



United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 8:10 a.m.

In-Person Meeting with Zoom option

Attendees

Trudi Jackson	Olivia Sebastian
Kate Hume	Lori Blackmore
Meg Ford	Ellen Seel
Mark Perrault	Rob Seel
Meg Harris	Jordan Bridwell (Zoom)
Scot Hume	Jen Cooper (Zoom)
Alex Thornton	Ryan Capp

Governance

President Trudi Jackson called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m. A quorum was present.

Trudi introduced the board:

- Trudi Jackson: President
- Kate Hume: Vice President
- Meg Ford: Secretary
- Mark Perrault: Treasurer
- Meg Harris: Volunteer Coordinator

All attendees introduced themselves.

Trudi presented the minutes from the 24 August 2021 meeting.

Meg Harris motioned to approve the 24 August 2021 8:10 am meeting minutes. Scot Hume seconded. Motion carried.

Meg Harris motioned to approve the 24 August 2021 6:00 pm meeting minutes. Scot Hume seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Review and Budget

Treasurer Mark Perrault presented the monthly financial report.

- Not a lot of activity in the month of August. The PTA donated \$5100 to the school for Teacher Support Accounts and \$1000 for the Library.
- Mark updated the budget with money for Green Team based on the vote from last month's meeting. Mark will add the \$500 for the Gaga Ball Pit to the 2021-2022 budget based on last month's meeting approval.
- Trudi said we are still trying to figure out what our major fundraiser will be for the year and what we want to spend the money on. We plan to do a survey

about what people want for the school. Mr. Capp had suggested beautification, garden, etc. Turf was a suggestion that kids have asked for. Mr. Capp says turf is \$80-100K and there is a drainage problem underneath the field but said we could look into it more. Trudi said we don't necessarily want to commit people to raising that much money, unless there are some really committed parents. Mr. Capp said that kind of movement would get the district to look into it. Mr. Capp said that Steele is a great candidate for rebuilding, which may be coming in a few years according to the district refurbishment plan. When that occurs, that may be a perfect time to address the playground.

- Mark reiterated that it is important to have a target when we have our fundraiser.
- Meg Harris suggested a school community garden. Trudi said the garden was the focus for the 2020 fundraiser that had to be cancelled. A garden would take a group to lead and maintain it. Trudi asked Ryan if the district would be responsible for water and he seemed to think they would.
- Meg Harris also asked for an increase in budget from \$50 to \$100 for the Walk to School event on October 6 to provide healthier food options. If we want to do a pop-up coffee the same day, we could have free snacks for the kiddos and then coffee for sale for parents. Lori said her husband made breakfast burritos one year and could do that again. Mark said he could probably get free coffee. Lori said she would talk to Karen Ellis (who previously did these events) about where she got the cinnamon rolls.
- Meg Harris motioned to approve the August 2021 Finance Report and Scot Hume seconded. Motion carried.

Principal's Report

Principal Ryan Capp provided the Principal's Report.

- Feels like we know school now! Kids are getting into a routine and doing well.
- Ryan reiterated the three academic goals for the year – social/emotional regulation, setting goals, self-reflection. The leadership team met and assigned three small groups for each of those sections. The emotional regulation group has decided to first rebuild understanding of recess rules across the school.
- Reminder - No school Monday. Professional development and work day.
- COVID- We're doing a good job of avoiding group quarantines. We've had individuals out, but not big group quarantines. The front office is doing an amazing job of handling and coordinating that. Ms. Brakefield is new – please say hello! Huge support already. Masking in school seems to be perfunctory – kids are doing a great job and turned that corner quite easily.
- Mrs. Toombs was in charge last week and did a great job.
- School Accountability Council meeting tomorrow at 4:30 pm – Henry Watts is chair of SAC. Usually 5-6 folks come. It can be a meeting where people can get into the details a bit more, like our CMAS (state exam for 3rd-5th) results. CMAS was super limited last year, but we do have some data. We will also talk about other calendars of testing, general data and growth data for DIBELS (K-2 or 3).

The group's job is really to keep Mr. Capp accountable. There are a lot of educators on it and they ask good questions. Join us if you'd like.

- Mr. Capp would love to put out a survey to all staff members with 3-4 things that are options for a fundraiser. We should maybe also develop a survey for parents, students. Trudi and Ryan can meet to set a timeline for that.
- Ryan believes we can do volunteers in classrooms now with masks, but will check with his director to make sure.
- Enrichment discussion – no progress since August meeting. Has the status of that changed? We still need a coordinator. There is apprehension that it may be a repeat of 2020 where we start it and then have to abandon it. Ryan will check with his director. Meg Harris suggested we could do a shortened period of 3-4 weeks and end before November so we could do something outside – yoga in the park, Kids on Bikes, etc. Ryan said Kids on Bikes is working on getting going. Lori said she could head up yoga.

Calendar

Vice President Kate Hume presented the calendar review:

- Pictures in the Park – October 2: Information and the sign-up genius went out Friday. Filling up fast. Be sure to sign up! Fundraiser - two, high-quality photos of your family for \$20. This year it is open to the Old North End community as well.
- Walk to School – October 6: We are still looking for a volunteer to lead that up but we have a plan just in case. Most of the work is communication and then setting up a table/stand at the school to recognize the kids who walked.
- Chick-Fil-A Spirit Day – October 12: Show up to Chick-Fil-A and say you are there to support Steele PTA.
- Halloween Event: We want to do an event for Halloween but based on COVID will not likely be able to have Monster Mash, like in the past. Trying to be careful, but still want to do something that is community related. Lori asked if we could have Monster Mash outside on the green field by the gazebo. Trudi said we could certainly look into it.

Previous Business

Buddy Family Program

- Meg Ford presented the Buddy Family Program – about 14 or 15 families signed up. Kick-off event will be at Good Neighbor. After that, it will be up to the buddy families to coordinate how and when they want to connect.

Green Team Superheroes

- Meg Harris presented an update on Green Team. She said not much has happened because none of the flyers went out with 3rd-5th graders. They would like to get about 10-12 kids. If you have a child in 3rd-5th or know someone in those grades, encourage them to apply. Meetings will be Wednesday mornings from 7:10-7:50.

Gaga Ball Pit

- Trudi presented the update on the Gaga Ball Pit/Eagle Scout Project. She has sent a few messages to the Eagle Scout, Henry Stevens, who proposed it but has not heard anything back.

Directory

- Ann Griner and Kate Hume are working on getting the directory going.

New Business

Staff Support/Appreciation

Trudi said that last year we really focused on supporting the staff and that this year we are trying to focus on community. Lisa Korte, the school social worker, said kids are good in terms of family resources, food, and clothes; but we could really work on staff support. Trudi suggested we could do bagels for staff on Monday, September 20 and maybe a potluck on one of the staff days in October. Meg Harris suggested we assign parent volunteers to staff members, like last year, to periodically bring in a little gift or card or flowers. Should not be a burden financially, but just a way to support teachers. Meg suggested we start with the list of people from volunteer forms.

Pop-Up Coffee

Trudi asked if Lori would be prepared to help with pop-up coffees. Lori said yes. If we could do it in conjunction with Walk to School Day, that would be great. We would need three parents or so from 7:30-8:00.

Mr. Perez Anniversary

Lori said Mr. Perez has a 25-year anniversary at Steele coming up. Mandy (?) is interested in heading up a celebration for him. Trudi will get in touch with Mandy.

Seminars/Coffee Talks

Trudi said that at the last meeting we talked about the idea of seminars and coffee talks. We have a lot of people with expertise and knowledge they could share with teachers and parents. Ryan suggested coffee talks at the end of the month on Fridays after Steele TV. Trudi encouraged having a Zoom option and suggested considering an evening option for seminars. Kate said we had some great ideas last meeting and we haven't had much time since then, but we heard those ideas and are very interested in getting something going. Perhaps we could talk to Ms. Donovan about ideas. Trudi will talk with Alex offline for his suggestions as well.

Survey – Fundraising Events

We discussed this earlier – no one had anything to add.

As the meeting wrapped up there was some discussion about how meetings will be held as the weather gets colder. A lot of that will likely depend on the status of COVID.

Trudi adjourned the meeting at 9:02 am.