

**STEELE ELEMENTARY
PTA MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 4, 2008
Steele Cafeteria**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Liz Adams called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm in the cafeteria of Steele Elementary.

ATTENDANCE:

Liz Adams, Brenda Mahoney, Robin Hutchinson, Patty Mather, Jane Cole, Diana Hersh, Quincee Cotton, Laurie Harris, Tim Welch, Candice Kingston, Suzanne Yates, Marie Meyer, Wes Brown, Andrew Watson, Anna Cafaro, Nicole Russo, Cathy Holland, Gordon Bell, Susan Bell, Nancy Brandon, Jenny Cargile, Amie Cavarra, Carla Dickson, Darcy DiGiullio, Dean DiGiullio, Laura Vimmerstedt, Melissa Ward, Andy Nowak, Barbara Trenchard

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve minutes from Tuesday, January 15th, 2008 made by Diana Hersh; second by Anna Cafarro. Motion passed, minutes approved.

Principals Report:

Mr. Charles Raisch reported on the school budget for 2008-2009. The principal's plan would require the PTA's approval to spend \$45,000 - \$55,000 of the PTA's funds. The money would be used to hire an additional classroom teacher, increase paraprofessional and specials staff time and hire half time facilitators to support both the contemporary and BP teachers.

Principal Raisch also reported that we will be able to use DPS money to hire BP interns. Principal Raisch had to leave after his budget presentation to attend another function.

A motion was made that PTA agree to fund the \$45,000 - \$55,000 dollars per Principal Raisch's budget plan for the 2008-2009 school year. Made by Pam Silverberg; seconded by Marie Meyer. Motion passed.

Request for funds from Charlie Leckenby:

Mr. Leckenby would like to purchase new book shelves – browser bins. Browser bins are shorter, easier to access and better display books for younger kids. Bins are custom made locally for \$900.00 per shelf. Each shelf holds 250 books. We would need 4 bins to hold the 1000 books Mr. Leckenby would like to display. The school secretary, Eldijana Bjelcic's husband has offered to build the shelves for \$500.00 each for a total cost of \$2000.00. Charlie is checking with the DPS warehouse to see if they have any of these bins in storage.

A motion was made to approve \$2000.00 for the book bins. Charlie Leckenby will get a third quote and specs for shelves to be built. Motion made by Jane Cole seconded by Laurie Harris. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brenda Mahoney reported that from the current bank balance \$7,129 is budgeted for in the current year and that approximately \$10,000 is not allocated for spending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CSC – Elisa Erickson reported that Chuck Raisch would stay through May of 2009. The committee will meet in the fall to move forward with principal selection. There will be a parent forum on April 2nd and 23rd to discuss instructional programs, building space usage and ECE configuration. Out of these meetings we hope to develop a consensus plan that the CSC will begin to implement over the next 3 years.

Auction – Robin Hutchinson and Patty Mather reported that the auction raised close to \$50,000 dollars and thanked everyone for their support and hard work.

Teachers- Anna Cafaro and Nicole Russo reported that the teachers would prefer no pre-packaged supplies in the fall. They will go back to the teachers and ask if any supplies could be purchased in bulk and possibly be funded by the PTA.

Anna Cafaro suggested stickers be placed on items around the school that had been purchased by the PTA for Steele.

SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM:

Mr. Andy Nowak reported that Steele is going into its 7th year of the school garden project. The Steele garden has a plot for each classroom. The program has grown to include 16 school gardens in 6 districts which are funded by Slow Food. The really big news is that Steele's garden program has caught the attention of Alice Waters who started the non-profit organization the Edible School Yard which is located at the Martin Luther King Junior Middle School in Berkeley California. Steele Elementary will be the first affiliate school to become a part of the Edible School Yard's outreach program. Having affiliation with this program has many positive aspects for Steele. 1. Steele becomes a national figure. 2. Steele can use the foundation to raise grants. 3. Would bring Alice Waters to Denver. Andy also reported that he has received permission to cook in the cafeteria with the kids using a method called induction.

OFFICERS NOMINATION:

PTA needs to decide how many VP's and how they would be used. With the understanding that we may need to amend the bylaws to include three VPs, the PTA

chose to nominate three VPs as follows: VP Fundraising, VP Community Building and VP Advocacy.

The following PTA members were nominated to run for PTA committee positions.

PTA President – Wes Brown and Andrew Watson

VP Fundraising – Lori Eronymous

VP Building Community – Pam Silverberg

VP Advocacy – Suzanne Yates and Laurie Harris

Secretary – Quincee Cotton

Treasurer – No nominations

NEXT MEETING:

April 1st, 2008 at 6 pm in the school cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Quincee Cotton substituting for Margaret Sobocinski

PTA Secretary 2007-2008