



# United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 8:10 a.m.

Zoom/Virtual Meeting

## Attendees

Trudi Jackson

Kate Hume

Meg Ford

Mark Perrault

Lori Blackmore

Meg Harris

Terry Spotts

Ryan Capp

Draft

President Trudi Jackson called the meeting to order at 8:21 a.m. A quorum was present.

## Governance

Treasurer Mark Perrault confirmed that there has been one new family membership in the past few months.

The last PTA meeting was 8 February 2022. Secretary Meg Ford shared the minutes digitally for everyone to review.

Kate Hume moved to approve the 8 February 2022 meeting minutes. Megan Harris seconded. Motion carried.

## Financial Review and Budget

Treasurer Mark Perrault presented the finance report. He said the fundraiser collected about \$12,000. Mark said he can go through the donations and thank the donors. He suggested that we publicly recognize and thank anyone who donated over \$250 in the next Steele Notes. Mark also suggested that we divide the names amongst us to write thank you notes. There was discussion about what “designated giving” is – money that is given for a specific purpose.

Kate thanked Trudi and Mark for all their efforts putting together the Evening of Giving. Trudi thanked Lori.

Mark said that Judy from Garden of the Gods Resort donated \$2500 and offered to cover the upkeep costs of the garden for as long as her grandchildren are at Steele (the next 6 or 7 years).

The Someone Special Dance brought in around \$1000. Our King Soopers quarterly check went through. The expenses for Focus Day have not yet been submitted but are expected to come through in March.

Megan Harris motioned to approve the February 2022 finance report. Kate Hume seconded. Motion carried.

### Principal's Report

Principal Ryan Capp provided the Principal's Report.

Mr. Capp said that Focus Day was like the doors opened and suddenly the school is in the mindset of being able to do things with kids in a variety of ways. Mr. Capp hopes we are in the endemic phase. He offered a big thank you to Karen for all of her work on Focus Day, thank you to all of the volunteers, and thank you for the fundraising.

He and Megan Harris have been in contact about the garden process. The District put \$250,000 aside for the grounds at Steele to improve drainage. They have scaled that project back and are working with Steele to make sure it doesn't interfere with the garden project. The grounds improvement will happen this summer. Trudi mentioned that Christy Howard had suggested that we could repaint the map and other designs on the asphalt as part of the garden building day. Ryan recommended holding off on that due to the District plan. They will probably rip up some asphalt on the northside of the walkway, redo the walkway itself, and regrade the ground just to the south of the walkway. Mr. Capp is hoping we get a wider walkway with shapes in it to make clear it's the front of the building.

There is a lot coming up at school. There will be a choir concert, art night, kid-led spring conferences (probably the last week of April). CMAS testing will be happening in full this spring, starting the week of April 11 – 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades will have Language Arts and Math, 5<sup>th</sup> grade will have Language Arts, Math, and Science, three sessions for each subject (70-90 minutes each). Parents do have the option to opt out – they would just need to send an email to Mr. Capp and Michelle Patchen. There is no data from previous years to compare. There were fewer opt-outs than Mr. Capp expected last year. Mr. Capp will put out more CMAS information after spring break.

Pathways Update: Steele's interview with the District and the arts team was postponed until today after school, 2:30-4:00. Some students are invited to that. Steele may not find out until right after Spring Break. Five schools have applied for the Arts Pathway. Most of them are centrally located. One school applied for Outdoor Education, one or

two applied for STEM, no one applied for a Language pathway. Mr. Capp was thinking about talking to Brandon Comfort, the District lead for the pathways program, about adding one or two more Arts pathways and build the downtown area as kind of a hub.

The leadership changes at the district have been surprising and significant. Mr. Capp says he does not watch the board meetings so that he can remain focused on our kids. The previous superintendent is back for 3-4 months and does provide some stability. Glen Gustafson has come back as the CFO and really understands the District funds well. Mr. Capp said his director is doing a great job of trying to buffer and help the focus remain on kids.

Read Across America Week was a very special week. Lots of special guests came in to read.

Steele is still working on what staffing looks like for next fall. Mr. Capp has no concrete information yet and will probably speak more to that at the SAC meeting tomorrow. He may ask for additional support with messaging to appeal for another teacher. The District is basing Steele staffing on the enrollment numbers from October (244) which was the lowest this year. Mr. Capp thinks they will likely ask Steele to work with 11 teachers. He is watching our sign-ups – Kinder is really high (27). He's used to seeing 11 or so. Steele is losing a small class of 5<sup>th</sup> graders. When Mr. Capp does the numbers, Steele could easily be back up to 270 next fall and I think we can make a strong case for that and requesting 12 classroom teachers. SAC meeting will be at 5:00pm tomorrow.

Trudi said that Jessica Gemm, leader of SAC, reached out to her after Dr. Thomas' last day to see if there is anything the PTA and SAC can do to support the staff through the leadership changes. Mr. Capp said the staff feels really supported right now after Focus Day and the treats that show up.

Megan Harris asked if she and the garden team could connect with Mr. Capp to go over final garden planning. Mr. Capp said he could invite one of the project managers from the district to attend as well.

Trudi asked Mr. Capp if the Chipotle fundraiser would be needed for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders for Estes Park fundraising or if the PTA can use it. Mr. Capp just found out that the bus fee is going to go up \$900 from the last trip. The District doesn't always have the buses for the time. The nice bus is really expensive. There was talk about doing a movie night or using the Chipotle fundraiser. Kate said she will reach out and reserve a date at Chipotle to schedule for 5<sup>th</sup> grade fundraising, whether it goes toward this year or next year.

## Calendar Review

**Goat Patch:** May 31 was the only day available to do the Tuesday night fundraiser at Goat Patch. It is the day after Memorial Day, after school has ended. But the PTA will receive funds from all pints sold that night.

### Previous Business

**Garden Project:** Megan Harris will be meeting with the Greenway Garden team after the PTA meeting this morning to plan out the garden. Even if the PTA just gets the beds up this spring and then plants in the fall, that's fine. We will just take it one step at a time. Megan said she will send out an update report in the next few days. She will meet with Mr. Capp after Spring Break to get going.

Thank yous: Lori did an amazing job on the Someone Special Dance. The Souper Bowl lunch went well. Anna Donovan's seminar did not have many people attend. Kate suggested that if we do it again it should be scheduled on a day when we haven't been out of school for two days. Thank you to Karen for Focus Day. It was a lot of fun and a great success.

Draft

**Officers:** The PTA is looking for new officers for next year. There was discussion about how best to communicate/recruit. Terry suggested sending letters home. The PTA will send letter home and electronically.

Teacher Appreciation: May 2 is Teacher Appreciation Week.

Walk/Bike to School: May 4. Laura Woodworth had reminded Trudi that this event is coming up.

### New Business

Meg asked if we are planning to do a Spring Carnival. Trudi said she could put out a call to see if anyone wants to organize it. Trudi wondered if Mr. Marchiani is planning to do a Field Day this year and if we should do something in conjunction with that. There was a discussion of doing something after school on Field Day.

Trudi adjourned the meeting at 9:24 am.