

STEELE ELEMENTARY

PTA MEETING AGENDA



Tuesday, February 9, 2016
6:00-7:30 pm
Auditorium

- **Welcome & Introductions** (President Ann Shiveley)
 - Round Robin: Everyone introduced themselves and gave their name, kids' names, grade, teacher
 - 33 attendees

- **Reading of Minutes & Approval** (Secretary Sarah Allen)
 - Minutes were approved

- **Steele Update and Q/A** (Principal Kevin Greeley and Teachers)
 - Kevin – Shifting to Bridges curriculum to align with the district and core standards testing. Curriculum will enhance the focus on precise math language skills for students. Teachers are excited about the new content. K-2 will be shifting to a new district supported reading curriculum, which will mirror very similar content as to what they have been working with. The 3rd graders will be shifting to curriculum used by the 4th/5th graders. This shift was to ensure that the content is rigorous enough for Steele 3rd graders. The goal is to find content that is strong enough that teachers will not have to develop it on their own, but can instead focus their energies on teaching.
 - Kindergarten – They are learning about why people “go places” and transportation. Writing is focused on “how to’s” and math work is number bonds.
 - 1st grade – The interns are beginning their curriculum sections on animals and habitats.
 - 3rd grade – They have just completed a literacy unit on animal adaptation. The kids presented their findings in class. In math they just finished fractions and are now beginning measurement. Science is focused on electricity.
 - 4th/5th – Literacy is focused on biodiversity in the rainforest. This is a shift from reading fiction to reading/analyzing informational text – articles, interviews, and documentaries. Science is moving into the human body and how it works and the different systems. 4th graders just began rocketry.
 - Intervention – They just finished a round of testing to confirm student progress.
 - Student Council – They are beginning a Box Top contest by classroom. Contest will begin this week and complete on the Friday before Spring Break. The winning classroom will get a pizza party.
 - Specials – Shakespeare Festival is all day on April 29th. The Destination Imagination competition will be held on March 12th at George Washington High School. Four DI teams from Steele will compete this year.

- **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**
 - CSC – School budget will be lower for next year – roughly set to 2014 levels. It will include second educators – 13 interns and five para-professionals. PTA will fund \$150K to cover the budget gap for these second educator costs. The mill levy funding is beginning to come to Steele. The

amount is \$42K and it will go to funding technology and arts education, PE, and library. We will have the same number of full time positions as the current school year.

- Finance – Our revenue continues to increase as money comes in form Black Tie. Corporate matches have been on the up tick.
- Fundraising and Events –
 - Liz Kottcamp gave an update on the Stallion Fund. The goal was to raise \$115K by the 100th day of school. We have surpassed that goal and have currently raised \$127K. The Stallion fund committee will be sending out thank you notes to everyone that made a direct contribution.
 - Next big fundraiser is the Home Tour. The team is still looking for one more house for the tour. Additionally, they also need a florist to donate or provide at cost 5 arrangements for the Tour. As the time approaches, we will need volunteers. Look for updates in the Stallion. Next home tour meeting is 2/17 at Danielle Vitale’s house.
- Volunteers -- We are in the “groove” for the year. The upcoming Dance has some volunteer opportunities, so please check out My School Anywhere.
- Garden Committee – After school garden program will be starting up on Wednesdays beginning the first week of April and running to the second to last week of school. There are 20 slots.
- Family Programs and School Activities’ – 100 tickets sold to date for the winter dance. There will be 300 total tickets for sale.
- Communications Committee – Presentation of Survey Results – Sarah Chapman & Heather Michel
 - Received 119 responses from the Steele Community, most from returning families and 24% from new families
 - 55% of respondents said that Steele communications were “excellent”
 - Teacher emails and Steele Stallion were the top two communication channels
 - 88% of new parents said they had the information that they needed on the first day of school
 - Overwhelming endorsement of keeping the paper version of the school directory
 - Next steps: Communicate the survey findings vial the Stallion, develop a plan for minimizing information duplication, evaluate opportunities to consolidate interfaces/tools/user experience, ensure information is highly relevant, current and directed to the right audience
 - New Facebook “group” that will be a private page for Steele parents has been launched. This is a forum for virtual conversations amongst Steele parents. This is different than the public Facebook page. This will be announced in the Steele Stallion press this week with instructions on how to gain access

- **New Business**

- PTA Succession Planning Update (Ann Shiveley)
 - Very successful mixer last week to introduce parents to the open PTA EB and committee positions. Lots of parents have shown interest in roles next year. Nominations will happen at our April PTA meeting.
- President’s Update (Ann Shiveley)
 - PTA Music Funding Request -- Approved

- **Volunteer Recognition (All)**

- Science Fair parents – Jocosta Champion, Peter Lazz, Mary Guyzinger, Leisel ?, Keith Miller (alumni parent)

- All PTA participants for the work you do
- Wash Park Lacrosse is starting up for 1st and 2nd grade boys. You can register at the Wash Park Rec Center.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

