



# United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Zoom/Virtual Meeting

## Attendees

Trudi Jackson  
Kate Hume  
Meg Ford  
Lori Blackmore  
Terry Spotts  
Andrew Witherow  
Ryan Capp

President Trudi Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. A quorum was present.

## Governance

The last PTA meeting was 11 January 2022. Secretary Meg Ford presented the minutes.

Kate Hume moved to approve the 11 January 2021 meeting minutes. Terry Spotts seconded. Motion carried.

Trudi explained that we need to submit our Membership Report to the state PTA and will be working on that.

## Financial Review and Budget

Treasurer Mark Perrault was not present. The finance report was presented through the Zoom chat so everyone could see it. Trudi mentioned that the only thing missing from the report was the checks for the teacher grants, which she expects will be written in February because Mark has just received the grant paperwork.

Lori Blackmore motioned to approve the January 2022 finance report. Kate Hume seconded. Motion carried.

## Principal's Report

Principal Ryan Capp provided the Principal's Report. Mr. Capp was happy to report that this month we are really just talking about school. Steele is having a lot of success with the basketball program. In the past, there was just one team each for girls and boys. Now there is a newer model where all kids can play – some kids are selected to play the competitive games, but all kids make the teams and there is a big round robin

tournament (3 v 3, mixed gender). Kids are doing a great job! Thanks to Mr. Marchiani and Ms. Jones for heading that up.

Mr. Capp said staff is still working on the Arts Integration application. A team of people are writing it together – Ms. Cousino, Ms. Slothower, Ms. Patchen, Ms. Donovan, Ms. Niemeier, and Mr. Capp. The whole staff provided input for the application questions. A couple of parents have said that they would be willing to write letters of support. Trudi asked what the parameters should be. Mr. Capp will send an email to Trudi with the application document and the website for the A+ Organization.

Four teachers are headed to CCIRA Conference on Literacy (<https://www.ccira.org>) on Thursday. Thank you to the PTA for support. Mr. Capp will ask one of two of them to present at PTA next month.

Taylor Mason is leaving Steele. Her last day is tomorrow. She is one of our Special Education Aides and has been with us since she was 18 years old. She has really grown with Steele and has completed college in the meantime. Mr. Capp said Steele is super proud of her. As a bi-product, Steele is not going to be able to hire for her position. However, Steele does not have a very big Special Education load and can shift around to cover everything. Staff has also moved things around to support our students from Afghanistan, who are doing great. In April, some of those teachers will be asked to help with Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing.

Teachers are a little tired right now, but a normal year tired rather than a COVID year tired. After school activities like basketball and the PTA Someone Special Dance are really helpful for giving people hope and energy.

Mr. Capp provided an example of what he's seeing in classrooms lately. He observed kindergarteners working on writing today and saw some really strong writers who want to share their writing with Mr. Capp, other teachers, and classmates. There is such an atmosphere of positive risk-taking and an acceptance of positive criticism that sets the stage for the next five years. The kindergarten teachers do it with such patience and wisdom of what kindergarteners are ready for.

CMAS testing this year will feel like a beginning in a lot of ways because there is not any data to be tracking. Last year's testing was limited. Parents should have received the results from CMAS. Mr. Capp said he will look into whether PowerSchool and CMAS are linked up yet.

SAC meeting will be tomorrow, Wednesday February 9, and anyone is welcome if they would like more detail.

[Calendar Review/Previous Business](#)

**Someone Special Dance:** Lori Blackmore presented on the Someone Special Dance which will be this Friday, February 11 at 6:30 pm. Lori and volunteers will go to the gym on Thursday night after the basketball games to put up all the lights. Christian Murdock, the photojournalist for the Gazette, will be doing all the photos for the event. Lori had some questions about logistics including sound, ticket sales, and snacks. Meg said she can print QR codes and cash box deposit receipts. Mr. Capp said he would connect Lori with Ali Ogren to figure out the sound system and microphone. Tickets have been wrist bands in the past. Trudi suggested that we don't need to hand out paper tickets. Meg suggested keeping a guest list of people who paid and anyone else can pay at the door. Trudi will put another message out tomorrow to request more help for food and to announce the dance. A parent asked if they needed an adult to accompany them. Trudi and Ryan clarified that yes, parents should accompany each child. Flyers should be sent out tomorrow as well. Trudi will ask Ali Ogren to advertise the dance on Steele TV Friday. Kate will follow-up with the print shop on the posters. Thank you to Lori for leading the organization for this dance.

**Souper Bowl Lunch for Teachers:** A Sign-Up-Genius has gone out requesting volunteers to make a soup or salad for Monday, February 14. This annual tradition is a nice way to say thanks to our teachers at the beginning of February.

**Focus Day:** Focus day will be March 11. Karen Walldorf will be leading this effort with Megan Harris. They have secured three presenters so far.

**Hour of Giving:** Trudi said that the PTA will plan to do the event at Stir on a Thursday or Sunday in March. Once Someone Special Dance is over, Lori and Trudi can talk with Stir about a specific date in March. Trudi and Meg have been in touch with Josh West about setting up an EventBrite page or a similar platform for the Hour of Giving Event.

### Previous Business

**Garden Project:** Trudi gave an update on behalf of Megan Harris. Megan has been in touch with the District and is waiting on some information before selecting a particular location for the garden. Mr. Capp provided an update that the District has been trying to address water issues in the front of the building. Megan is currently thinking the garden will be just north of the bike racks along the fence. Trudi said she has had at least one person who wasn't at the last meeting who was excited about getting involved.

**Green Team:** Trudi provided an update on behalf of Megan Harris. Some District energy employees came in today to talk with the students about how to measure energy use from lighting in each room. The students will do an energy survey on the lighting and then present the information to the teachers.

**Seminar Series:** Trudi spoke with Anna Donovan, the school counselor, who said that Stratton Elementary is on board to participate in the seminar series. The total cost for a 60-minute session is \$750. The PTA and Anna Donovan could seek additional participation from Columbia Elementary if needed. Trudi asked if we had previously discussed funding this. Meg said she thought we had talked about this being part of the Community Support line item in the budget, which is \$500.

**Officers:** The PTA is looking for new officers for next year. Trudi suggested that Mr. Capp and Shauna Prince may have good ideas of parents who want to get involved.

### New Business

**Colorado Rapids:** The Colorado Rapids contacted Trudi about doing a fundraiser. The community would have to buy at least ten tickets and then the PTA would receive \$5 for every ticket. Trudi said she thought there would not be a great deal of interest since the Switchbacks are so close by and the Rapids are far away. Kate suggested that we see if the Switchbacks do something similar.

**Bleating Hearts Night:** Steele PTA has reserved May 31 at Goat Patch for Bleating Hearts Night fundraiser. Though this date is after school is out, the good news is that the PTA receives money based on all sales that evening, not just from Steele families that show up.

**Chipotle:** Kate said that Chipotle's one-year limit is coming up. Last year the PTA used Chipotle as a fundraiser but in the past the 5<sup>th</sup>-grade parents have used it as a fundraiser for Estes Park. Mr. Capp will look into who is leading the Estes Park effort for 5<sup>th</sup>-grade parents.

Next month's meeting will be March 15 because there is no school on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Trudi adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.