

STEELE ELEMENTARY PTA MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2014

- **Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review**
- **Approval of Nov. Minutes**
- **Recognitions**
 - Jen and Christy and Liesl for Art of Education (237) attended; brought in \$73,708; Loren Rigney SS Fund hit \$106,000, which includes the \$73,708 from the Art of Education; Parents who brought in teacher breakfast; Jim Grimes doing a great job as room parent coordinator; Liesl Roesch coordinated the Science Fair, DU Professors Keith Miller and Peter Laz; Holidays Around the World – lots of parents contributed; Dave Clarke from Arbor Gardens trimmed all of the trees in the garden on Christmas Eve.
- **Principal Update and Q/A**
 - ELS audit today by DPS good feedback from DPS and that Steele was doing things that could a model for other schools; Great start to the new year with a lot of energy in staff and students; Hired Erin Royer for the 4/5 advanced part-time teacher (she is a Steele parent). She is working with Lane too so that their approaches are aligned.
 - Teacher reports: Amanda 2/3: Digit unit studying fossils and writing to describe them; Michelle 4/5: Survivor unit studying animals which is also being incorporated in art class and the kids will wrap up the project with a trip to the museum; Christy K/1: finished up a “how to” writing unit and doing a science unit called “here, there and everywhere.” K/1 saw big improvements in benchmark tests since the beginning of the year. Miriam for Arts: 2/3 making fossils in the art room and paper mache dinosaurs, 4/5 doing adaptations for Survivor project where they choose a planet to live on and adapt themselves in order to live on the planet. K/1 project on textiles. Art Show to be held at Wash Perk in February. 4/5 working on scenery for Bugs performance to be held in Feb. Steele applied for a Get Moving grant from Kaiser which enabled us to buy equipment for PE and have Brain Break activities such as juggling, cup stacking and other activities that are used in PE and in the classroom. Interventionists completed their second round of intervention and seeing good growth.
- **President Update** (Heather Michel)
 - Heather and Tanya presented more details on the Academic Committee to the PTA membership. Addressed questions about time commitment and benchmarking other schools rated “excellent” in the SPF. Any PTA members who would be interested in joining the Academic Committee (this spring/next fall) please let Heather Michel know.
- **VP of Fundraising Update; Fundraising and Event Committee Update** (Rebekah Marcus)
 - Home Tour Update: Have four of the five homes secured to date. Looking for a lead communication person for this event. Maureen is chair for Home Tour this year. May 9.
- **Treasurer Update; Finance Committee Update** (Kim Kobernusz)
- **VP of Volunteers Update; Family Programs and School Activities Committee Update** (Chrissy Lucado)
 - Volunteer opportunities: After School Enrichment Coordinator; PTA president, VP Fundraising, Family Programs Chair; Stallion Fund Chair; Communication Chair, Technology Chair
- **Communications Committee Update**
 - Communication Committee Update/2014 survey status report: three primary items that have been address since the survey was conducted last year: 1) consolidated the sources of info 2) eliminated the monthly paper packet 3) increased communications from teachers – now teachers all have weekly newsletters and/or web sites.
 - Also developed a focus on New Parents so that they had more information about Steele things before school started, i.e. New Parent Check List

- **New Funding Requests Update**

- Update on Dec. Dreamscape request from Miriam Ungar and review of the funding request process. Executive Board did not approve the request for \$5,500.00 from the PTA for a project for second/third graders to create a tile path on the east side of the school. Executive Board did not feel the project was sufficiently aligned with the PTA's mission, which includes fostering parent/teacher partnerships and enabling strong/stronger academic performance across the student body. Also the cost was concerning, as it would deplete the PTA's remaining discretionary fund for 2014/15 school year by over 50%.

- **Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015**