

**PTA General Meeting  
March 10, 2020  
Steele Elementary Office**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**EB Present:** Pattie Welch, Kim Kobernusz, Crissy Lucado, MaryBeth Thacker, Nisha Ashley, Marti Rosenberg  
**Others present:** Roughly 32 additional

1. General meeting agenda items: March 10, 2020
  - a. Meeting minutes approved by all
  - b. Principal update
    - i. CEA Day of Action:
      1. March 19<sup>th</sup>, a non-student contact day. Many teachers across many districts are going down to capital to show support of different changes. Were able to get teachers raisers, but we don't have funding to continually support that.
    - ii. 2020-2021 Budget Updates:
      1. School budgets are determined in October for the following year. Use the October count day to make projections for next years registration.
      2. Colorado is a student-based budget system. We get a certain amount of money per student.
      3. In January you get the budget for the following year.
      4. In September there will a fall-adjustment day – they can give money or take away money depending on this count. Need to consider this so you don't have to change staff mid-year.
      5. Budget challenges:
        - a. Deficit of \$168,000 – if you plug in all that we have this year. This is AFTER \$175,00 we get from PTA and \$80,00 savings we planned from this current year.
          - i. Teacher raisers: 20% increase, but district only added 17% to our budget.
          - ii. Second educators also got raises as well, not as large.
          - iii. Overstaffing:
            1. Required (we get funding from the district) to have 1.5 special education teachers, we have 2.
            2. Required to have 2 arts teachers, we have 4.
            3. We get .25 for GT, we have .8.
            4. Last year had .5 drama and .5 GT, this year we have full time drama and .8 GT. Used to have .5 music but now we have full time.
            5. We want to do what is best for our kids, but it comes with challenges to the budget.
          - iv. Loss of funding: Teacher coaches – we have 3 teachers who teach half time and coach half time. We lost funding for one of these roles this coming year, but in talking with CSC and our staff that was a strong value that we wanted to preserve.

- b. Current 2<sup>nd</sup> educators are now very different than what we had many years ago when we partnered with Stanley British Primary. This used to cost us only \$7,000 for second educators.
  - i. Paraprofessional salary on average is \$25,000. If we had one in every classroom that would be roughly \$450,000.
  - ii. Some schools won't partner with Steele for second educators because we don't have a high enough free and reduced lunch population. We are only at 7% free and reduced lunch population.
- c. This is how we are solving this deficit problem to be balanced:
  - i. Took projections to CSC in December.
  - ii. Then met with SLT in January to discuss certain scenarios that would have the least impact on our kids.
  - iii. Then we took those scenarios to the CSC and had another conversation about how this all feels.
  - iv. Budget finalized 1/30/2020
  - v. Given that, the proposed changes will be:
    - 1. Reducing office support to just 1 person instead of 2.
    - 2. Reduce drama to .6: this won't change the current drama schedule. But things like Math Olympiad and Semantics will go away. Students will have exact same amount of specials as they currently do.
    - 3. Reduce second educators to 10 positions. The highest we have been at this year is 14 that work at General support. Currently at 13 so we are reducing by 3 positions.
      - a. Prioritize K and 1
      - b. Prioritize by student need
      - c. Schedule for extra support during literacy and math
      - d. Partner with Colleges/Universities to increase the number of student teachers we host if that is possible.
  - d. Gayle Long: signed up today to help sign petition to get funding on the 2020 ballot. Contact her if you are interested in working with her or volunteering: glong65@gmail.com

c. CSC update: N/A

d. Reports of officers

i. Finance

1. Funding request:

- a. Art room tables and chairs. 7 new tables. Easy to clean and keep sanitary. Should last a very long time. Also requesting Z stools that are safer and cleaner. Total request: roughly \$5,352.43 – Stools: \$2,685.40 // Tables: \$2,668.03 – Both measures were voted on and approved.

ii. Fundraising and events

- 1. Home tour is coming up in May. Five great homes – we have one that is over 7,000 square feet.
- 2. Garden started the seedling program today. Met with someone today from Slow Food to get recommendations on irrigation.
- 3. Just waiting for DPS to turn the water back on to fix irrigation.

- iii. Volunteers
  - 1. Sign up to volunteer for the Home Tour.
  - 2. Sign up on the app – Membership Toolkit.
  
- iv. Communications
  - 1. Register first with Membership Toolkit to be able to sign up.
  - 2. Need a co-editor position for the Steele Stallion.
  
- v. Family programs:
  - 1. Movie night was a success with 71 people.
  - 2. Dance will be April 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - 3. Men of Steele at Campus Lounge.
  
- vi. State of education town hall on March 14th at 10am at South High School.
  
- vii. President:
  - 1. April 14<sup>th</sup> – next GM meeting we will be voting our new members for the EB board for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - 2. Bylaws: we turn in our bylaws every 3 years to get reviewed, etc. Approved in December of 2019, we got them back in January 2020 with a small note.
    - a. We have had in our bylaws that roles can be shared. They are recommending that this be removed.
    - b. We are discussing this with the Colorado PTA and this will be put back into our bylaws.
  
- e. Presentation from JEDI: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Raising Consciousness by Edalina Burciaga