

STEELE ELEMENTARY PTA MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

- **Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review** (President Heather Michel)
- **Approval of Feb. Minutes** (Secretary Ann Shiveley)
- **Recognitions** (All)
 - Laura Mauck for home tour committee; Sara Chapman on volunteer communications campaign; Mrs. Ungar to Josh, George and Liesl for getting Dreamtime art sculpture funded, Cynthia for always helping us keep garden maintained after snow, etc. to Kevin for his email about PARCC testing in the Steele Stallion and Miss Carissa for sending information to parents about testing
 - **Steele Update, Grade Updates and Q/A** (Principal Kevin Greeley, Trevor Morris, Carissa Travis, Amy Roberts)
 - Core Values pin campaign by Student Council: Student Council made a funding request to Steele to pledge the Steele Code on pins, rewarding students for “living the code” when kids show positive behavior; “catching people doing something good;” will see how effective it is with metrics; likes empowering students to reward other student
 - PARCC Testing Update: Sara Glover and someone else doing the preparations for PARCC; today very smooth; kids were ready to go; all kids finished in the allotted time; today was seven questions to answer; wasn’t as time consuming as we feared; grades 3 and 4 today; Golden ticket of the day among kids – reward is a piece of chocolate; mentioned DSST video;
 - Ameritown Update: 4/5 graders will be taking a field trip to Ameritown this spring; financial literacy, civics, economics unit; kids earn Ameritown money and get to go buy ice cream or buy music requests. Friday before spring break; questions about handwriting and learning cursive in 4/5 grade; no school policy, different depending on teacher; might need a school wide policy for students to learn handwriting/cursive;
 - 2/3: second graders talking about communities and how they change; studying Kevin Hinkeys who is a writer; science studying soil, rocks, minerals
 - K/1: literacy about super senses integrated unit; main ideas and supporting details; values of coins; solidifying number sense;
 - Amy: Special Ed department is doing final testing for the year; about to complete latest six week cycle; then there will be one more six week cycle
- **PTA Executive Board Reports and Committee Updates**
 - **VP of Fundraising Update; Fundraising and Event Committee Update** (Rebekah Marcus)
 - Home Tour Update: secured fifth home; packets and 6 tickets will go home with kids after spring break; flyers and information also in packet; competing to win a party from Bonnie Brae ice cream;
 - **Treasurer Update; Finance Committee Update** (Kim Kobernusz)
 - PTA in charge of six bank accounts; all the money we raise this year is to be spent in the following academic year; we have been raising between \$140 and \$160K typically; this year we are on track to spend \$208K; trend is that we’re spending more than we’re bringing in; we need to figure out what to cut or raise more money or combo. When do we determine what we’ll spend next year? Hoping by June and then get on this cycle of earlier forecasting. We get funded for 18 general education teachers and 3 specials and .5 facilitators; PTA helps us hire .5 GT, .7 facilitators. Will be requesting funds for solely the second educators; we’re going to have to look at where we get the most bang for our buck on HR; how is the amount of the reserve determined? Are there any rules from PTA that schools need to spend down the money every year? No. driving awareness to the PTA about the cost of second educators. Is there a set hierarchy what gets funded first from the operating budget? No.
 - **VP of Volunteers Update; Family Programs and School Activities Committee Update** (Chrissy Lucado):
 - We have a lot of needs that go throughout the year; changed from Volunteer Spot to My School Anywhere so anytime you look at school directory you can see all of the volunteer positions; putting the word out via Room Parent blasts and Steele website; trying to raise

awareness of the volunteering opportunities all year long; 15/16 Opportunities: After School Enrichment Coordinator; Family Programs Chair; Stallion Fund Chair; Communication Chair, Technology Chair; when we sign up for the directory will there be a way that we can express our interests and then the system would send a reminder email back to us when the opportunity is open?

- **Garden Committee Update**
 - Planted 2000 seeds; there will be an after school garden program again this spring; still room to join; In April doing something for Earth Day and making smoothies in the cafeteria and making kale chips; kids to bring in recycled materials to make art projects; feel like we have coverage for every need including a maintenance person will be Rich Haney; committee members will take turns overseeing garden;
- **Communications Committee Update** (Holly South): working on the website; refining communications that are going out; inclement weather procedure communicated in Steele Stallion – go to DPS website
- **Membership Committee Update** (Secretary Ann Shiveley): 79 members to date
- **Nominations Committee Update** (Secretary Ann Shiveley):
 - Review of nomination process (March) and elections (April)
 - Secured official nominations for the following positions, to be votes on in April meeting: President: Ann Shiveley; Secretary: Sarah Allen; VP Fundraising: none; Treasurer: Kim Kobernusz; VP of Volunteers: Crissy Lucado
 - Executive Board can vote for any candidates who wish to fill roles that remain unfilled after April (VP Fundraising)
- **Announcements and Other Business**
 - Beth Sundberg, Book Trust: National Literacy organization HQ'd in Denver mission to give low income children access to books; working with Mayor's office on citywide read-a-thon in May and inviting Steele to be a part of it; kids build their home libraries with \$7/month from Scholastic Book Clubs; Week of May 11; would provide Steele with all of the materials that families need; kids make their own reading goal and collect pledges and read to hit their goals; Book Trust needs a champion from Steele to communicate, collect pledges, provide toolkits. Kevin: seems like a no brainer; Kevin's office team can do morning announcements.
 - Dreamtime Art Project update: George and Josh helping Miriam on Dreamtime Project; have a schedule; have met with DPS risk management; project will have a raised head and tail; week of 23rd will be when kids are making tiles and then they will dry over spring break; April tiles will be installed; to be completed by May 7; request for a deeper discussion about incorporating more funding from PTA for all of the specials; 360 has offered to come in and discuss with parents how these interactions enrich kids' experience; they would like to attend April EB meeting and then discuss funding for specials at May PTA meeting;
 - Colorado PTA convention, Friday, April 17 & 18 in Denver
 - Denver City Council Candidates @ April PTA meeting
 - Anne Rowe, school board rep from district 1 (Steele's) to attend May meeting
- **Next Meeting/PTA Officer Elections: Tuesday, April 14, 2015**
- **Adjourn – Social Gathering**