



United Steele Workers PTA Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 11th 2026 at 8:00 am

In-Person Meeting w/ Zoom Link

Meeting Attendees

Kara Offner	Angela Smith	Michael Smith
Allie Klein	Lauren Gubbins	Jacob O (Zoom)
Camille Gall	Ingrid Black	Joe Kunz (Zoom)
Elizabeth Morris	Rachel Sullivan	Victoria Amato (Zoom)
Ryan Miller	Rhonda Toombs	Eakquieonnia Banks (Zoom)
Steve Reslock	Kate Fugate	
Dreama Walton	Megan Andreozzi	

Governance

PTA President Kara Offner called the meeting to order at 8:01 am. A quorum was present.

PTA Board Introductions:

- Kara Offner: President
- Alli Klein: Vice President
- Camille Gall: Secretary
- Elizabeth Morris: Treasurer

All attendees then took a moment to introduce themselves.

Kara extended a huge thank you to everyone who contributed food for the annual Souper Bowl. The event was a great success and a meaningful tradition celebrating Steele's hardworking staff.

Additional thanks were given to EakQuieonnia Banks for leading the Someone Special Dance. The SignUp Genius is nearly full, though a few volunteers are still needed for end-of-event cleanup. Lighting for the schoolyard during the dance was discussed, as many students play outside and additional lighting would improve visibility and safety.

Principal's Report

Principal Ryan Miller delivered the principal's report.

Mr. Miller shared that Steele has hired a new Building Manager, Rob McCartney, the retired Building Manager from the Colorado Springs Airport. Mr. McCartney is a strong addition to the team and a much-needed support for the building.

The 5Essentials (5E) survey window has opened, and information will be sent to families.

Enrollment and budgeting were discussed. Steele currently has a capacity of 300 students and is five students away from capacity, while continuing to give tours regularly. The school aims to maintain class sizes of approximately 25 students per classroom, which is often smaller than neighboring schools and a reason many families choose in to Steele. Twenty-five students are already enrolled for next year.

Steele is projected at 288 students for October Count next year.

- For each student above 288, the school receives approximately \$5,500
- For each student below 288, the school loses approximately \$3,500

If the bond passes, potential updates include adding two classrooms and a pre-K space. Early mock-ups and ideas are being discussed.

Mr. Miller reported that the school is preparing for CMAS testing (April 6–24) and Fifth Grade Exhibition. Overall, Steele is in a strong place academically and operationally.

Enrollment clarification was shared:

- Students living within Steele's assigned boundary are guaranteed enrollment
- Choice-in families with siblings already attending Steele are given priority

Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Morris presented the January Treasurer's Report.

January financial highlights:

- Income: \$1,004.10
 - \$344.10 Used Book Sale
 - \$660 Hoodie/T-Shirt Sales
 - Expenses: \$751.08
 - Pancake Breakfast
 - IB Teacher Training Support
 - Teacher Appreciation
 - Steele Art Night
- (\$691.08 had not cleared by month end; see ledger for reconciliation details)*
- January bank statements were signed by Ingrid Black and Michael Smith.

Proposed budget modifications:

- Add \$2,150 for Hoodie/T-Shirt purchases
- Add \$800 for Tie-Dye T-Shirts and supplies (125th Birthday Open House)
- Add \$800 placeholder for 125th Birthday Celebration expenses
- Add \$2,500 for Teacher Lounge upgrades (carryover funds from last school year)

Rachell Sullivan motioned to approve the budget adjustments. Megan Harris seconded. All were in favor.

Calendar of Events

- Friday, February 13: Someone Special Dance – 6:30 PM
- Friday, March 6: Focus Day – "Steele Through the Ages"
- Friday, March 6: Steele 125th Birthday Open House (3:00–4:30 PM)
- March 23–27: Spring Break – Break Room Refresh

Correction: The 125th Birthday Open House will be held on **March 6**, not March 9 as previously communicated. A corrected notice will be sent to families.

New Business

Focus Day

The Focus Day Committee presented a draft overview of the day's structure, including projected volunteer needs. A SignUp Genius will be shared with the community as soon as possible so families may plan accordingly. The PTA will distribute a detailed outline next week.

Steele 125th Birthday Celebration

The 125th Birthday Open House will take place Friday, March 6 from 3:00–4:30 PM immediately following Focus Day.

Mayor Yemi is scheduled to speak at 3:15 PM during the opening ceremony.

The event will function as an open house with opportunities to walk through the school, view historical artifacts, and celebrate Steele's legacy. Items currently secured for display include historical photos, a scrapbook, cafeteria china, and other memorabilia. If additional artifacts are received, they will be displayed in the gym.

A time capsule activity will occur during Focus Day and will be displayed rather than buried.

Tie-dye shirts will be offered as an activity during the event:

- 100 youth shirts ordered
- \$10 per shirt
- Estimated profit of approximately \$250 if sold out
- Remaining inventory (if any) will be sold at Carnival

Andy Harris and Dreama Walton have volunteered to oversee the Tie-Dye station with student helpers. Additional volunteers may be needed.

Discussion continues regarding potentially refreshing the front mural wall; no decisions have been finalized.

Steele Star Gear

Sales totals to date:

- 30 Adult Hoodies
- 29 Adult T-Shirts
- 44 Youth Hoodies

Kara purchased an additional 10 adult hoodies and 8 t-shirts for resale at the 125th event (included in totals above).

Financial summary:

- Confirmed profit: \$891.10
- Additional potential profit: \$253.80 (resale inventory)

All proceeds will support the 125th Birthday event. Orders are expected to arrive the week of the celebration and will be distributed through classrooms.

Break Room Refresh

The approved budget for the lounge refresh is \$2,500, with work planned during Spring Break.

Jasmine Bibile, Steele parent and designer, is donating her time to lead design efforts. Kara has reached out to several local businesses seeking donations of materials and services (paint, tile, appliances, etc.) to offset costs.

The scoped plan includes:

- Creating a beverage/coffee station with mini refrigerator
- Removing storage to open space
- Replacing some tables with couch and comfortable seating
- Updating appliances and utensils
- Creating an adult-focused, welcoming space

Elder Construction will already be onsite during Spring Break and may assist. Additional volunteers are needed, especially for painting. A SignUp Genius will be shared. A co-chair/POC is still needed.

Rhonda suggested adding flexible seating (such as TV trays) to accommodate at least six staff members eating lunch at once.

Facilities & Capital Improvements

Mr. Miller introduced Steve Reslock (D11 Central Area Project Manager for Capital Projects), who oversees district-funded campus improvements. His goal is to ensure investments directly benefit students across the IB pathway from Steele to North to Palmer.

Lunch schedule improvements were shared, including added 5 minute transition time and staggered entry to ensure students receive a full 20 minutes to eat in a clean cafeteria. New foldable lunch benches (similar to those at North Middle School) will be installed during Spring Break to improve functionality and storage.

District 11 Bond Update

Kara Offner and Liz Morris will attend a bond information meeting at North Middle School to gather additional details.

Perkins Eastman, the firm hired to assist with engagement, will be rolling out a toolkit for community liaisons by the end of March, along with public meetings for community input. D11 has not passed a bond in over 20 years.

The PTA's role is to share information and help families understand what is being proposed. The bond funds may only be used for capital improvements; however, by covering facility needs, it can free up district funds for salary improvements. Teacher pay increases and updated bathrooms are among the most frequently cited community priorities.

Steele's roof ranks third in the district for urgency of replacement. HVAC improvements are also a need, and space constraints remain a concern. Bond funds would be distributed in phases over time based on district-wide priority lists.

Garden

Garden updates will be presented in March.

The CSA program will launch in spring, with sales occurring in spring and deliveries in fall. More details will be shared at the next meeting.

PTA Board – 2026–2027 Nominees

President: Kara Offner
Vice President: Camille Gall
Secretary: Angela Smith
Treasurer: Elizabeth Morris

Families are encouraged to get involved, even if not serving on the Board. Event chairs and POCs are welcome.

Website Update

Angela Smith volunteered to serve as POC for managing and updating the PTA page on the Steele website, including ensuring information remains current for incoming families and coordinating social media content. Kara will schedule time to transfer files and review materials.

Secretary Camille Gall presented the minutes from the January meeting. Rachell Sullivan motioned to approve the minutes, Angela Smith seconded, and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 AM.