accounts into Teacher Grants; Trudi seconded, motion carries.
- Jen asked Alisha to reach out to H&R Block contact regarding the tax issue.
- Amber has volunteered to perform the audit in January.

### Calendar Review

Trudi provided a calendar review.

- The Polar Express screening is Dec. 13.
- The pancake breakfast is Dec. 20.
- The Someone Special dance is Feb. 21. Whitney Calhoun and Courtney Hertner are chairing.
- Focus Day is Mar. 6 with an Olympic theme.
- There are 2 possible dates in Feb. for health screening – waiting to confirm before sending out requests for volunteers.

### Old Business

Don said Erica Roberts did a fantastic job on enrichment and we should give her lots of kudos. Tina West helped a great deal as well. Ali said Lora Woodworth rocked the book fair. We sold almost \$6k

### New Business

Bylaws will be posted for review soon. We will solicit input in January.

Jennifer adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm.