

PTA General Meeting Minutes

Sept. 9, 2014

Attendees:

Kevin Greeley, Heather Michel, Rebekah Marcus, Chrissy Lucado, Kim Kobernusz, Ann Shiveley, Missy Brown, Jim Grimes, Amy Krosky, Holly South, Joe Welch, Sarah Allen, Candice Kingston, Maureen Savage, Shari Leidner, Nicole Dawson, Aimee Corazzari, Jenn Stephens, Kit Davlin, Ariel Davlin, Joshua Ayers, Henry Bonin, Deborah Ross, Erica Ecklund, Jennifer Anderson-Ehrlich, Carrie Denham, Tracey Brummett, Marley Bain, Myrna Jean, Rhonda Margulies, Cynthia Swanson, Marissa Sarkesian

Handouts:

- [PTA Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Funding Request Application and Process](#)
- [4/5 Teacher Funding Request](#)
- [Carnival Funding Request](#)
- [2014/15 Budget](#)
- [2013/14 Audit](#)

1. Introductions; sign in; agenda review; 32 attendees
2. No approval of previous minutes required
3. Principal update:
 - a. Attended a median growth percentile award ceremony – Steele was honored
 - b. Reminisce about Camp Cheley timing last year during the storms
 - c. Wasps nests in front of building being handled – take care
 - d. Off to a great start this school year; started academics earlier this year and kids responding well; started math earlier. Built up a lot of momentum last year that we're continuing. Collaboration happening among staff.
 - i. Any updates from Cheley? Don't typically do that. The idea that the line is cut from parents during this time. Valuable for kids to disconnect.
 - ii. What is Camp Cheley? Annual tradition for Steele at camp. All fifth graders can attend. Ropes courses, community time, fifth graders decide on something to leave the school, bonding time.
 - iii. TCAP Score update? Last year overall proficient and above in math 91; reading 89; writing 72. PARCC taking place of TCAP. Writing was lower than we thought it would be. Started to adjust our writing in terms of having kids respond to text using evidence from the text. Online practice tests. More intense focus on reading. Inference skills will be important. Focus on not quitting the test. It will be harder. Computer based. Kevin and teachers encourage parents to take the practice online test. PARCC take place in March and May. Try to make test-taking business as usual.
 - iv. STAR: not everyone taking STAR. Everyone takes DRA.
4. Treasurer update:
 - a. PTA is audited for every FY. Four of us had to go through every transaction from the PTA to approve it. Made sure everything documented correctly. Committee had to sign off. We have six accounts. Over \$254K in our accounts end of FY.
 - b. Summary of accounts: end of Aug. high level review. Transaction spreadsheet posted.

- c. 14/15 budget high level review. We need to adopt the budget so that we can write checks against the budget this year.
 - i. Less of a discount on BP interns this year resulted in \$7K increase – need to negotiate for better pricing in 2015.
 - ii. Combined hospitality and family programming
 - iii. Removed holidays around the world and Ameritown as a line item
 - 1. Teachers can submit funding request if they choose to do these activities.
 - iv. Funded a part time interventionist this year and DPS funding other half.
 - v. \$82K in our savings account would be left if we take our current savings and pay for all of our budgeted expenses without doing any additional fundraising.
 - vi. What happened to garden slush fund from last year? Funds weren't used last year, so removed it from budget. Garden has about \$600 in its account today, that it should use for expenses first before coming to PTA.
 - vii. What about technology expense last year? Are we meeting the needs of kids with technology? We met our goals last year. We have some money through DPS we can use this year if we need to, but right now no need identified.
 - viii. Historically have we always raised \$100K? Yes with auction format. Raised more than ever with Stallion Fund last year.
 - ix. **VOTE to approve 2014/15 PTA budget: PASSED.**
- d. VP of Volunteers update:
 - i. Room parent update: Jim Grimes is room parent coordinator. Vision for parents getting to know each other this year. Want them to be leveraged more this year.
- e. New Funding Request Process
 - i. PTA exec. Board put together a new funding request process to give more structure to the way we make funding decisions (outside of what has already been approved in the 2014/15 PTA budget).
 - ii. Will enable us to give consistent application and consideration to funding requests, and help ensure that PTA money is being used effectively and in ways that can help us achieve the PTA mission.
 - iii. Request to devise a process so that Steele population can see requests that were declined. PTA EB will consider request at Oct. EB meeting.
- f. Carnival Funding Request:
 - i. Focus on building community and not focused on raising money this time. We're asking for \$3K this year so that games and food are free to Steele staff and families.
 - ii. Question about corporate sponsorship at carnival: not doing year-round sponsorships this year. Won't have sponsor tents at carnival this year.
 - iii. **VOTE to approve Carnival Funding Request: PASSED.**
- g. 4/5 Teacher Funding Request:
 - i. If this is approved does it become permanent item in PTA budget? No, this funding is outside of the PTA budget.
 - ii. Is one year enough to fairly evaluate a position like this? Should this be a two year commitment? The metrics we have will enable us to tell if we're meeting them or not within the year.
 - iii. Is .5 teacher enough? Yes.

- iv. How do we keep the momentum going? What is the long term vision for such a role? It is a need we have right now. Would like to make sure it's tested first.
- v. Do we have enough money to cover this? Yes.
- vi. Why just 4/5? We have large 4/5 classes this year and teaching staff is maxed out.
- vii. Are needs of advanced kids being met in lower grades? Probably a case for this resource in all grades. Lane Miller (GT resource) already works with advanced kids in lower grades.
- viii. **Suggestion to detail the benefits of this role to the entire school in the funding request so that everyone can see.**
- ix. **VOTE to approve .5 4/5 Teacher Funding Request: PASSED.**

h. Committee Updates:

- i. Family programs and school activities: volunteer spots will be posted on PTA website; if you're looking for help start with Chrissy Lucado. Major areas where we need help include fundraising, dine out, sign caretaker, etc.
 - ii. Fundraising: Carnival is Oct. 12, bike-a-thon same day; one donor just gave \$10K; Fall Celebration Nov. 15; Home Tour May 9
 - iii. Garden: rainbow week, guest chef and Colorado Proud, work farmers market, garden to table program.
 - iv. Communications: how to stay up to date: sign out front, Steele Stallion, Facebook page, new improved website.
 - v. Membership committee: have 33 PTA members registered to date. Would like to double that number by Oct. meeting. All are welcome to the meetings at any time, but non-members can't vote. Join for \$10/individual, online or using PTA membership envelopes located by Auditorium entrance.
- i. Next meeting is October 14; 6 p.m. Adjourn!