

**PTA General Meeting  
September 13, 2018  
Steele Elementary**

**MEETING MINUTES**

By Substitute: Kim Kobernusz

**1. Welcome/E.B. Introductions:**

- a. The meeting started at 6:04 with the Executive PTA Board introducing themselves: Crissy Lucado co-president, Kim Kobernusz co-president, Jennifer Freeman co-vice president of fundraising, Nisha Ashley vice president of volunteers, Mary Beth Thacker treasurer (Maureen Savage co-vice president of fundraising and Pattie Welch Secretary absent).
- b. Kim had 41 parents stand up and look around the room if they had kids below kindergarten, then kindergartners, followed by the rest of the elementary grades and beyond elementary. This was away to see how many people had kids the same ages as they had etc.

**2. Budget Review: see budget slide deck for additional details**

- a. Mary Beth Thacker, current treasurer, presented a slide show that past treasurer, Pattie Welch developed. The slides showed where our PTA income came from last school year.
- b. Mary Beth then explained how we hope to spend this money we made last year if we can approve the budget tonight.
- c. Our treasurer, Mary Beth, told us we have \$301,543.74 available now, Expected Expenses for our School year is \$207,162.90, we like to keep \$35,000 in reserve saving and we have \$59,380.84 left to spend this school year.
- d. Kim mentioned that every summer the PTA treasury books are audited by Steele parents going over EVERY SINGLE transaction that goes in and out of our accounts. This was done on July 26<sup>th</sup> and all monies were accounted for correctly.
- e. THANK YOU Pattie Welch for your two years of meticulous record keeping.

**3. Principal Update:**

- a. Principal Cindy Kapeller, who is also on the Executive PTA Board, spoke about the differences in our 2<sup>nd</sup> educators: she broke down the differences between:
  - i. **1. Para Professionals:** Minimum requirement: 48 college credits, preferred: Associates Degree or Bachelor's Degree, Must pass skills test and they cost Steele \$25,000 per Para
  - ii. **2. Boettcher Residents** have a 4-year degree in something other than education. They get their training through Boettcher Teacher Residency during the year (Thursday) and they cost Steele \$15,000 per resident.
  - iii. **3. Student Teachers** UNC Graduate Student with a degree in something other than education, summer school, practicum – fall Student Teach in the spring. UNC Undergrad's have an Elementary Education Degree, Semester of Student Teaching and they are free to Steele. We hope to tap into the Student Teachers

next year and beyond to reduce our costs going forward. Mrs. Kapeller also talked about how the pools to become teachers are at an all time low and they are much harder to come by.

**4. Budget Approval:**

- a. Paid PTA Voting members stood up. Kim Kobernusz made a motion to approve the budget for this school year. Nisha Ashley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the voting members approved the Budget as presented by Mary Beth.

**5. CSC (Collaborative School Committee):**

- a. Ali Sweeney and Tawney Becker told us how they meet once a month, an hour before the PTA meetings to give advice on the budget, and how to improve the school. They talk about what is going well and give guidance where needed.
- b. The committee is made up of 4 parents, 3 teachers, 1 principal and they are looking for a community member at large to join to committee. If you know of anyone that may like to join please send him or her our way.
- c. Tawney also mentioned a meeting being held at South High School on Wednesday September 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 regarding Tom Boasberg current Superintendent's replacement. What do you want to see in the next superintendent? The Denver Board of Education wants to learn about your hopes and dreams for our next district leader. Join the meeting and give your input.

**6. Committee updates:**

**a. Family Programs:**

- i. Carnival & Bike-A-Thon – Sean Jourdan will be taking over Family Programs from Carrie Gibson next school year. He is training under Carrie now and he let us know the Bike-A-Thon 1<sup>st</sup> wave will leave the school parking lot at 10:30 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave will leave at 10:45. Have kids start gathering around 10:15 with filled out consent forms, a donation made out to Steele PTA for the Specials and a nonperishable food item for a food drive. The Carnival will be up and running by 11-1:00 on the field and playground area. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking turns running the free games and free bouncy house obstacles, food trucks will be on site for your dining pleasure.

**b. Fall Fundraiser/Stallion Fund:**

- i. Dedra Haynie (co-chair of Fall fundraiser) let us know to save Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00-10:00 p.m. for the Denver Botanic Gardens adults only Masquerade Fundraiser. The Auction will have a Live portion, a Silent, portion a Steele Exclusives and Teacher Experiences portion. The Live Auction has unique experiences, sports/concert packages and vacation homes. The Silent Auction has tours and tickets, products and services along with gift certificates. The Steele Exclusives are parties thrown by Steele Families for Steele Families. The Teacher Experiences are donated by the teachers for their students. Look at the PTA website for details on how to get involved and come out and have a good time raising money for the kids.

- c. **Sponsorship:**
  - i. Crissy Lucado spoke about the sponsorship team is trying to streamline their process to make it easier for participants to decide when and where is the best placement for their money. Finalizing process and looking for help
- d. **Garden:**
  - i. Dig it Day Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> Kids and families welcome. Franci Martin who has been in charge of our beautiful garden let us know how this will be her last year before her son graduates from Steele. She talked about the Farmers Market that sells out every Thursday after school. Franci mentioned she has tried to scale down the jobs in the garden to make them more manageable for volunteers to want to be involved. She is hoping her kindergarten marigolds program never goes away and how she also runs an after-school garden club in the spring.
- e. **Grocery Cards:**
  - i. Ali Sweeney, spoke on how King Soopers and Safeway give 5% back to Steele when you buy groceries with a reloadable gift card. It's easy and fast – when you go grocery shopping, you just tell the cashier that you want to add money to a gift card. Every time you add money to your card, Steele gets 5%. Get your card in the school office. Each card costs \$5 and has been pre-loaded with \$5 for you to spend at King Soopers or Safeway. If every family at Steele used these cards to buy their weekly groceries, we would raise \$50,000 for the school every year. You can buy reloadable cards for anyone in your life that shops at King Soopers or Safeway.
- f. **MySchoolAnywhere (MSA) MOBILE APP:**
  - i. Nisha Ashley: This is where you can view all the volunteer positions, and so much MORE. Access MSA from anywhere with their free, full featured mobile app available for Apple or Android phones. You can quickly sign up for open volunteer positions and view your current and past commitments. With the school directory feature you can search by student, family, parent, or teacher and click-to-call, click-to-text, “map it” and email. Download it TODAY!
- g. **Communication Coordinator:**
  - i. Jim Grimes, told us he is one of 9 members on his team. All work hard trying to keep us all informed of what is going on at Steele. Please check out our two websites: <http://steele.dpsk12.org> , & <http://steelepta.org> , where you can sign up for the Steele Stallion (weekly newsletter), view our school calendar that is updated all the time. He also mentioned at the bottom of the Stallion Press you can see who to contact to submit items to the newsletter and other contact information for questions. We have two Facebook pages. One is private and when you request to be added your email is verified that you are a Steele parent before being accepted.
- h. **Home Tour:**
  - i. Jen Olson let us know the Home Tour is held every year on the Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend. It involves LOTS of volunteers and brings in all kinds of money. Jen and Johanna Woodrow have started looking for houses for our

spring tour. If you have any leads or know of any houses in the area that may want to show their home, please contact [jenjenolson@gmail.com](mailto:jenjenolson@gmail.com).

**7. Next General Meeting:**

- a. TUESDAY October 9<sup>th</sup> 6pm Middle School Night. We will be selling grocery cards and collecting PTA dues after the meeting.
- b. The PTA wanted to recognize and thank the Summer Audit Committee: Elizabeth Valeski, Ali Sweeney, Kim Kobernusz, Jessica Meehan, Dara and Rich Johnson.
- c. We also wanted to recognize and thank former PTA President, Sarah Chapman, for putting together the Welcome Packet that has After School Activates, Frequently Asked Questions, a Parent Checklist and a Steele Calendar that can all be found on <http://steele.dpsk12.org>

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:15.**