



United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.
Virtual meeting

Attendees

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

Governance

President Trudi Jackson called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. A quorum was present. Attendees introduced themselves.

Treasurer Meg Ford said we had one additional PTA member since last month.

Secretary Ann Griner presented the meeting minutes from the November 2020 PTA meeting. Ann moved to approve the minutes, and Scot Hume seconded. Motion carried.

Ann will put the bylaws into the updated template and get it posted before the January meeting, where we'll vote on them.

Budget

Treasurer Meg Ford presented the budget report.

- Most of the money spent in the past month are money we discussed already, but the checks have finally cleared.
- Taxes were accepted.
- The Colorado Charitable Solicitation Act registration is in progress.
- Trudi noted that we should begin thinking about next year's board members, particularly the treasurer role.
- Courtney moved to approve the November finance report, and Megan Harris seconded it. Motion carried.

Principal's Report

Principal Ryan Capp provided the Principal's Report.

- Facilities and academic master plan updates are in progress. District 11 is currently getting smaller, so the District is thinking about doing magnet schools and schools of innovation. Lots of discussion about the facilities and what needs to be rebuilt or even closed. Steele is not in any immediate danger of closing. Middle schools are something to keep an eye on.
- There is more money coming available to do renovations or new builds in D11. Steele may be up for renovations in the future, but nothing soon.
- There is a School Accountability Committee meeting tomorrow at 4:30. We may talk more about the master plan, the budget, and the unified improvement plan.
- The Monday asynchronous learning days are affording teachers the opportunity to plan in the way they need to. They are pre-recording lessons, sharing ideas, and working together. Teachers and staff are taking advantage of that time to do some professional development that has been difficult prior to this. Teachers are also required to do a new early literacy certification – all elementary teachers are asked to do 40 hours of early literacy education.
- We are working on an equity study. We will do work on structural racism, and how we as a school can work on not perpetuating this.
- Now that we know how to do online learning, Mr. Capp's work has slowed down. He is working on teacher observations.
- During this time of online schooling, we do sometimes see some attendance drops. If a child is missing from school, the teacher reaches out, so we can understand what the situation is and know how to help. Mrs. Korte or Mrs. Donovan may reach out as well.
- Courtney asked if Mr. Capp is looking at Steele-specific data on racial disparities in grading and discipline referrals. Mr. Capp said the Panorama survey is helping with some of that. The discipline referrals are harder because we don't have enough discipline data to draw any conclusion (due to having few severe discipline problems). But we can look at grading trends.
- Trudi asked Mr. Capp to share some information about teacher grants, which is the money the PTA provides that can be used for professional development or classroom supplies. Trudi asked Mr. Capp to talk a little more about how the money is used and ensuring teachers know it's available. Mr. Capp said he'd put together a report on how the money is being used.
- Mr. Capp noted he has no information on what school will look like in January.

Calendar Review

Kate provided a calendar review.

- Naomi Skee gave an update on the dinner and show fundraiser tentatively scheduled for February or March.

- She reached out to several artist groups. Colorado Springs Dance Theater offered to let us use any of their shows for free. Ormao gave us a priced option (\$400), but if we let them know other people are offering a free option they may lower the price. The FAC can't let us use any stage shows, but will let us use radio shows free. The Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival said they couldn't provide prices without reaching out to filmmakers. Since we have so many free options, we could let people decide. If we did this along with a silent auction, the auction software is the overhead cost. Naomi used BidBeacon, which is less expensive than Bidding for Good. Eventbrite adds a fee onto tickets, so we can absorb that or have the buyers pay it as a fee. Summit Catering offered a good price at \$25/meal, and would waive the delivery fee if we handle delivery ourselves. We don't want a required catered meal to be a barrier to participation. We could choose to offer just the show and not require you purchase a dinner.
- Trudi said we probably don't need a huge fundraiser this year. We mostly want to make it a community event. She asked if Megan Harris had any thoughts about dinner options that were more affordable.
- Ann said we could also suggest people arrange their own takeout meal to support their favorite local restaurant. Meg said we could ask local restaurants to offer a small discount to Steele families.
- Megan will check into locally grown popcorn from her buying club to see if that would be a good option to offer participants.
- Naomi said if we do an auction attached to the event, that could increase the lead time.
- Meg said the second half of teacher support accounts is the biggest thing we need to raise money for. Things like the Carnival and Focus Day will likely not happen, so those may need to drop off the budget.
- Shanna suggested a model similar to the Goat Patch fundraiser, where if families bought meals from a particular restaurant, the restaurant would donate something to Steele. Megan said the restaurants are hurting for money right now, so it may be difficult.
- Trudi said the silent auction may be too much work, especially as we haven't found anyone interested in leading up an effort like that.
- Meg suggested a "One Hour of Donation" model to couple with the event. The concept is you ask people to donate this one time, and then we don't bug you again. This is nice because there's not an overhead cost for it.
- Trudi asked if the companies would be okay with participants choosing what they want to watch. Naomi said she didn't think companies would mind.
- Courtney asked how people would access the shows. Naomi said she used Vimeo. She linked the show's URL in the Eventbrite ticket.
- Kate said we need a decision to move forward, and Megan suggested an Action Item list. Courtney, Megan, Kate, Naomi, and Trudi will be on the committee.

- Meg said we can transfer some money from the Sips money to this event, but that would need a vote. Courtney said we should do a committee meeting first, so they have an idea of the budget needs.
- The event at Chick-fil-A raised approximately \$220.
- Two Zoom movie watch parties scheduled for December. How the Grinch Stole Christmas is Friday, Dec. 11, and Polar Express is Thursday, Dec. 17. Two fifth-grade emcees will help out with trivia and hosting duties.

Volunteer Report

Courtney presented the volunteer report.

- As part of the Community Support Initiative, we are asking for gift card donations from Safeway, Target, Wal Mart, etc. Please drop the gift cards off at school. Mr. Capp said Steele has been very supportive with food and other necessities in the past, but the gift card donations help families with the experience of shopping for their kids' Christmas gifts.
- Megan asked if there is any need for perishable food – she said she is happy to donate things like dried beans, squash, and apples. Mr. Capp will ask Mrs. Korte.

New Business

- Trudi is putting together a survey to ask how any money we raise might be used to support our community.

Trudi adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.