

November 12, 2019



United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 8:10 a.m.
Steele Elementary School, Library

Attendees

Jennifer Cooper
Trudi Jackson
Alisha O'Connor
Ann Griner
Lora Woodworth
Scot Hume
Sarah Pont
Floyd Helderman
Courtney Hertner
Edie Carey
Erica Roberts
Kelly Matthews
Megan Harris
Roxaneh Khorsand
Don DeLoach
Ryan Capp

Governance

President Jennifer Cooper called the meeting to order at 8:11am. A quorum was present.

Megan Harris introduced Lisa Dewil, who spoke about the Green Team Superheroes program she launched at Wilmont Elementary in Evergreen, CO. The Green Team Superheroes is now a non-profit. Megan said she and Sarah Pont were interested in bringing a more sustainable green program to Steele, and Lisa's program is very interesting because it relies on students to run it.

Lisa gave a presentation about the program (see this link for a recording: <https://medial.d11.org/Play/4736>), which based on a proven method of data collection and analysis the students can understand. The mission of the GTS is to develop lifelong leaders in sustainability through a student-led, real-world project-based program, delivering a message that we can make a difference.

- Fosters leadership through public speaking
- Develops project-based learning skills
- Emphasis on common core standards
- Cost savings for schools
- Tackles a global problem with a local approach

Lisa's proposal for GTS supporting Steele:

- Provide off-site management
- Identify eco pathways and create goals

- Develop a customized timeline
- Design and develop scripts and presentations for classroom use
- Manage classroom vs classroom contests
- Pathway to achieve the Eco Schools USA bronze award
- Cost of \$1500 per semester

Floyd Helderman asked about the savings, and over what time period they were realized. Lisa said it was over a year, and the savings was reflected in a lower electric bill due to light reduction/removal and unplugging electronics not in use. Lisa said the Aurora school district gives back a percentage of green savings to schools to use as they need.

Eddie Carey asked if the GTS has explored composting; Lisa said they are working on it, but right now the Jefferson County school district will not allow it.

Mrs. Matthews said the Yes Club does a project every semester, and the GTS would be a good complement.

The GTS is driven by 4th and 5th graders, but Steele's 5th graders are already very busy. It was proposed that the GTS focus on the 3rd and 4th graders. Lisa said 3rd graders are a little young developmentally to take these leadership roles, but we could try.

We thanked Lisa and she left the meeting; the discussion continued.

It was pointed out that while the Yes Club focuses on the academic side of sustainability, the GTS would provide a great focus on the practical side.

Courtney Hertner said Lisa could provide us with the structure we initially need, and we can plan to take over eventually.

Mr. Capp said this is going to require a teacher leader. Mrs. Matthews said the idea of collaboration with Colorado College students is a great idea; we have lots of opportunity here, as many of Steele's students come from a background where they are aware of environmental issues. Megan volunteered to be the liaison between Steele and the GTS.

Courtney moved to explore the issue further; Megan seconded. The motion passed.

Principal's Report

Shortly after Principal Ryan Capp began his report, Jennifer had to leave. Trudi Jackson presided over the remainder of the meeting.

- The Veteran's Day celebration was a success; the guest of honor was very moved by the event. Mr. Ward put on a wonderful program.

- Classroom observations are in full swing, with lots of walk-through observations, including formal observations. He asks teachers questions regarding what misconceptions the students might have, and how they would address them. Fifth grade is working on adding fractions and understanding denominators.
- Five teachers are doing crisis intervention protocol training. This focuses on helping kids who are in distress back down from the distress, and how to physically keep kids safe. The goal of training is to keep kids from needing physical intervention.
- Four teachers went to responsive classroom training on 1 Nov, though many of the techniques are already in use in several classrooms. Responsive classroom is a cultural time to play short games, time to focus on being a classroom community, and lets teachers get to know the kids. We will look into 4-day training over the summer. A program called Capturing Kids' Hearts is similar, but very expensive.
- The Steele School Accountability Committee, a guidance group for metrics and goals for the school, meets November 13th at 5:15pm. In January or February, the SAC will be asked to perform an accountability audit for school spending. The district may be changing the way they do budgeting.

Budget

Treasurer Alisha O'Connor gave the budget report for activity from August 1 to November 12.

- Deposit has been placed on the Sips for Steele venue (Ivywild gym)
- King Soopers loyalty card remains great passive income; the last check was around \$900.
- Lora Woodworth moved to approve the budget report, Megan seconded; the motion carried.
- Teacher grant requests came in from Mrs. Barnett (\$285), Fuller (\$285), Olsen (\$285), Matthews (\$245), and Slothower (\$285 conference, \$139 travel – it was brought up that we do not pay for travel expenses) for the CCRI conference in February.
 - Alisha said we could provide \$150 each, but the budget for grants is \$1000 over the entire year.
 - Last year the PTA provided \$125 to each CCRI request.
 - Alisha said there could be some money raised from the massage event.
 - Erica Roberts asked if there is a deadline for grant requests; no, they trickle in.
 - Sarah said it would be nice to see other teachers ask for grants; it seems to be the same requestors every year. Floyd asked why other teachers don't apply. Lora Woodworth said they need to arrange for a substitute, and Courtney pointed out some teachers just don't enjoy conferences.
 - Sarah moved to approve \$125 for each grant request; Courtney seconded. The motion carried.
- 21st Century Library Project:

- Courtney said the balance for what Community Room still needs is a question for Mr. Capp and Ms. Ogren to answer. The priorities have shifted in the library with new library leadership. This conversation should be tabled until December.
- Tax penalty:
 - Amber Anderson discussed the PTA taxes. In 2017 we had to file an 1020EZ form because we made so much money. When she filed an amendment, she put fiscal year on tax form as stated in bylaws: June 1 to May 31. The IRS, however, thinks our fiscal year is incorrect. They kicked it back in August. We amended and re-submitted. The IRS thinks we're late on taxes and we owe \$1800. On November 6th, Amber filed an 853 abatement request, explaining we have used this fiscal year for the past 9 years, and we will work towards adjusting it in our bylaws. Aug 1 to July 31 will be the new fiscal year.
 - The IRS has put a hold on the account while they review, which could be 2-3 months. No more fees will accrue. The IRS and HR block reps both sound positive about being granted abatement.
 - Amber did taxes for 2018 and put the fiscal year to match IRS, not our bylaws.
 - Don Deloach said if the IRS goes through with fining the PTA, we need to contact the press.
 - Amber formally requested to amend the bylaws to change the fiscal year to the IRS's - Aug 1- Jul 31
 - Amber asked about the gym teacher remaining \$\$ leftover from last year. Some was Apex \$. Trudi said we will check into that.
- Amber asked about the gym teacher budget left over from last year; some of this was Apex money. Trudi will check into this.
- Lora said her professional org donated two kits for two classes promoting online safety/privacy, worth \$165.

Calendar Review

Vice President Trudi Jackson provided a calendar review.

- Book fair coming up; Lora will send out a Sign-up Genius for volunteers. Ali Ogren requests before- and after-school help. Lora said this year we are doing a grand event during Friday lunch - kids can have grandparents or other special people come into the book fair with them. This will give us 500 more scholastic dollars.
- The next Coffee pop-up will be November 22nd
- Santa will visit the gazebo December 8th
- The Pancake Breakfast will be December 20th
- Health screening will be February 28th
- Focus Day date is TBD
- Sips for Steele will be March 14th

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

- The Goat Patch Bleating Heart Night fundraiser netted \$400, in large part to a \$150 donation from a Steele family.
- The Stars Gymnastics fundraiser will net \$5 per child, with 20-25 kids expected.
- For the upcoming teacher/staff massage event, staff can sign up for a 12-minute massage; there are 12 spots available, first come, first served. Mr. Capp will organize a floating sub to cover teachers.

Trudi adjourned the meeting at 9:39am.

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