



# United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

In-Person and Zoom/Virtual Meeting

## Attendees

Trudi Jackson

Kate Hume

Meg Ford

Ryan Capp

Lori Blackmore

Mark Perrault (Zoom)

Terry Spotts (Zoom)

Maggie Hart (Zoom)

Dianna Starkus (Zoom)

Andrew Woodrow (Zoom)

Nuno Rosa (Zoom)

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## Governance

President Trudi Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was present. Everyone introduced themselves.

Trudi summarized the minutes from the 9 November 2021 PTA meeting, which were also available for review in print and on the PTA website.

Terry Spotts moved to approve the 9 November 2021 meeting minutes. Kate Hume seconded. Motion carried.

## Financial Review and Budget

Trudi explained that we shared the October financial report via email following the 9 November meeting. All responses approved that report.

Treasurer Mark Perrault presented the November finance report.

Chick Fil A fundraiser was a success. King Soopers always does well for the PTA. There was some revenue from the pop-up coffee during Walk-to-School. The PTA has about \$16,000 as of the end of November and is in a good position to support things like the Pancake Breakfast and teacher grants.

Mark set a goal of \$10,000 for the big fundraiser and said we need to lock in a date and venue for that event.

Diana Starkus moved to approve the finance report. Andrew Woodrow seconded. Motion carried.

Trudi explained that we have a budget annually of \$1000 for teacher grants. The PTA has received requests from four teachers (Slothower, Barnett, Fuller, Olson) for grants to cover the cost of the CCIRA Conference on Literacy registration. The cost would be \$270 per teacher. Mr. Capp was asked if he anticipates there may be other requests for grants in the second half of the year. Mr. Capp said he thought this would be the main event for the year and has not heard of any requests from other teachers. Traditionally, there have not been other things that come in the second half of the year unless they are big things that cost thousands of dollars in which case Mr. Capp asks the district for funding.

In response to a question about how the PTA comes up with the \$1000 budget for teacher grants, Trudi explained that the number is based on historical requests and needs for conferences and seems to be fairly stable from year to year.

Mark said we are in good financial condition to cover the full cost for the conference registration fees, which would be \$80 total over the budgeted amount.

Maggie Hart moved to approve spending of \$270 per teacher to support the full registration cost. Andrew seconded. Motion passed.

Mark suggested we include the PTA support of the teacher grants in Steele Notes so parents know what we do as a PTA. Meg suggested that we add a regular section in the Steele Notes highlighting what the PTA supported that week or month.

### [Principal's Report](#)

Principal Ryan Capp provided the Principal's Report.

### **Pancake Breakfast on Friday**

The PTA will sponsor a Pancake Breakfast this Friday, following Steele TV. Students will cycle through the gym for pancakes. PTA volunteers are welcome to get a plate, but otherwise this is a kid-only event because of the amount of time and food that would be required. It's also Pajama Day. It's a fun morning all around.

Thank you to the PTA for the support on pancake breakfast and for the festive decorations in the hallway. The students really like the winter wonderland.

### **COVID Report**

Mr. Capp said that he thinks we are currently doing ok with COVID, but with some of the policy changes lately, we don't always have as much information. There is one positive case in a grade level right now. The school is hoping to keep everyone safe through the holidays.

### **State of the School/Pathway Discussions**

Mr. Capp has been hosting sessions for parents to discuss the direction of the school and whether or not to apply to be a STEM or Arts Integration Pathway School. Next session is this week on Thursday at 9am – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D49ADAA22A6F49-steele>. The feedback from parents is really important – the most important on this process. A lot of themes are coming out. People seem to be in favor of a pathway idea but don't want Steele to be over-taken by a pathway. That's the big theme coming out of these meetings. Mr. Capp said the school will absolutely honor what people are asking for. Teachers are aware of this trend and were anticipating it. We want to make sure that Steele remains what it is and what people chose Steele for, while adding to what is offered. Mr. Capp is hoping to have an in-person meeting in January. Staff will decide whether or not to apply for a pathway by January 12. The application due date is February 15. The cabinet will meet a week or two later and decide by spring break which schools will be pathways. The School Board will approve by April. If Steele is not a pathway school, Mr. Capp still intends to take on some different kinds of work and will communicate what those are.

Maggie asked about how long it takes to implement once a school is chosen to be a pathway. Mr. Capp said that 2022-2023 school year would be a learning year, but that Steele would start that year anyway. The fall of 2023 is when we would expect to be fully funded and staffed for that program.

In response to a question about how the transition to a pathway would look for existing students, Mr. Capp said that the STEM school he visited had a whole block of time for engineering that probably took away from social studies and science and that probably wouldn't work at Steele. Instead, students may learn about engineering practices that fit with the other curriculum. Alternately, Steele may choose more than one pathway and switch back and forth so that students have access to things they don't currently.

Lori requested that Mr. Capp share the feedback he is receiving from parents. Mr. Capp said he plans to provide that by the end of the week. So far, there has not been a strong preference for a particular pathway. There is an overwhelming directive that parents want Steele to remain a strong school that is community-based.

## Calendar Review

**Pancake Breakfast:** December 17 – Thank you in advance to our volunteers. Trudi especially thanked Megan Harris for coordinating.

**Hour of Giving** – The PTA is still looking for a plan for the fundraiser in February or March. If you or someone you know loves to plan events, consider volunteering to run the fundraiser. Please contact Megan Harris if interested.

**Seminars** – Anna Donovan, the school counselor, has provided information on potential seminars for parents. PTA is working on finding a sponsor to support these hour-long

sessions and is looking to partner with other schools. Trudi provided an update that Stratton is currently experiencing a lot of COVID cases and is not ready to partner. Anna will check back in with Stratton in January.

**Someone Special Dance:** Lori Blackmore will organize the Someone Special Dance, which typically happens around Valentine's Day.

### New Business

**Decorations:** Meg and Kate decorated the school as a winter wonderland.

**Gift for Kids:** The PTA sent hot cocoa and a candy cane home with kids today as a festive gesture in lieu of trying to do a holiday movie.

Thank you to Meg Ford for the decorations and Megan Harris for the hot cocoa and candy canes.

### Previous Business

**Give a Lift Program:** Megan Harris' company Hunt or Gather donated boxes of food (\$300) for Thanksgiving and will be coordinating to donate for winter break as well. Trudi explained that we coordinate with the School Social Worker, Lisa Korte, to identify needs anonymously and Alli Klein, our community coordinator, reaches out to fill those needs. Kate explained that Megan Harris also has a lot of Hunt or Gather members in the community who contribute as well.

**Green Team Super Heroes:** Megan Harris is trying to coordinate Green Team. The program is an environmental and leadership program for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. Hopefully, the Green Team director, Lisa, will come to Steele in the New Year to pitch the program to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> classes and get applications. Look for that in the New Year if you have 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Hour of Giving:** The PTA's idea for a major fundraiser this year is to have an hour of giving which is one hour to meet fundraising targets and then providing the target is met, not ask for more for the rest of the year. There would be an in-person event option, but the giving would be online as well. PTA needs to lock in a date and venue. Mark said we should aim for February. Trudi asked if anyone had any connections to venues. Lori said Mike has a connection to Red Leg Brewery.

Terry asked for more information on exactly what the event would be. Kate explained that the Hour of Giving would be an open hour, almost like a telethon, during which the PTA would ask people to pledge money. One thing the Steele community has been missing during the past few years is the opportunity to come together with each other. Therefore, the PTA would like to do the hour of giving in conjunction with a community event. Last year the fundraiser was Steele the Show, like Dancing with the Stars. Prior to COVID, the fundraiser was a silent auction event, Sips for Steele.

Terry said she has a friend with a venue on the west side but wasn't sure how close to the school the PTA wants the event to be.

**Fundraising Goals:** Mr. Capp explained that we did a survey to find out what kinds of projects people in the Steele community may want to support. There were not a lot of responses and they were pretty spread out. There was some convergence around Community Garden, Gaga Ball Pit, and School Beautification. The Gaga Ball Pit is something fun that kids can do at recess. Megan Harris has some good ideas for the Community Garden and has organized for Greenway Gardens to come speak at the January PTA meeting. Trudi suggested that garden beds and gaga ball pits may be similar in construction and could potentially go hand-in-hand. Diana said she fully supports both those ideas – the garden and Gaga Ball Pit.

**Focus Day:** Trudi said that Focus Day is an annual program that is one day focused on a particular theme. Past themes have included music, Olympics, books, countries. The PTA sets up rooms aligned with the theme and the kids go from room to room for a fun day on that topic. Trudi said that organizing Focus Day is a lot of work. Kate organized last year and said once you organize Focus Day, the volunteers will come. The PTA is looking for someone to coordinate Focus Day. Trudi said one suggestion would be to do a garden theme to go along with the community garden. Another suggestion was an Emergency Responder theme – fire, police, ambulance, etc. If you have any interest in organizing the whole event or just a room, especially if you have any particular expertise, please let the PTA know. Lori said her childhood school did Foods around the World. Trudi suggested an around the world theme with food as just a part of it. Mr. Capp said it often works well to do a Friday early in March and that March 4 or 11 would be a good Friday to choose this year.

**Enrichment:** Trudi explained that Enrichment is an after-school program where outside vendors, teachers, and volunteers come in to do a 6-week session on different topics. Past years programs have included yoga, dance, chess, lego, American Girl Dolls, airplane design, healthy snacks, biking. The PTA needs someone to organize Enrichment for the second semester this year. A lot of the work is getting the different vendors and organizing payment. Mr. Capp said he would like to shift the responsibility of coordinating Enrichment to the school (someone in the front office) with support from a PTA volunteer/coordinator. He said Steele would be in a better position to make that shift as early as Fall 2022.

Trudi adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.