

**PTA General Meeting  
February 19, 2019  
Steele Elementary Office**

**GENERAL MEETING – MEETING MINUTES**

**EB Attendees:**

Kim Kobernusz, Crissy Lucado, Mary Beth Thacker, Nisha Ashely, Maureen Savage, Cindy Kapeller

**Attendance:**

13 additional in attendance

**1. Agenda:**

- a. GM meeting minutes approval
  - i. Kim made motion to approve January meeting minutes
  - ii. Mary Beth second
  - iii. All in favor, none opposed
  
- b. Dr. Liz Leeper / School Psychologist:
  - i. Introduction:
    1. Always been in mental health. Loves Steele and really appreciates the fact that she is in one school
    2. 5<sup>th</sup> grade program: Riding The Wives
      - a. Came down through DPS: curriculum is through Crisis Connections
      - b. Ensure 5<sup>th</sup> graders were having suicide prevention program – but it's really about building resiliency
      - c. What do we do about the really heavy feelings we have
      - d. How do we help a friend out that tells us a secret that puts us in a strange position
      - e. All about help-seeking
      - f. We make sure they have what they need for the situations in their lives
      - g. We can help manage the message they are receiving and provide support
      - h. 6 lessons we are reviewing: entire program is 12 lessons
      - i. 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents had to opt-in via a permission slip in the are allowed to participate
      - j. Additional resources:
        - i. Yellow Ribbon Program: attempting to make suicide prevention available to everyone
        - ii. Colorado Department of Education: website has a ton of good information available

- iii. Media: link between media and suicide is very high
  - k. Talking about suicide doesn't increase suicide but we do have to be careful in how we talk about it:
    - i. Ex: we shouldn't say "it was a successful suicide"
    - ii. When we talk about it are we offering hope – that's what will decrease the risk
    - iii. Stick to facts and basics: see better outcomes
- 3. Other programs Dr. Liz is working on:
  - a. Safe 2 Tell:
    - i. Parents and kids have a suspicion or saw something that they don't 'know what to do about as it relates to abuse
    - ii. Call a hotline/text/app: report situation, organization will looking into and then pass information along to the school
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Step Lessons: K-2 schools
    - i. Self-regulation skills
    - ii. Practice learning skills
    - iii. Practice confidence, assertiveness, asking for help
    - iv. Positive self talk
    - v. We also learn about feelings and recognizing how others are feelings through body language, etc.
    - vi. Evidence-based program
    - vii. Would like to expand this to all grades next year
  - c. Talking with classrooms, small groups conversation around friendships, mental health IEP students, counseling, diversity
  - d. 504 coordinator
  - e. Work closely with SPED team on special education services
  - f. Looking for a SPED Para right now
- 4. Questions:
  - a. Would love to do more family-outreach for our community
  - b. South High School: has a wellness night – that we think got postponed due to the strike last week
    - i. Emotional Wellness Fair: at South HS for community. Mental health resources, break-out sessions for parents/kids, etc.
  - c. Perhaps create a page on the website where we can share all of this information and resources
- c. Principal update
  - i. Thank you for the wrap-around support of staff in school and the staff that wasn't here. Testament to our community.
  - ii. School choice was extended to tomorrow, 2/20.

- iii. Student-led conferences / Presentation of Learning
    - 1. Students sharing their learning with their parents
    - 2. March 11-20: sign-up
  - iv. Talent show: March 21 / auditions are the week before everyday
  - v. CMAS:
    - 1. 3 weeks in April dedicated to testing
      - a. ELA: first week / Friday for make-up
      - b. Math: second week / Friday make-ups
      - c. Science: third week / 5<sup>th</sup> grade only
      - d. Last week held for make-ups
    - 2. We start the Tuesday after Spring Break
    - 3. Full schedule will be shared in the Stallion
  - vi. Kindergarten round-up: April 30<sup>th</sup>: 6pm, including kids
  - vii. Bond updates:
    - 1. Hydration stations: 1 on each floor
    - 2. Fencing: playground will be closed off during school days
    - 3. Painting: lockers, library
    - 4. Library updates to come too
  - viii. Steele family movie night: Friday, 2/22
    - 1. Incredibles 2 – 5:30pm
  - ix. Choir concert: Thursday, 2/21
  - x. Men of Steele: Thursday, 2/21
  - xi. Rocketry:
    - 1. 4<sup>th</sup> graders will launch rockets this year
    - 2. Won't be full program
    - 3. But he has agreed to talk to teachers and they can do the experiments in the classroom
    - 4. The last week of April, 3 weeks in May with the students, 1x/week, launch rockets – reserved for two days // May 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>
    - 5. PTA approved an additional \$500 to provide Ralph a stipend
- d. Committee updates
- i. Finance
    - 1. Additional \$500 for Rocketry program
  - ii. Volunteers
    - 1. Home tour opportunities are available for sign-up on MSA
  - iii. Fundraising
    - 1. Home tour:
      - a. Next HT meeting on Thursday, 2/21, 6-8pm
      - b. 5 great homes have been secured: 700-900 blocks
      - c. 800 block of S. Vine for block party // 4-5 Steele families live on the block // after party celebration will happen on that block as well
      - d. Ticket sales: will run the contest again for top seller

- e. Sponsorships are already doing really well
  - i. Have a platinum sponsor secured which we haven't done in a few years
  - ii. Still have one home available for sponsorship
- f. Selling local ads in our directory and for street team
- g. Would love to have people go directly to the business and ask for their support/sponsorship – if interested, see Maureen and she'll give you a section to reach out to
- h. Need 4-5 house captains

iv. Communications

- 1. No updates

e. CSC update:

- i. Budget details will be shared at our next General Meeting

f. Strike update:

- i. So many helpers – too many to thank so I know we'll miss someone
- ii. Big thank you to Cindy for her leadership and for making everyone feel comfortable whether you were in school or a striking teacher.
- iii. Thank you:
  - 1. Robin Pigford, our school strike captain
  - 2. Ali Sweeney for communication, organizing strike teams to feed, sign-making, etc.
  - 3. Sign-makers, lunch helpers, making copies, volunteering.
  - 4. Office staff was incredible.
  - 5. Para-professionals were incredible too.
- iv. There were some things that couldn't be communicated via Steele Stallion – so our Facebook page is a great resource to have discussions, share information, etc.
- v. People are talking about education finally. Would like to see PTA begin discussions about being leadership around education reform and elections, etc.
  - 1. Perhaps we identify someone on the PTA who is the leader of this information or leader of this charge.

g. Next PTA meeting: March 12