

**STEELE ELEMENTARY
PTA MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2008
Steele Cafeteria**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Liz Adams called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm in the cafeteria of Steele Elementary.

ATTENDANCE:

Liz Adams, Anne Albeck, Glynn Baker, Nancy Brandon, Wes Brown, Jenny Cargile, Cynthia Cohen, Jane Cole, Quincee Cotton, Carla Dickson, Darcy DiGiulio, Dean DiGiulio, Elisa Erickson, Lori Eronimous, Beth Ferguson, Christine Handel, Laurie Harris, Diana Hersh, Pauline Huddleson, Flavia Kuta, Monica Lengyel, Brenda Mahoney, Patty Mather, Marie Meyer, Simone Meyer, Andy Nowak, Sarah Orlando, Barb Perruccio, Juliet Post, Pam Silverberg, Margaret Sobocinski, Kirsten Todd, Danielle VanEde, Elaine Walsh, Andrew Watson, Connie Williams, Suzanne Yates, Jacklyn Yelich, Rebecca Wiggins, Nicole Russo, Linda Brown, Lu Shaw, Ann Inai-Shaw, Tim Welch, Charles Raisch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve Minutes from March 4, 2008 made by Monica Lengyel; second by Simone Meyer. Motion passed, Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Liz Adams reported that the Academic Development Fund has used almost \$100,000.00 this year to pay for two paraprofessionals, BP interns and the reading specialist to benefit all the students in the classroom. We still need for someone to take the lead for next year's Academic Development Fund, including heading the Direct Giving Campaign which needs to start this Spring. Andrew Watson, Chris Handle and Suzanne Yates volunteered to be in charge of the Direct Giving Campaign, and the Academic Development Fund.

President Liz Adams explained that there was discussion last meeting to amend the bylaws to have three Vice Presidents. It is necessary to have a two-thirds majority to amend the bylaws. Andrew Watson moved to amend Steele PTA bylaws (Article 6, Section 2a) to strike the word "two" and substitute "three" in regards to number of Vice Presidents. Jane Cole seconded. Written ballot taken, did not meet 2/3rds majority, motion failed.

Election of New Officers: Since the last meeting, a Nominating Committee consisting of Beth Ferguson, Chair, Jane Cole and Juliet Post was formed to find and nominate members of the Steele PTA to run for Officers. Beth Ferguson reported that the following people were nominated: Wes Brown, President; Suzanne Yates, Vice President; Pam Silverberg, Vice President; Lori Eronimous, Vice President; Andrew

Watson, Treasurer; Elaine Walsh, Secretary. The above nominations were seconded by Sarah Orlando. There were no nominations from the floor. Wes Brown, Andrew Watson, and Elaine Walsh were elected unanimously by acclamation. Because there were three people nominated to Vice President and only 2 positions, a written ballot was taken. Pam Silverberg and Lori Eronymous received the highest number of votes, and will be Vice Presidents next year.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mr. Charles Raisch reported that there is a projected enrollment to have 26 students per classroom next year. Many people outside our boundaries chose Steele for Kindergarten, but the waiting list has cleared. If we have less than 10 students total enrolled than were projected, we will not meet our budget, but Mr. Raisch does not foresee this happening. Ms. Miriam Ungar will increase to .75 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) for Art (up from .5 FTE) and will also provide .25 FTE as a Reading Specialist. If we get enough money from the Academic Development Fund, we could increase the Reading Specialist another .25 FTE to a total of .5 FTE. We are looking to hire a new BP 1st/2nd grade teacher, who will use the current Science Resource Room as the new classroom.

Principal Raisch reported that DPS will conduct an anonymous Bullying survey with the 3, 4, and 5 grade students. The results will be given to CSC to determine if we wish to institute the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program.

Mr. Raisch also encouraged everyone to attend the first CSC Constituency Meeting tomorrow to discuss and plan Steele's vision, define who we are and plan our future, especially in regards to British Primary and Contemporary programs.

FACULTY REPORT:

Ms. Nicole Russo and Mr. Tim Welch had nothing to report. President Adams asked them to discuss with the teachers what type of funding would be ideal for classroom support for next year.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Brenda Mahoney reported that the library bookshelves that were approved last meeting cost \$945 and would be delivered soon. \$160 will be used to provide dinner for the teachers that stay after school for the CSC Constituency meetings. An extension has been filed, but we still need to find a volunteer to file the PTA's taxes, or else we will have to pay an accountant. Juliet Post said she would ask her husband if he could file our taxes. We are still within our \$28,257 budget this year, with \$4,896 left to spend.

There was a funding request from Mr. Andy Nowak for the Garden/Slow Food program for \$572.14 to buy a cooking cart and induction cooktop. This will be used to have the students cook recipes with the food they grow from our garden. Sarah Orlando moved to fund the request, second by Quincee Cotton. Motion passed, request granted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- School Gardens - Mr. Andy Nowak reported that the magazine 5280 had an article on Steele Elementary Gardens and the Slow Food program
- Sciencepalooza – Laurie Harris reported that this will take place May 1 with pizza 5:30 – 6 pm and the Science programs from 6 – 8 pm.

- Carnival and Auction – Jenny Cargile reported that the Bike-a-Thon next year will be separate from the Carnival. The Bike-a-Thon will be on September 21, 2008 and will take place at the Boat House in Washington Park. The Carnival will be moved to April 2009. The Auction will be in November 2009, and she is having planning meetings at her house next week.
- Advocacy Committee – Marie Meyer reported that next week Dr. Sherryll Kraizer will be speaking at Steele on the Safe Child abuse prevention program. Ms. Barbara Coloroso will be discussing her book The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander on May 12th. The Advocacy Committee is open for ideas for next year.
- House Tour – Barb Perruccio reported the tour will be on May 10th, we are hoping for even more ticket sales this year. We have about 22 volunteers lined up, we will need a total of about 60. She is looking into other outside volunteers so more parents can attend the House Tour.

NEXT MEETING:

May 6, 2008

ADJOURNMENT:

Connie Williams moved to adjourn, Carla Dickson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Sobocinski
PTA Secretary 2007-2008