



United Steele Workers PTA Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting

Attendees

Trudi Jackson

Kate Hume

Ann Griner

Meg Ford

Scot Hume

Courtney Hertner

Shanna Weaver

Ryan Capp

Governance

President Trudi Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

No updates to membership. Secretary Ann Griner said the February meeting minutes are not available for review; we will vote on approval for February and March minutes at the April meeting.

Principal's Report

Principal Ryan Capp provided the Principal's Report.

- The District is strongly considering a bond in the fall. They would like to come to a PTA meeting to deliver some info about this. They are focused on making sure they can do all the renewal activities on the schools.
- We just transitioned from a hybrid model for online-only students at the start of 4th quarter. We have been able to dual enroll them, so Steele hasn't lost the enrollment numbers. Mr. Capp can still be involved in matters of attendance, technology troubles, etc.
- Steele had been offered as the testing site for Chipeta Elementary to do CMAS testing (if students choose to do that). Sarah Scott, an Old North End resident, is the Chipeta principal and she's been instrumental in this partnership. Trudi asked how the partnership with Chipeta came about. Mr. Capp said they wanted to try and network with several schools, but he ended up calling Ms. Scott. Chipeta has similar demographics to Steele. Chipeta had almost 100 kids who started online last year, and there are now about 80 kids online.
- When we lost the asynchronous Mondays, we wanted to make sure we provide a consistent experience for our online students. We were also able to gain some students back to in-person learning. Many of those are kids who

haven't been in school since last year. There was a lot of anxiety about returning to in-person learning.

- Trudi asked Shanna Weaver if she is enjoying the online experience – Shanna said her daughter has loved the online learning experience with Chipeta.
- Teachers are thinking about next fall. They plan on using Eureka Math for grades 1 – 2, and are considering adding the kindergarten curriculum as well. We have many math programs right now, and it may help to have a common curriculum for the early grades.
- Talking about how to handle early grades missing school. Will we do a kinder classroom for kids who have specific literacy needs? Or will we set up classrooms where teachers split the teaching tasks?
- Looking forward to Steele the Show!
- Trudi asked if Taylor Elementary closing would impact our enrollment. Ryan said it will take some time, but by the fall of '23 we may see boundaries being redrawn (this all depends on the order in which they close schools). He said he wouldn't be surprised to see our boundaries extend to the east. Right now, the boundary ends on the west side of Royer Street. They won't extend us west of I-25. Steele is kind of interesting, because we're rated at 272 students, but we typically have about 30 above rating. The rating is a function of the number and size of rooms, and the facilities department at D11 has a formula to determine this. We had as many as 310 for a bit. The problem is when the enrollment is that high, you run out of room for small-group instruction. Steele was not designed for that.
- Courtney Hertner asked about CMAS testing – what is the testing window, and when do you need to opt out by? Ryan said he wants to have a survey ready to send after spring break. There will probably be an opt-out for in-person learners, but opt-in for remote learners. He anticipates more opt-outs than ever, but it won't hurt the school one way or the other. Mr. Capp said you hear different messaging from district to district. D11 is neutral – they'd like you to test, but they don't care. Mr. Capp's perspective is the school won't be hurt if students don't participate. He would typically be able to sit down with the results in July and make an action plan, but the data from this year will not be as actionable. For a 5th-grader, 12 hours of your schooling is devoted for the testing. The testing window is April 12 through May 14th. We are thinking about whether we should start early knowing there is possible quarantine issues, or should we wait until late to give max instruction time.
 - What might the opt-out kids be doing? Depends on numbers. If it's a 50/50 split, all the testing would be handled by one teacher, while the kids who opt out will be with another teacher.
 - Growth from year to year for the same cohort is far more helpful and interesting than a single point in time score. We don't have last year's test data. Trudi asked if it's more important for 3rd graders to take it, since that would establish a baseline. Ryan said we will have questions. We will move our math curriculum around. Most teachers haven't made it through as many math units as they usually would.

There are other gaps with language arts we haven't filled. We think we kind of know what the tests would look like. The idea of 3rd graders as a benchmark is a good one, because we should be able to have the 4th and 5th grade tests to compare in the future.

- CMAS holds more weight than it ought to in a normal year, where there are other important evaluations.
- Courtney noted the pressure and length of the tests.
- Mr. Capp said he hopes for a watershed moment in the way they administer the testing.

Budget

Treasurer Meg Ford presented the budget report.

- Our current financial situation looks good.
- We wrote the 2nd half of the teacher support account checks to Steele. We have now paid \$5100 for the school year. The King Soopers and Chipotle fundraisers contributed to that. All but 2 people responded to the winter enrichment refund issue by donating the refund amount to the teacher support account (\$1648.82).
- Amazon Smile raised around \$35.
- The Chipotle fundraiser was \$475, which was very similar to last year's. Trudi thanked Kate for her work in arranging and promoting this.
- Courtney moved to approve the finance report, and Vice President Kate Hume seconded. Motion carried.

Calendar

Kate presented the calendar report.

- Bleating Heart Night at Goat Patch Brewing is April 13.
- Focus Day is April 16.
- Steele the Show is May 1. Sponsorship forms went out March 16.
- If we want to do an end of year event, we should get the ball rolling soon.
- Trudi said she understands there is something happening the last day of school, even though a picnic won't be possible. There is some 5th-grade money left over from last year's fundraising that we can spend.
- Kate, Shanna, and Courtney are working on Focus Day. Kate said there is a good mix of people with a lot of ideas.
- Trudi said that Steele the Show is looking really exciting. Naomi is starting rehearsal and doing choreography. Opening sponsorships up to Steele families first before community sponsorships.

New Business

- Mr. Capp and Shauna will help with treasurer recruitment. Kate and Trudi are willing to stay on the PTA board, but are flexible with what role they take.

- Meg noted the bike shed is full of items. The bikes, which were provided by Kids on Bikes, are just collecting dust. Lora Woodworth should know about the Kids on Bikes grant. Columbia Elementary has a bike library program, but we aren't clear on what the Kids on Bikes grant involves or requires. Trudi will contact Lora to discuss.

Trudi adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.