

PTA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12, 2014

6:00 pm

Auditorium

- Attendees: Exec. Board, Amy Roberts, Marissa Sarkesian, Robin Donaldson, Joe and Krista Welch, Tim Welch, CB Hammrick, Erica Ecklund, Loren Rigney, Becky Wiggins, Aimee Corazzari, Nikki and Will Dawson, Erica Spoor, Josh Ayers, Kristina Lyons. October minutes approved.
- Kevin update: New teacher in room 102 to replace Ms. Estrada. Amanda Thomas hired for this position. Still teaching sixth grade math; Patti Mather and Sara Glover teaching second grade math, selected someone to fill the 4/5 advanced resource. Hope to announce week of Nov. 17. Had parent teacher conferences using sign up genius. Turkey trot coming up. Tickets on sale through Monday.
- Interventionist update: ELA teacher campaign for Socktober had a great turnout. Every six weeks send an update to parents.
- 2/3: happy to have new 2/3 teacher. Working on non-fiction unit with main idea and supporting details.
- 4/5: also focusing on main idea and text evidence for support in writing. Science unit comparing powders and liquids.
- Specials update: Willie Wonka coming up. Circus theme coming up in PE. BOKS going well and well-received.
- Middle School Discussions
 - Merrill Parents (Joe/Krista Welch, Becky Wiggins): Kids like the variety and options for enrichment, year-round Spanish, STEM lab, robotics, yoga, long boarding, technology electives; amazing teachers who are energetic, passionate about what they do and get to know the kids. Programming that pushes the kids when they are capable. Expectations are higher in middle school and the independence is an adjustment. Exceeded expectations across the board. Academic challenging. Go with your gut when picking a school. When you choose out of your home school could be tough getting back in if you change your mind. Beck's son is on soccer team and in band. Continued his Steele friendships at Merrill. Really enjoying himself. Nice students. No behavior issues. Grades have their own halls – not mingled together with other grades much. Get to have a trip to Spain in 8th grade if kids take Spanish all three years. Merrill has an extended day. 3 enrichments/day. Huge campus. Sports teams. Football, cross country, soccer, basketball. Working well with C3. C3 enables Merrill to not be a huge middle school but down the road could impact the growth at Merrill. Great feeder schools. Potential renovations in future years. Strong growth scores. This year there are 550 6-8 students. Kevin estimates about 1/3 Steele kids went to Merrill.
 - **Steele parents may reach out to Merrill families with additional questions or for more information:** Joe Welch: slubbyco@aol.com Krista Welch: kwestwelch@aol.com, Becky Wiggins: beckywiggins10@gmail.com.
 - DSST Parents (Kristina Lyons, Ann Shiveley, CB Hammrick): Kristina's son loves DSST. There are rules that are awesome because they create a learning environment. Ex: look people in the eye. Kids get a report card every Wed. so they know exactly how they are doing. Advisory is like a home room that supports the student. Give the kids good choices that you are comfortable with and let them pick. Amazing teachers with enthusiasm and energy. They engage the students and take brain breaks. CB's daughter's best subject at Steele was reading – then got F in reading at DSST, so it is a rigorous program. They make it fun and there are so many resources to get help. Electives are digital arts, PE and chorus. Some sports. As a charter, DSST kids can play sports for their home school. Ann's son likes the recognition with system of kids receiving points for exhibiting the core values throughout the day. weekly nominations of several kids for STOP

award, weekly report card showing the points he's earned and his grades for the week, and teachers who are enthusiastic about his success. He is striving to his potential and learning to be courageous in terms of self-advocating and speaking up. There are after school clubs for the kids including STEM club, reading club, guitar club, open gym. Kids get out at 2 p.m. every Wed. so that teachers can regroup and plan. Kids get out at 4 other days, except if they get a "college prep," "refocus," or mandatory tutoring and then they must stay until 5. Kids don't seem to mind staying.

- **Steele parents may reach out to DSST families with additional questions or for more information:** Kristina Lyons: krlyons@cisco.com, Ann Shiveley: annshive1@gmail.com, CB Hamrick: familyhamrick@gmail.com.
- PTA Executive Board Reports and Committee Updates
 - President Update: PTA working to have all of the activities through committees. Academic spending was the only area that didn't have a committee. We've asked the CSC to act as our academic committee to provide oversight for academic spending. Will create alignment between PTA, CSC and Unified Improvement Plan. CSC supports the idea and we'll be working through details in coming weeks/months.
 - Steele featured in 5280 about fundraising. Need to include link in Stallion.
 - Treasurer Update: Raised \$3000 for the bike-a-thon. Carnival final numbers spent \$2000 and still have stuff left over we can use next year. First Day school supplies brought in almost \$1000. Greening of Steele is way in the black.
 - VP of Fundraising Update; Fundraising and Event Committee Update: 210 tickets sold so far. 32 teachers going.
 - VP of Volunteers Update; Family Programs and School Activities Committee Update: **special shout outs to Loren Rigney, Christy Rimkus, Jennifer Freeman, Shaleen Destafano, Erika Ecklund, Jessica Kottcamp, Jim Grimes.** Book fair starting Thursday. Turkey Trot volunteer opportunities.
 - Garden Committee Update: Beds are sleeping. Awesome season. So much produce. Do you sell/give produce to the cafeteria? Yes.
 - Communications Committee Update: focus has been on website and looking into analytics to see how people are using the website.
- New Funding Requests and Voting
 - Update on request for teacher tickets to the Art of Education: EB reviewed the request and did not approve it as outlined. If there will be a shortfall it will be an expense of the event instead. Teachers chimed in that they love attending the fall fundraiser and getting to be adults.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015; 6 p.m.
- Adjourn – Social Gathering