

## Steller Parent Group Meeting – 9.12.12

Came to order 6:00 p.m.

### Introductions

Review and passing of the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes: Dale moves. Janice seconds. Motion passes.

Dale report: Positive start to the school year. Student and teacher attitudes. Forward planning is working out for everyone. Second continuous year with core group moving things forward. Really helps kids. Staff is settling in. Lots of change with ASD's new leadership. Want to raise test scores. Small changes that the district makes, can make a big difference for a school our size. Working with Superintendent and Secondary Education to hold Steller's uniqueness. Alaska Performance Scholarship doesn't match Steller courses and titles. For students to get 4 years in the basic cores can be a challenge. Working with other alternative schools on this issue. Got a list of all the classes that were approved (had asked for a list of what was disapproved). Steller staff is matching them up to see which of our classes are not covered for the scholarship.

Parent asks about difference between Common Core Standards and the Alaska Performance Scholarship. Working in each core subject area to bring curriculum alignment into place.

Parents are willing to advocate if that would be helpful.

Alaska Performance Scholarship has course numbers that are qualified to fit their requirements to apply. University of Alaska scholarship (\$11,427 one time scholarship for the top 10% of each graduating class).

Seminar room – Still looking for a project manager. Getting closer to finding someone.

Meeting today about concerns regarding drugs on campus and in school. Staff are very aware. Talking with kids – positive approach to the culture of the school. More about changing the perception of the school. Our known use problems are no different than the percentages within all of the other schools. Any change has to come from the students. 40 younger students came to the meeting, although there were 6 other meetings in the building. Ideas: poster on the wall (tell staff when you see unsafe behavior); all school meeting without teachers/staff present; ways to approach students that appear high (impeding their learning); want to talk more in advisories; carry the message beyond the principal gatherings (hope to have another next week).

Parent suggests that to change culture, there might need to be a separation of age groupings for the meetings.

Culture of Steller was used for other purposes (SAVE???). People sometimes think that Steller is for struggling students.

Get a story about Steller published. Got the story out with the Art teacher protest last summer – very positive.

Jen: Staff input. Everybody LOVED the volunteer fair! Enthusiastic and follow-through for volunteering. Want to improve scheduling to better involve students in the planning next year. Auction discussion. A few performances during the auction instead of a talent show, since last year's regular talent show had less involvement.

Ad Board Report: Brian Lax. Haven't met yet. Want Parent Group before the Ad Board for better flow of information. Election will be during the first All Community meeting of some sort.

Op Group: Talked about rumors regarding Dale taking away Study Hall. Did ask for more accountability from teachers and students regarding the validity of need. (Write out the request with clear reasons.) How to get things going for drug awareness. Elvis and Marilyn Dance next week. Junior class and Acro got a dance for later in the year. New lights for dance.

Old Business:

Souper Steller Status - \$913.50 in the account for Souper Steller. Enough for Souper Steller to work 5 weeks. Simple healthy home-made meal. Soup and bread (sometimes salad or dessert). Need to have forward funding if Alyse can continue to be involved. Serve 150 meals a week. Provided a sense of community. Donation only for the soup. Originally a home school project to develop a fund raiser (Wii Dance and xBox for AWAIC). Everything was consistent except the money flow, which varied greatly from week to week. \$4-5,000 range to operate, for the whole year.

\$6,200 in the Parent Group budget. Souper Steller would take most of those funds if we want to go that route. Discussed the Alaska Community Foundation grants as a possible funding source (first cycle grant application is due October 15<sup>th</sup>). Could be up to 1/3 of auction monies if we want to go that route.

Dale clarifies that Parent Group is not just a fund raising entity. We're here to help with our students and teachers and their learning.

Auction Committee: November 10<sup>th</sup>. Rebecca Johnson speaks for an experienced team that would like to mentor new committee members. Learn how it works by shadowing current team members and hopefully moving into leadership for the

auction next year, especially in the area of coordination for the event. Lots of folks have volunteered to be on the ground helping (clean-up, set-up, money collection, etc.) What we need are coordination volunteers for:

1. Publicity Coordinator
2. Entertainment/Live Auction
3. Computer Software Coordinator
4. Auction Day Set Up
5. Auction Day Clean-Up
6. Silent Auction Coordinator

9<sup>th</sup> grade class is in charge of supporting the Auction.

Last year Parent Group identified a position for retention and recruitment. Want to work on the image Steller has and use the website to celebrate what we're doing. Steller grad is working on a recruitment video.

Steller Flash posting? The listing at the top gives people a chance to pick and choose what they need to know.

Victoria: Volunteerism. At the library every Monday at lunch to answer questions and offer support to get students out in the community for volunteer opportunities. Every student from this year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade on will need to take 3 Passage credit, one of which is a service project. Volunteerism award publicized on posters around the school.

Alyse: Working to develop a stronger mission for advisory liaisons. Parents can feel connected to the advisor through the liaison. Working to get all advisories covered with liaisons. Almost full (there are a few holes).

Ad Board reps (Brian and Rochelle) working on finding those – mix of new and returning student families. (Parents, staff and student board) Next meeting is on 9/20.

Parent comment: volunteer sign-up confusing for new parents, who don't understand the verbiage. Makes it hard to commit. This has already been addressed with definitions for next year.

Anyone can attend Ad Board meetings. To be on it, you have to be nominated to the board. Can be self-nominated or nominated by another member of the community. Also alternate positions, there to fill in if a regular member is not in attendance. Students and Staff are represented at every meeting, as is Dale. Serve one 2-year term at a time.

Three All Community Meetings per year. First run by parents, second by students, last by staff.

Everyone attends Parent Group, which must have officers.

Rebecca circulated the budget. Need a motion to approve last year's financials. Bank fees include merchant services for using a credit card. Last year we had a budget and some extra cash. Parent Group has had unrestricted retained earnings of \$3,000 that could have been spent in prior fiscal years. Never allocated. No proposals. Next meeting will have cash available discussion.

Move and seconded motion to approve last year's financials.

Balance sheet and profit and loss draft budget. Rebeccas still has registration money and deposit needs to be made (including checks and running credit cards). Plans to do \$3,300 in cash. \$7,000 to be deposited (not all our money). Two categories in liabilities – previously allocated funds (group requesting hasn't asked for it yet). For example, cash reserve for auction and kitchen utensils. Only body that accepts credit cards and is at every meeting. Funds held for other could be money for sweatshirt sales, yearbook collections, eScript account for intensives, etc.. Profit and loss statement: Collected \$6,205 from family donations plus monthly eScript money. Paid some of the barbecue money plus website editing.

Budget Issues: May require changes. We went negative last year, but had funds to cover. Can go a little negative this year, but getting close to the bottom of our checking account. Would like an \$800 minimum.

Could also not send money to the Ad Board (or so much money to Ad Board). Be sure to allocate plenty of time to budgeting at our next meeting. Unanimous consent.

Co-Chair: nominations – Jennifer Hall Jones, Dorothy Pickles  
Have one serve one year – one serve two year. Joe, Alyse and Rebecca are willing to serve as their Executive Committee.

Secretary: nominations – one year minimum. Janine Nesheim (Colleen Bickford, alternate)

Co-Treasurer: nominations – Stephanie Hoyt has helped in the past – may be willing. Idea: Put a call out to any CPAs in the Steller community. Ken is willing to serve as an alternate for treasurer (possibly with Stephanie).

Slate is approved.

Tomorrow night is Back To School Night.

Ad Board Meeting 9/20  
All Community Meeting 9/27

## Parent Group Meeting 10/10

### Attendance:

Alyse Galvin  
Tina Miller  
Elizabeth Hancock  
Jen Neff  
Victoria Weindel  
Joel Akers  
Deb Hawley  
Colleen Bickford  
Jennifer Hall Jones  
Iveria Lorenz  
Kenn Norris  
Brian Lax  
Dorothy Pickles  
Janin Nesheim  
Ty Nesheim  
Julie Akers  
Kristin Holzinger Keit  
Ginger Scoggin  
Morgan Vail  
Janice Banta  
Joe Banta  
Dale Evern