



United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 8:10 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Steele Elementary School, Library

Attendees

Morning Session

Ryan Capp
Jen Cooper
Trudi Jackson
Alisha O'Connor
Ann Griner
Alison Ogren
Josh West
Stephanie Risley
Brooke McClintock
Katie Lew
Ben Lew
Cindy DeLoach
Don DeLoach
Sarah Pont
Erica Roberts
Khristine Prickett
Naomi Skee
Courtney Hertner
Mateo Munoz
Michelle Rodriguez
Megan Harris

Evening Session

Ryan Capp
Jen Cooper
Trudi Jackson
Ann Griner
Kristen Flores
Lora Woodworth
Shanna Weaver
Amber Anderson
AnneMichelle Johnson
Jasmine Marchman

President Jennifer Cooper called the morning session to order at 8:10 a.m. and the evening session at 6:00 p.m. She shared a reflection for the meetings prior to inviting those in the room to introduce themselves.

Governance

- During the morning session, Secretary Ann Griner presented the May 2019 PTA meeting minutes for approval. Courtney Hertner moved to approve, and Stephanie Risley seconded. Motion unanimously carried.
- Provided a refresher on Parliamentary Procedure rules surrounding voting asked.
- Social media requests should be passed through the board for approval.

Principal's Report

- New music, physical education, and special education teachers are on board.
- Field day planning is in progress – it will be Thursday, Oct 3.
- Current enrollment is 283; with a number closer to 300, we can ask for more staffing and allocated hours.

- 1st grade has 27 children in each class, with a wait list of 12-15. When the class size reaches 29, the school can request an aide. Right now, the first grade team would prefer to not add more students due to classroom space constraints as well as the desire for the teachers to make connections with the students.
- District 11 enrollment is declining overall, though Steele has seen a smaller decline than the rest of the district.
- Trying to hire ELL and special education aides, which is challenging at this time of the school year.
- Started the year with teacher professional development. All D11 teachers/staff went to World Arena for mandatory training. First graders are trying Eureka Math/Engage New York curriculum, which is new to Steele. Other grade levels are exploring this curriculum. Part of Mr. Capp's work this year is to sit down and write lesson plans with teachers, with a focus on ensuring students have access to and engage in critical thinking exercises.
- Last year's Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessment scores were great in 3rd & 4th grade classes. 3rd grade saw a 20-point bump over previous ELA and math scores. 4th grade had the biggest growth score.
- The School Accountability Committee (SAC) is available for anyone who wants to get more involved in the metrics associated with test scores. Henry Watts will continue to chair the SAC. He will announce a meeting schedule soon; SAC meetings are usually Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.
- Steele Elementary's school performance rating is at 88 this year and last year, which is up from 74 the prior year.
- Community room renovation (part of the 21st Century Library program) update: The PTA put nearly \$14,000 into new furnishings that are kid-friendly/focused. Mr. Capp will provide updates as the furniture arrives and is installed.
- Planning for the Lego wall in the community room will begin soon.
- Beginning a social/emotional curriculum called Random Acts of Kindness, beginning with a unit on empathy. Besides being a benefit to the students, programs like this help when we request staffing funding for a school counselor in fall 2020. Since many of our students have a high socio-economic status (SES), programs like this help convince the district we need a counselor.
- Information to assist in middle school selection will be distributed by the 5th grade teachers in the January/February timeframe.

Budget

- During the morning session, Treasurer Alisha O'Connor presented the 2018-2019 Audit report, reminding the group that assistance will be needed for future audits (no accounting experience required). Cindy DeLoach moved to approve the 2018-2019 Audit report, and Courtney seconded. Motion unanimously carried.
- Alisha presented the proposed 2019-2020 budget.
 - Made \$350 on flipshack
 - \$506 on coffee popup
 - President Jennifer Cooper explained the direct ask campaign that is planned in lieu of the Apex program. We will kick off the direct ask campaign on Sep 13th with an aggressive goal of \$20,000. We were not able to allocate all of last year's funds to the 21st Century Library program, because the PTA needed funds for this year's expenses (teacher grants,

etc). We will finish the learning space program, and use excess for other programs like breakfast buddies, school break food assistance, and art/science nights. We want to be solvent to support teacher grants and community fund projects.

- Megan Harris moved to approve the 2019-2020 budget, and Courtney seconded. Motion unanimously carried.
- Alisha created treasury forms for deposit and reimbursement. These forms must be signed by two PTA board members. Hard copies are available in the front office or requested electronically. We will work to put them on the Steele PTA website. Expenditures should be pre-approved.

Calendar Review

- Picture day is Tuesday, Sep 10th. The PTA meeting will move to the library.
- Running club practices are Thursdays only, with meets on Tuesdays.
- Donna Guthrie (founder of the Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival) proposed a family photography fundraiser for the PTA. Photographer Beverly Bender and assistant Megan Morillo will offer 2 digital photos for \$20. Families would sign up for a time slot and have photos taken in Monument Valley Park on Oct 5th.
- Bleating Heart Night for Steele will be at Goat Patch Brewing Sep 24th. A dollar for every pint sold that night will go to the PTA.
- Book fair will be Thursday afternoon, Sep 19th. PTA members will get an early access shopping opportunity.
- The health screening has moved; date is TBD.
- The winter clothing and costume swap will be Wednesday, September 18 for PTA members only and open school-wide on Thursday, September 19.

Old Business

- 2018-2019 Volunteer of the Year is Cindy DeLoach.
- Community volunteers Jim and Beth Jones will be specially recognized for their tireless work in the library. Lora is working on getting a plaque for the library and a gift card.

New Business

- We have chairs in place for several projects:
 - Monster Mash dance – Carrie Kalmanowitz
 - Used book sale – Lora Woodworth
 - Winter clothing/costume swap – Shanna Weaver
 - Shakespeare – Sarah Pont
 - Enrichment – Erica Roberts
 - Someone Special dance – Courtney Hertner and Whitney Calhoun
 - Sips for Steele – Jasmine Marchman
 - Carnival – Jason Pachon
 - Focus day is still vacant – it's not too late to volunteer to chair something – the sooner the better.
- The Green Team is working on scheduling meetings, and may adjust those times to ensure students can get involved.
- Lora is working with staff on a digital/cyber literacy policy.
- Jasmine suggested a backpack swap at the end of the school year, and noted she has heard questions on the allocation of funds from last year's Sips for

Steele fundraising. We will work to distribute information on the progress on the 21st Century Library project.

- We are discontinuing the “Add to the Basket” program from last year. This year, school social worker Lisa Korte will let us know exactly what Steele families in need may require.

Adjournment

Jennifer adjourned the morning meeting at 9:12 a.m. and the evening meeting at 6:58 p.m.