

Steller Parent Group Meeting December 5, 2012

Introductions

Minutes Review

Approve Agenda

Reports:

Principal:

- Question presented; does parent group still want to meet on Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.? He needs a decision for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Regarding the ASD Budget Meeting; Principals are coming up with ideas to save money in the building budget (cut 29% from supplies, furniture, textbooks). The budget deficit next year is \$17 million; they are trying not to cut instructional staff but will not be rehiring at the Education Center.
- Just finished the second round of universal testing, AIMS WEB K-10. Receiving interview on exam; it was a pilot program in the past as a benchmark / quick-look test, examining growth.

Staff:

Update: 11th graders helping with the Auction, 9th graders assisting in Graduation.

Jennifer - discussed quarterly / semester grading. For Core classes only, subjects will be switched from quarter credits to semester credits. Students who need quarter classes will still be able to fit them into the new template. Essentially, this is anticipated to allow GPA's to go up. Passages are designed to be a semester class, and this makes it easier to stay aligned with the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program. We can fit what we have currently into the core standards (Core K12) more easily if we don't have to rebuild curriculum and if we are able to align class content with established class titles. Basically, curriculum will still be determined or approved by the teacher, and the title of the class will fit the State Core title. Example: State Core title - World Literature, Steller - Vampire Lit.; class will be offered as World Literature - Vampire Lit. Students are meeting requirements for graduation; this will allow class coding to align for scholarships. Electives and intensives can still be quarterly; Core classes will be semester classes unless taken as an elective. Discussed pros and cons; will be determined at staff level.

Ad Group:

Strategic plan discussed; basically on track. Checklist of short-term and long-term goals being met.

Op Group:

Students have taken assignments and are working on ACM, and at the next meeting will review status.

Old Business:

Auction update and celebration!

Wendy: Did well at auction, close to \$12,000, \$16,000 gross (deductions for yearbook, etc.)

Rebecca: Concerned that money potentially may not be utilized or allocated in a timely manner. Can make decision about where to allocate when auction totaled. Recommend reserving discretionary funds for special projects. CES funded themselves; Wendy would like to have discussion in January about these kinds of projects that could benefit from assistance if a need is determined. If we have money, are there school needs we can assist, potentially on a yearly basis? Suggests a "Fund-a-Project" type thing.

All Community Meeting follow up - priorities tallying ongoing.

By-Laws;

Jennifer - by-laws do not appear to need too much updating; language primarily. Will be taken to Ad Board for review and approval.

New Business:

Jennifer: Treasurer is anticipating resigning due to other commitments. A flash announcement will go out seeing if there are any accountants willing to volunteer; also Kenn Norris will be contacted to see if he is still available.

Parent Group Committee Reports:

Recruitment and Retention Update:

Meeting in January - what we feel rises to the top of what Steller needs are. Quick survey will be put out electronically.

End of March is the deadline for the lottery due to change in ASD scheduling. Tour is a good example of basic promotion and initiation to what Steller is. Galen's video will help new parents and students understand. Having the Ice Cream Social after the Alternative School Fair would be the best benefit for connecting with the greatest amount of people; this year it is before.

Shadowing is essential, but unable to expand time for this. First notification for getting name drawn for lottery is electronic. They have 48 hours to decide to stay or not. Proposed to have Parent Group Meeting scheduled for the night notification is received to allow parents to come and get information / ask questions.

Upcoming Events:

December Dance Friday, December 7, 7:00-11:00

Points of Light 50 hours of training Bo Bassett community projects during spring break (grades 8 - 12) 10 students already scholarship in.

John - food drive. Cans donated by food bank. Need ideas for motivation to help kids embrace drive.

Adjourned at 7:58 p.m.