

STEELE ELEMENTARY

PTA MEETING MINUTES



Tuesday, March 8, 2016
6:00-7:30 pm

- **Welcome & Introductions** (President Ann Shiveley)
 - Round Robin: Everyone gave their name, kids' names, grade, teacher
 - There were 27 attendees
- **Reading of Minutes & Approval** (Secretary Sarah Allen)
 - Approved
- **Steele Update and Q/A** (Principal Kevin Greeley and Teachers)
 - Principal Greeley – CMAS testing will begin right after spring break for grades 3-5 and they will test on literacy and math. Literacy will be hour and a half long test. Math will be 50 minutes. There will also be a science section. The testing has been lessened, which is an improvement. Big thing to remember: The test is made to be a big deal, but we should not put undo pressure on our kids. It's important, but we want our kids to practice testing and staying calm about that. They will take tests all of their lives and learning this skill is important for their development.
 - Kindergarten and 1st grade – Kindergarten is doing non-fiction on what is in space. The first graders have moved into a non-fiction unit as well. Animals and animal habitat has been the focus with a field trip to the zoo.
 - 2nd and 3rd – Third graders are doing a unit on barrier breakers. Second grade is doing a writing project focused on a narrative work that will result in the creation of a book.
 - 4th and 5th – Rainforest module underway. Three total units. Wrapping up the second unit now. The final unit will focus on field journals. The next unit will be influential athletes. Science unit on the human body is wrapping up now.
 - Specials – Art: Shakespeare banners are almost done. The 4/5 students are choosing their artwork for their April 28th art gallery show. Third grade is working on sculpture. Drama: all grades are working on their performances. PE: Archery bows have arrived and were demonstrated and passed around at the meeting. Various sizes were purchased so all kids could participate regardless of size/strength. The new archery program will begin this spring. The Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser is complete and the kids raised \$14K. Intervention: There is a new program to honor the accomplishments and work of a Steele special needs child. A honor certificate will be posted monthly in the school office.
- **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**
 - Finance – Kim: Very light month without a lot of activity. Our budget is on track. Stallion fund balance is \$148K.
 - Fundraising and Events – Loren: Matching corporate funds have had a great impact on the school budget. Home Tour prep is underway. Five houses have been secured. Sponsorship requests are out and the next two weeks will be a big push. Volunteer request is being prepared – more to

come. We will need 120 volunteers for the Home Tour.

- Volunteers – Crissy: There are a lot of opportunities coming in the spring. This year we will be premiering some new Steele SWAG at the Home Tour and it will be for sale on the Steele website. There are still opportunities to volunteer with the PTA next year. The Executive Board will take nominations in April and votes in May.
- Garden Committee – New committee members are working on the seedlings. The after school garden program is full and there is a waiting list. Dig it Day is May 14th.
- Family Programs and School Activities’ – Carrie: Dance raised \$1,578. Everyone on the waitlist was able to attend. Great success! The plan is to take the funds and gift it to the 5th graders for their graduation party. Plan for a dance next year with the 5th graders being more involved with planning and running the dance.
- Communications Committee – Heather: Working on the action steps from the Communications Survey. Working on potential reductions to the Summer Packet. Developing some Legacy Documents for future committee members. The private Facebook group has been launched.

- **New Business**

- PTA Funding Request (Principal Kevin Greeley)
 - Promethean Board Demonstration and Request Overview: Currently, every 4/5 classroom has a board. The goal is to have a board in all classrooms next year – 12 new boards. Leadership sees the value of adding these given increasing technological skills of teachers using them, value of incorporating them into classroom teaching, and upcoming math curriculum content. There is \$9K available through Mill Levy funds and the request was for a match of \$12,240 from the PTA. Motion for funding was approved.
- President’s Update (Ann Shiveley)
 - If anyone is interested in an EB position, please reach out to an existing EB member.

- **Volunteer Recognition (All)**

- Dance – Thank you to everyone that helped on the event.
- Destination Imagination – Fielding six teams that are all parent led.
- Jane Henderson for Steele Fall Party.
- Scott Dermer for his work in the classroom.
- Erica Ecklund for the school website.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Adjourn – Social Gathering