

STEELE ELEMENTARY

PTA MEETING MINUTES



Wednesday, September 9, 2015

6:00-7:30 pm

Auditorium

Attendance: 36 attendees total (Six Steele team members, five EB members, seven new families to Steele)

Executive Summary:

Approved – 2015-2016 Budget of \$180,962

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13th at 6pm

Welcome Comments: Ann

- Welcome to first PTA meeting everyone
- Executive Board Introductions
- Introductions: child/children, classroom
- Overview of agenda - standard structure of PTA meetings and the kinds of topics that will be regularly covered

Principal Report: Kevin Greeley

Great to see all the smiling faces. Good state to the school year, hitting the ground running and creating good routines with the kids. Feedback is that the kids are doing very well adjusting.

Word is that the 5th graders at Camp Chiley are doing great.

New Expeditionary learning program is being launched for 4/5 grade. Steele piloted the program last year.

This year there are 13 interns and 5 paras in the classrooms as second educators. Economics changed the mix from prior years, but this new configurations feels right. We have five excellent paras and engaged/excited interns that are studying to become teachers.

Teacher Representative Report

- 4/5 – Working on the first unit in the new Expeditionary program -- Declaration of Human Rights. Kids are doing really well.
- Teacher/coach: New role this year has been a great addition. Allows for a shared role of coaching, so that Kevin no longer has to cover coaching 25 educators alone – now there are teams and distributed roles. There is real value to folks that are still teaching to also give feedback. This meets the goal of keeping Steele a “teaching” school. Paid by a grant from DPS.
- 2/3 – Second graders are doing animals and habitat. Connecting reading and writing together.
- K/1 – Having fun and getting kids into the routine. 1st grade unit is community. Kindergarten is working on academic as well as the “routine” of school. Launched writers workshop – small moments – unit.
- Specials –
 - Gym – training on how to use the equipment outside. Bike a thon is coming up – October 11th.
 - Art – 4/5 are doing photography unit.
 - Theater -- 4/5 will be doing Aladdin as a play this year. Younger grades are working on “rituals and routines.” Kindergartners are doing stories and acting them out. 3rd graders are going to be doing “scary” stories. Open item: K-3 may or may not be on stage this year. More to come.

Finance Committee Update: Kim Kobernusz

2014/2015 Audit Update – Kim provided an update on what the Audit Committee does and presented the approved Audit. PTA fiscal year is July 1-June 30.

Treasure's Report – Kim presented the account balance for PTA. Total -- \$231,393.36. Explained that the money we made during the prior school year will be used for this school year. 2014/2015 we raised \$183,262. There are two major fundraising engines – Stallion and Home Tour.

2015-2016 – Budget Overview – The single largest expense is second educators. We are the only school in DPS with a second educator in each homeroom. Kim overviewed the intention of using funds raised while kids are in school versus building up a deep reserve fund. She walked through areas of change year over year – second educators, teacher stipends, philanthropy, family programs and specials' fundraiser. PTA members approved the budget of \$180,692 unanimously.

Communications Committee – Volunteer Overview: Sarah Chapman

- Committee Goal – foster communication between Students and the Steele Community. Drive alignment and efficiency so we don't have duplicate efforts on communications.
- Work includes: Hosting and managing the Steele website, updating the sign out front, optimizing communications through collaborative outreach and feedback.
- Volunteer need: Photographer to join the Committee to capture events at Steele.
- Committee members in attendance introduced themselves and spoke about their role on the committee. Tuesday at noon is the cut off for news to be included in the Steele Stallion.

VP of Fundraising Update: Loren Rigney

- 2015/2016 fundraising goal: \$180K
- Primary sources: Stallion fund/party in the Fall (\$100K) and Home Tour in the Spring (\$60K). Note: Volunteers are still needed to support the Home Tour.
- Programs that make up the difference:
 - Grocery Gift Cards
 - Corporate Matching
 - Steele Dines Out – Max's next Tuesday, 15th 4-9 pm. Half the restaurant will be reserved for Steele.
 - Fall Carnival
 - Sponsorship/Ad Sales

Steele PTA is selling reloadable grocery cards for King Soopers and Safeway. Once you spend \$5,000 on the card, \$250 will be sent to Steele PTA. Please note that for Steele to benefit from the program, you will need to purchase the cards from the PTA. This ensures that the cards are "linked" to our school. Program details can be found on the Steele Elementary School website.

PTA Membership Drive: Sarah Allen

Pledge drive for Membership: Please spread the word and get everyone you know to sign up for the PTA. You can sign up online or use the envelopes for checks/cash and put in the drop box by the bulletin board. Annual renewal is required.

Committee updates – Garden: Shari Leidner

- Farmers market will be held every Friday after school and they will sell produce from the garden
- Upcoming events:
 - 9/18 and 9/25 – Weeding and wine. Two hours of weeding followed by (adult only) wine and appetizers at committee members home.
 - 10/24 – Garden clean up.
 - Nov 7-13 – Rainbow week at Steele – cooking classes, education about fruits and vegetables, chef demos.

Pitch: Please volunteer for the garden.

Committee updates – Hospitality: Maureen Savage

Steele is launching a new donation program – Clothes to Kids of Denver. Unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to the group. In addition, parents can use the new box – located outside of the cafeteria – to donate clothes for kids ages 4-18. Clothes to Kids of Denver is a non-profit that provides new and quality used clothing

to school age students from low-income or in-crisis families in the Denver Metro Area, free of charge. Eligible students can shop twice a year for a week's worth of clothing.

Volunteers Update: Crissy Lucado

- My School Anywhere – new volunteer website. Directions for use can be found on the Steele website.
- Most of the main volunteer leadership spots have been filled, however, there is still a need for volunteer supporter roles.