



United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting

Attendees

Trudi Jackson
Kate Hume
Ann Griner
Meg Ford
Scot Hume
Shanna Weaver
Courtney Hertner
Naomi Skee
Ryan Capp

Governance

President Trudi Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present. Attendees introduced themselves.

Vice President Kate Hume and Treasurer Meg Ford gave a membership update; there were no new members since the last meeting.

Secretary Ann Griner presented the meeting minutes from the October 2020 PTA meeting. Ann moved to approve the minutes, and Courtney Hertner seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

- Naomi Skee, a Steele parent and owner of Dance Wonderland, proposed a fundraiser similar to one she did for her own dance studio, adapted for COVID restrictions. The dance studio fundraiser consisted of dinner and show at home with a catered meal and viewing a recorded recital. There was a dance lesson and a silent auction. We could do a theme and have people dress up. Maybe a dance lesson, scavenger hunt – arts and crafts kit? Everything was done through Eventbrite – that includes the playlist, zoom, video, auction platform. To access the show, you have to have a paid ticket. Catered dinner could be a separate ticket in case it's out of people's price range. Some people just donated, some bought silent auction items – it works for out of town guests, too. Naomi had to pay for the venue and a lot of other overhead, so it was \$69 per person for dinner and show, \$25 for show only. A block of 4 tickets was \$269, and included 2 bottles of wine. She would recommend a \$95 family/screen.

- Ann asked if this would stand in for Sips. Yes, Sips would be difficult as a stand-alone event – this could replace it since there's a silent auction involved.
- Meg said teacher support accounts and the library are our big ticket items, and we do need some kind of big fundraiser.
- As the PTA, we should not be encouraging people to congregate.
- How much do you think it would cost to buy a show from a local org? Colorado Springs Dance Theater would charge \$400 for a virtual field trip. Trudi said Karen Waldorf might have a movie idea. Licensing for theater shows is harder than youth shows or dance productions. Shanna said Chamber Orchestra of the Springs is doing virtual shows this year. Ann suggested the Millibo.
- Meg said there is a small budget for Sips, and we could vote to transfer/rename that fund for this alternate fundraiser. Meg said we should gather more info and propose the shift at the December meeting.
- Kate suggested mid-February/Valentine's day, or push it into March. Stay clear of December and January.
- Several PTA members will reach out to contacts to see about licensing a show to watch.
- Naomi said she will come up with a tentative budget. Naomi asked anyone with a contact to a local arts org to reach out.
- We should start thinking about the silent auction part of the event. Kate said she doesn't think there's a lot left over from last year's Sips, but we have time to solicit donations.
- Ann said she was going to review bylaws with El Paso County PTA.

Budget

Treasurer Meg Ford presented the budget report.

- Insurance was paid.
- Wrote checks for teacher support accounts.
- Pictures in the Park money was deposited.
- \$114.45 from Freddy's Frozen Custard event.
- \$928.79 from King Soopers - this continues to be an excellent source of funds.
- Trudi asked if we know how many people are signed up for the program. Neither Kate nor Trudi knows how many people. Kate said it's not a straight percentage of sales. Not sure how it's allocated. Kate said they must look at how many people are signed up, so it's worthwhile to push participation.
- Taxes have been submitted, and as of Sunday, the IRS accepted tax return for this year. Meg paid out of pocket and will ask for the \$180 to be reimbursed. Courtney moved to reimburse the cost of tax preparation, and Shanna seconded. Motion carried.
- Meg is working on Colorado Charitable Act association.
- Courtney reviewed the PTA accounts and verified the ledger is balanced.

- Courtney said for the future, we should have a line item for tax prep. Meg said you can consider it part of the overhead, but naming it specifically is a good idea. Now that we are filing a more complex form, it's worth working with a tax professional.

Principal's Report

Principal Ryan Capp provided the Principal's Report.

- Big news is 3rd grade returns to school because of a negative COVID test. When 4th & 5th were at home, there was a different set of circumstances. It can be frustrating because the rules change, and circumstances are different for each case.
- There were 9 staff members at home because of contact with the 3rd grade. After talking with the superintendent, one more event like this could shut Steele down due to lack of staff. Often when a school goes remote, it's due to staffing.
- COVID positive rates in schools are much lower than community rates. Pay attention to tomorrow's board meeting. Dr. Thomas will likely recommend some kind of change, but no idea what it is. It is available streaming to the public. They may also address whether they'll turn Mondays into asynchronous learning days for elementary. Our teachers have been working very hard to plan for in person and online, and this has had an impact on their ability to plan and get resources lined up. That's something the Monday at home days could help with.
- Online sessions for parents 6:30-8:00pm next Tuesday Dr. Cypers managing anxiety.
- School Accountability Committee meeting tomorrow at 4:30 covering the plan they will submit to the state. It will focus on reading development for K-3 and social emotional program. Panorama survey results will come back soon, and those will be shared with the SAC and the PTA.
- Front office staff spends a lot of time managing health of kids/symptoms.
- Spent a lot of time last week doing observations and saw a lot of great things.

Calendar Review

Kate provided a calendar review.

- Thursday is the Chick-Fil-A fundraiser – drive through only. Say you're there to support Steele. Flyers went home today. We're planning to put this towards teacher support, which is our biggest line item.
- October's clothing swap and teacher appreciation events were great.

Volunteer Report

Courtney presented the volunteer report.

- Courtney put out a Sign Up Genius to gauge interest for a few opportunities (potlucks, classroom volunteers, library, silent auction) and got a decent response. Struggling because the silent auction is very nebulous – we'll

approach them more when we have a better idea of what we can do for an event.

- Courtney reminded everyone to track volunteer hours. The district can use this info to assign resources, so this helps the school.
- She suggested the PTA should send out its own email rather than tagging our news onto Steele Notes. Steele Notes is so long already, we think our information may be getting lost. We can also take advantage of our PTA membership list.

New Business (Continued)

- Mrs. Ogren and Courtney got a plaque for Jim and Beth Jones, who are long-time library volunteers. They will try and record something for Steele TV. We will also do a gift card.
- Staff appreciation – Courtney organized staff lunch. Courtney asked SUG volunteers and had a volunteer from every classroom. All teachers are covered. They'll get little notes/gifts of appreciation.
- Kate gave a directory update. We have a small response so far, only ~25 entries. That's ok, it's online, we can update monthly or so as time goes on.
- We will have some discretionary funds, so we need to think how we can allocate those. No major events to fundraise for (library, playground) so how will we use our money? We talked with Mr. Capp about any pressing items the staff could use. If anyone can think of anything, let us know. If the fundraiser this year can fill the PTA coffers for next year, that will be valuable – online trainings, etc.
- Trudi said the board members attending the PTA trainings has been really valuable.
- Ann said there is a Kid Power session planned for January. More details will be sent out soon.
- Mrs. Ogren will send out information about a virtual book fair.
- Courtney said Lora Woodworth had talked about the cybersecurity class for parents. Trudi will follow up.
- Trudi asked Mr. Capp if there will be a Veterans Day commemoration. Steele TV on Friday will have some programming.
- Shanna Weaver said online families don't get flyers, so we need to find a way that online families get the info. Trudi said we've had challenges with people not reading Steele Notes. Meg asked if the info could be posted on Seesaw or Schoology.

Trudi adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.