



# United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.  
Virtual meeting

## Attendees

Trudi Jackson  
Kate Hume  
Ann Griner  
Meg Ford  
Scot Hume  
Shanna Weaver  
Courtney Hertner  
Kristen Flores  
Julian Flores  
Ryan Capp  
Anna Donovan

## Governance

President Trudi Jackson called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. A quorum was present. Attendees introduced themselves.

Meg Ford said there are about 60 PTA members. We will keep pushing membership. Only two teachers are signed up, but they signed up as parents.

Secretary Ann Griner presented the meeting minutes from the September 2020 PTA meeting. Courtney Hertner moved to approve the minutes, and Kate Hume seconded. Motion carried.

Meg and Kate attended the El Paso County PTA training kickoff meeting. One of the items that came up was that PTAs should have a school accountability liaison. Kate said it's very important, but we don't know a lot about it. The accountability liaison functions like an ethics officer at a company. They would work with the county PTA. The scope is small unless something goes wrong. It's to make sure that as a PTA we are operating ethically, and if something came up it would get reported.

Courtney said we are supposed to have a liaison to the School Accountability Committee (SAC) – that person would report back and forth. The SAC is another parent-run committee that is concerned with data such as test scores. Henry Watts is the chair. Trudi will check in with him and get the meeting schedule. SAC is concerned with long-term success of the school. We are not entirely clear if the accountability role was supposed to be at the county PTA level or the school level.

Meg said our PTA insurance does not cover COVID-related claims, so we need to keep that in mind when planning events.

Kate said there some open positions for D11 PTA positions – they are posted on the El Paso County PTA site. There is a whole section about voting and what the PTA considers good choices for supporting schools.

## Budget

Treasurer Meg Ford presented the budget report.

- Big revenue items:
  - Freddy's Frozen Custard fundraiser, bringing in \$114.45
  - Pictures in the Park, bringing in \$815
- Membership went up a lot, generating \$660 (less \$375 fee to state PTA).
- \$2550 paid to teacher support accounts.
- We provided Sasquatch cookies as a staff appreciation event.
- King Soopers check should be arriving soon; reminder to everyone to link your King Soopers card to Steele PTA. Kate will send out that info again.
- Trudi thanked Kate for organizing the Freddy's fundraiser.
- Shanna Weaver moved to approve the budget report, and Courtney seconded. Motion carried.
- Courtney said she reviewed the monthly budget reconciliation report, and found it matches.
- Meg said the IRS penalty from last year has been waived per a letter from the IRS.
- Anna Donovan said she had a proposition for a speaker and request for funding. Dr. Scott Cypers at UC Anschutz in Denver is an expert in youth anxiety. He gave a presentation at a school counselor conference. Ms. Donovan said his info was very useful, with good tips for parents to try at home in managing kids' anxiety. She said Steele seeing a lot of kids with anxiety surrounding COVID. His fee is \$450 for 1.5 hrs, but the fee or the session length could be flexible. Some money may be available in the counseling budget. We could also consider sharing the cost with another PTA.
- Courtney asked if we could divert money from King Soopers funds – Meg said we just need to be very clear about what the fundraiser is for. The fee is very small, considering the caliber of speaker. Ms. Donovan will contact the Stratton counselor and present the idea.
- Courtney said she was going to check into a possible funding source.

## Principal's Report

Principal Ryan Capp provided the Principal's Report.

- Mr. Yenne had minor COVID symptoms this morning – minor cough and headache, but symptoms have already gone away. He is ok to be here and

- teach under current procedures – he is going to get a COVID test just to be safe. Ms. Ogren will cover his class the rest of the day. If his symptoms are completely gone by tonight, he can come back to teach tomorrow.
- This is what much of the front office’s work is like these days – reviewing documents from El Paso County and D11. We keep a spreadsheet of kids who are out, and why they are out. We haven’t identified any cases in the school community, but we have had third party cases. People have made very smart decisions with keeping kids home if a third party is ill.
  - Third through fifth graders took a panorama survey – a self-assessment of work habits and emotional regulation. Preliminary results are great and very interesting. Our kids believe they know how to do school, they can manage their workload – they are performing well compared to the rest of the nation. They scored very high on a sense of belonging to the community. The areas that are lower are the sense of “grit” – what resources can I access when things are getting tough. We will wait to get teacher surveys back before we formulate a plan. Teachers will gauge the Kindergarten through second grade community.
  - Things are going well otherwise. Kids are getting really good with masks, knowing what to do at recess. After the quarter, there are about 45 kids online. 256 is current enrollment. This is in line with other schools. Some kids went to private or charter, some other districts, some homeschool. And maybe some kids are being kept home instead of starting Kindergarten.
  - Trudi said she was planning to push the SAC a little more to see if more people would be interested in attending. Mr. Capp said he will help publicize the SAC meetings. He said typically, about six people come, and it’s the same six people every time. They discuss budget, survey results, and testing results.

### Calendar Review

Kate provided a calendar review.

- Shanna said she is still looking for volunteers for the winter gear swap. Lisa Korte will be taking the kids through the gym during the day to shop. Then it will move to the gazebo for the rest of the community. Need two volunteers for each shift to carry things. The volunteer shifts were covered.
- Kate mentioned the potluck on October 29<sup>th</sup>. November 12<sup>th</sup> is Chick Fil A spirit day. Mention you’re with the Steele PTA when you order at the drive-through. Courtney asked if we earmarking this fund for anything, with the idea that we could target it toward counselor/speaker support. Meg said we could also ask for a suggested donation toward the speaker fee. We could sell tickets, but we want to make sure there is no barrier to participation. Meg said we need to work on fundraising for a purpose. For teacher support, for example, we should work with Mr. Capp to identify specific needs at the school, so we can target fundraising for that.
- Trudi asked if we want to earmark the funds. Kate said if we do that, we should focus on teacher funds and community support. We can say we’re

focusing on online teacher support. Meg said looking at the budget, teacher accounts in the biggest item. We can ask Mr. Capp what we use it for if we want more detail. The library account is also a big-ticket item.

- Meg noted we need to respect rules against sunshine funds that are specifically targeted for certain families. We are not sure if the community support closet is strictly allowed. Meg is checking with the state PTA. This is just a caution about marking Chick fil A funds for “community support”.
- Courtney said a board she is on has some grant money available. Let’s find out how much money the school and the PTA are able to provide to cover Dr. Cypers. Then she can take it back to her board.

### Volunteer Report

Courtney presented the volunteer report.

- Courtney put out Sign Up Genius to gauge interest for a few opportunities (potlucks, classroom volunteers, library, silent auction) and got a decent response. Struggling because the silent auction is very nebulous – we’ll approach them more when we have a better idea of what we can do for an event.
- Courtney reminded everyone to track volunteer hours. The district can use this info to assign resources, so this helps the school.
- She suggested the PTA should send out its own email rather than tagging our news onto Steele Notes. Steele Notes is so long already, we think our information may be getting lost. We can also take advantage of our PTA membership list.

### New Business

- Staff appreciation is ongoing; we did a potluck and provided cookies from Sasquatch. Committees continue to provide small staff support gifts. Remember to show them some love!
- Reflections Art Program – someone needs to take the lead on this. It’s mostly run by the state PTA, and they provide the information for us to distribute. The theme this year is “I Matter Because...” Entries are due to the state PTA by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Ann will research KidPower options.

Trudi adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.