

STEELE ELEMENTARY

PTA MEETING MINUTES



Tuesday, November 10, 2015

- **Welcome & Introductions** (President Ann Shiveley)
 - Executive Board Introductions
 - Round Robin - 26 attendees

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

- **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**
 - Finance – A summary of accounts was provided. Teacher Tim Welch’s request for matching funds to support an archery grant was approved by the PTA. The request was for \$2,000.
 - Fundraising and Events – Havana Nights is sold out for Friday.
 - Volunteers – All staffed for Havana Nights.
 - Garden Committee – Rainbow week has gone well and the kids love it! A new garden sign was installed this past weekend -- Andy who started the garden at Steele donated the sign.
 - Communications Committee – Havana Nights has been a big focus. A communications survey will be going out in December. The Committee will report back in January on survey results.
 - Family Programs and School Activities Committee – No Update.
 - Membership – 70 PTA members to date

- **Steele Update and Q/A** (Principal Kevin Greeley)
 - Teacher updates
 - Tim Welch – Specials: 3rd grade will have Dec 1 Art show from 5:30-7pm at Wash Perk. Archery for 4-5 grade kids through GOCO grant – Insight Archery, CO Schools Archery. Tim will be applying for the grant. He has been approved for half (\$2,000) through the PTA discretionary specials funding (from Dream Time) program. If the grant is awarded, the archery program will begin at Steel in Spring 2016.
 - First Grade – Reading theme is friendship. Writing is procedural – “how to’s.” Science – investigating properties.
 - Second Grade – Plants and life cycles are the focus. Land forms and map skills.
 - Fourth and Fifth – They have been reading Esperanza Rising. They are writing a two voice poem based on their response to challenges. Science is focused on heating and cooling.
 - Interventionist – Ending first six-week cycle. Teachers are doing referrals and re-testing is underway. Interventionists work with children that are struggling at their grade level in 30-minute blocks. Kids are moved in and out as needed every six-weeks on writing skills, reading and fluency.

- **Principal update:** Touched on 3rd grade writing skills and success. The kindergartners are focusing on habitats and number patterns. Throughout the school there has been a focus on academic vocabulary and complete sentences. School Leadership Team is taking on “Living the Code.” They will teach the Steele Code line by line each week to really focus on the Code and value of it. What being a Steele Stallion is and celebrating that. Classes will see videos showing examples of the code and not “living” the

code.

- **New Business**

- Student Council Update (Darci Barlow) – Goal is to help support bringing the “Steele code to life.” Kids meet twice a month – 1st and 3rd week. Elections occur in September and kids are all from 4th and 5th grades. See attached document with more details about Student Council and their work.
- President’s Update (Ann Shiveley) –
 - Tim’s funding approved by the attendees.
 - The PTA Executive Board (EB) has developed a succession plan for the EB and Committee chairs. We will begin hosting mixers to introduce people to these roles.
 - In January, we invite parents that may be interested in learning more about the work and potential roles of the Executive Board to attend a meeting at Steele. These are held the first Wednesday of the month at 8:20am.

- **Volunteer Recognition** (Ann Shiveley)

- Maureen Savage – Havana Sweat brought in \$350 in fundraising.
- Giselle Monahan stepped up to be the treasurer for Havana Nights
- Betsy Wagner is doing the graphics for the banners for year round sponsors. She also did the directory and cover ads.
- Eliza Kitell for grocery cards. She has sold so many cards!
- Jim Grimes for helping on the Communications committee and attending EB meetings. He keeps everyone up to date and is everywhere that is needed around the school.

- **Middle School Presentations** – Parents and students presented

- Merrill – General feedback:
 - Good support and direction from teachers.
 - Small 6th grade classes help teachers focus on students.
 - 160 kids in 6th grade.
 - 130 proficient or advanced in this new class which was a first for the school.
 - Class size: 26-29 kids per class. Next year the goal is 25 kids per class by adding an additional “section.”
 - ESL has not presented as a challenge.
 - Enrichment is an option quarterly for kids who are proficient or above.
 - 30 Steele 5th graders went to Merrill.
- DSST –
 - Preference for admission is no longer going to neighborhood. All Steele kids must lottery in.
 - It’s a new school. There are growing pains as it develops – three-year old school.
 - 46 girls to 54 boys in 6th grade class. Their charter is 50% of each. Sixth grade class: 169 students
 - Student/teacher ratio: 1 to 30
- GALS – Girls Athletic Leadership School
 - Philosophy – strong body equals a strong mind.
 - Sixth through 10th grade now. Full high school in two years.
 - Only single sex DPS charter school.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Steele “Living the Code”~ Student Council Activities for 2015/2016

Summary: The Steele “Living the Code” Project in 2015/16 is underway for it’s second year. The main purpose of this project is to provide an in-depth and intentional look at the Steele code on monthly basis as a means to promote and support the ongoing efforts of character development and social emotional learning in Steele. The code is an amazing declaration and tool that students and staff say every day, the goal of this project is to take it to the next level and have students really understand and know what it looks like to Live the Code- not just say it. This project will be primarily student and parent driven. Using the student council as our main team, they will plan and execute monthly activities, announcements and projects that all relate to the themes and character traits being expressed in the Steele code.

THE STEELE CODE HIGH LEVEL

November- Do the Right Thing

December- Respect ourselves and others

January - Kindness – doing for others

February - Courage: risk taking & making mistakes

March- Responsibility for Actions, Words and Learning

April- Truth/Being Honest- Even when it is difficult

May – Doing the Right Thing Even When No One is watching INTEGRITY

MONTHLY FENCE WORD (S)

DO RIGHT

RESPECT

KINDNESS

COURAGE

RESPONSIBILITY

TRUTH

Student Council – Steele Parent Volunteers, Darci Barlow, Sarah Dempsey and Laurie Gilbertson, will help support Student Council leaders with rolling out monthly “Living the Code” projects on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Ms. Parker will be running the 2nd Student Council meetings on 3rd Tuesday of the month covering additional student council leadership development, business and projects.

Student Council Announcements - Student council students will provide “Living the Code” announcements for the monthly Steele code themes and upcoming events once a week on Fridays. Student Council members will rotate evenly to be sure they have a chance to speak.

Library – Ms. Patty, the librarian in support of the Living the Code project, will be have books that reinforce the monthly “Living the Code” themes or projects underway on a table set aside for these books.

MONTHLY PROJECTS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER – “Clothes to Kids” Holiday Clothing Drive

JANUARY – “I’m Rockin’ the Code” - Large Banner in Cafeteria with Students Body Commitment Signatures

FEBRUARY – The Steele Code theme for February is Courage. In Latin, courage means “Cor” or “Heart” – The original definition was to tell the story of who you are with your whole heart. Students Writing Contest - Tell your Story from your Heart.

MARCH – “Clothes to Kids” Clothing Drive Continued for Spring Clothes

APRIL - Peep Diagram Contest (Near Easter), Trash Clean-up

MAY – Legacy Project (TBD)

MONTHLY – Teacher “Kindness Box”, student posters, fence messages, Steele Stallion updates and weekly announcements will occur on a regular basis to promote Steele Code themes and projects.

For additional questions, contact Darci Barlow at darcibarlow1@gmail.com or Michelle Parks at michelle_reedy@dpsk12.org.

Steele Stallion Post for 11/12/15

Give the Gift of Gently Used Clothes ~ Steele Student Council is excited to sponsor the "[Clothes to Kids](#)" drive for DPS students in need. Our student leaders are looking for families to 1.) donate clothes 2.) refer families in need and 3.) help to drop clothes off. Gently used and washed (required) pants, jeans, shirts, dresses, winter coats, shoes, boots, new underwear and new socks for pre-kindergarten up to 12th grade kids are welcome. Please drop your items off at the "Clothes for Kids" bins located at the doors of our cafeteria from now until Tuesday, December 15. Click [How to Refer a Family link](#) if you are interested in referring a family. Contact Darci Barlow at darcibarlow1@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the clothes drop schedule.