

**STEELE ELEMENTARY
PTA MEETING MINUTES**

**May 6, 2008
6:11 to 8:00 p.m.
Steele Cafeteria**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Liz Adams called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm in the cafeteria of Steele Elementary.

ATTENDANCE: Liz Adams, Wes Brown, Val Renkert, Glynn Baker, Anna Cafaro, Jane Cole, Quincee Cotton, Carla Dickson, Lori Eronymous, Beth Ferguson, Cathy Holland, Robin Hutchinson, Pauline Huddleson, Brenda Mahoney, Patricia Mather, Sarah Orlando, Barb Perruccio, Pam Silverberg, Elaine Walsh, Andrew Watson, Suzanne Yates, and Margaret Sobocinski.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

President Liz Adams thanked the Board for their two years of service – Robin Hutchinson, Patty Mather, Brenda Mahoney, and Margaret Sobocinski. She welcomed the new Board – Wes Brown, Pam Silverberg, Lori Eronymous, Andrew Watson, and Elaine Walsh.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

President Liz Adams officially passed the gavel to the new president, Wes Brown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve Minutes from April 1, 2008 made by Liz Adams; second by Brenda Mahoney. Vote unanimous; motion passed, Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Direct Giving Campaign: Andrew Watson (new Treasurer) reported that a letter to parents should be in the next Thursday folder. The request for donations is also on the website. The letter will have a commentary and an invitation to parents to donate to the fund. The suggested donation is \$1 a day per child, or approximately \$173, but parents are asked to donate whatever they can. The Direct Giving Campaign is hoping to raise between \$27,000 and \$30,000, in order to supplement the funds already raised and achieve the goal of 2 paid staff members per classroom. The new Board has met to discuss the message of the Direct Giving Campaign; the message should be uniform and we should make the appeal to all parents. Andrew Watson requested that:

1. All members present pledge personally, above the average if possible.
2. Members talk to fellow parents and friends at Steele personally.
3. Members promote the Direct Giving Campaign at upcoming social events, such as the House Tour, Shakespeare Night, Art Show.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda Mahoney suggested a vote to move the surplus from the general budget (a minimum of \$11,000 up to \$13,000) to the Academic Development Fund. Motion by Sandy Orlando to move the surplus to the ADF. Motion second by Carla Dickson. Vote unanimous; motion approved.

Brenda Mahoney requested a vote to approve the prioritize ADF spending as follows (after funding the “teacher” in the Steele budget which makes our funding of paras and the 0.25 reading specialist (M. Unger) :

1. B.P. Interns and Paras supported in every classroom.
2. If additional funds are available, we approve the ADF committee's recommendation to allocate support in the form of reading and/or math specialist or para hours (the ADF committee will meet again in May).

Motion to approve by Pam Silverberg. Second by Anna Cafaro. Vote unanimous; motion approved.

Brenda Mahoney reported that Steele PTA has spent \$26,000 and we have \$2,678 left to spend. She made the following three requests:

1. That the PTA cover the expenses of the 5th grade continuation ceremony: \$250
2. That the Rainbow Bridge project receives \$48 for the students to take RTD to the project.
3. That Anne Albeck receives funds to cover the cost of books for her student book club (the books would go to the school library after book club ends).

The total amount for the three requests would be around \$250. Motion to approve the requests by Anna Cafaro. Second by Quincee Cotton. Vote unanimous; motion approved.

FACULTY REPORT:

Ms. Anna Cafaro thanked everyone for the teacher appreciation lunch. She noted that the student teachers, interns and paras appreciated being included. Ms. Cafaro reported that the teachers approved the \$500 classroom budget, and they agreed that budget requests should be through a liaison. Supply lists should be the same as last year. However, the special ed. teachers requested additional funds to compensate for the lack of office supplies (federal law prohibits special ed. teachers from requesting school supplies from parents). The request was made to allocate a special ed. supply budget for next year's budget.

Mr. Reeves McDonald's class is doing an architectural study. The students are designing modular greenhouses. He is requesting that the PTA form a panel of judges for the entries. Beth Ferguson, Jane Cole, Quincee Cotton, and Glynn Baker agreed to judge.

The PTA members said thank you to the teachers for a great showing at the Fun Run.

CSC LIAISON – Monica Lengyel Monica Lengyel was not present at the meeting, but it was confirmed that she has committed to being the liaison for next year. Jane Cole reported that the CSC discussed the principal's evaluation of the Community Forum and nutrition (as part of the Well Child program).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Pam Silverberg reported that she has compiled a list of committees, with contact information. She will tend the list and make revisions as necessary
- Enrichment: Glynna Baker reported that Sciencepalooza had over 200 people, and that it was a big success. Next Friday will be the Aztec Games. Glynna Baker is now the Communications Coordinator for the CSC. She is working on consolidating the calendar, and the e-folder has already begun. The Thursday newsletter will now be available online instead of a paper copy.
- Pam Silverberg noted that Principal Charles Raisch needs the PTA calendar of events by May 20th.
- House Tour – Barb Perruccio reported that the brochures are done, with all advertisers. There will be a plant sale and BBQ at Steele. Pam Silverberg reported that she has almost all the volunteers she needs. There will be 5th grade greeters at every house. Volunteers have come from outside the Steele community, which has decreased the number of parent volunteers needed. Ticket sales are looking good.
- Auction: Pam Silverberg reported that Jenny Cargile has already begun work on next year's auction. The auction will be in November 2008.
- Community Building: Pam Silverberg reported that the PTA is working to increase activities that welcome new parents – including Kindergarten families and new families in older grades. Talk to Brenda Mahoney if you would like to sign up to coordinate social events for Kindergarten, ECE, and other new families to Steele. There was discussion of bringing in 2 parent liaisons per classroom to build community within the classroom and provide communication.
- Advocacy Committee – Barbara Coloroso May 12th at 6 pm: Suzanne Yates promoted Barbara Coloroso as a phenomenal speaker who will benefit our community tremendously. Suzanne Yates has sent out invitations to parents, e-vites, and invitations to other schools as well. The question was raised of whether the PTA could handle the potential shortfall of ticket sales. Motion by Barb Perruccio to approve for the PTA to give \$500 (if necessary) to cover the cost. Motion second by Pam Silverberg. Motion passed by majority vote. Ms. Anna Cafaro agreed to ask the teachers to send further emails to parents, urging them to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Teacher Recognition: Mile High and Jared Polis Awards: Margaret Sobocinski reported that Tim Welch won the Jared Polis award and Shelley Lengieza won the Mile High award. Tim Welch's award includes \$1,000 for him and \$1,000 for the school.

- Starbuck's sign: Pam Silverberg requested a volunteer to make a sign to post at Starbuck's announcing the awards above. Jane Cole agreed to make the sign. Pam Silverberg also announced that she is now the liaison for Starbuck's. She asked that anyone requesting any kind of donations from Starbuck's please go through her first. She emphasized that Sarah at Starbuck's is very supportive of Steele, but asked to have just one contact person, to make requests run more efficiently.
- 5th Grade Parent Recognition: Liz Adams recognized Patty Mather, the only 5th grade parent present at the meeting who has no younger children at Steele.
- Pam Silverberg thanked the existing Board for all of their hard work, on behalf of the new Board.
- Brenda Mahoney sent around a sign-up sheet for desserts at the art show on May 15th.
- Carla Dickson was thanked for chairing the Sally Foster fundraising.
- Jane Cole asked permission to acknowledge the custodians. A discussion followed; custodians are appreciated in different ways. A suggestion was made to make cards for the custodians.

NEXT MEETING: September 2, 2008

ADJOURNMENT:

Wes Brown moved to adjourn, second by Andrew Watson. Vote unanimous; motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Walsh
PTA Secretary 2008-2009