

Steller Parent Group Meeting August 7, 2013

Call to order 6:00 PM

Introductions: Jennifer Hall Jones, Sherry Borer, Raylene Saur, Julie Akers, Ky Holland, Mark Thorndike, Lori Pickett, Sharon Holland, Victoria Weindel, Janine Nesheim

Minutes Review – The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by the group.

Approve Agenda – Approved

Old Business:

- **CES 2013/14 Merchandiser lead** – Jennifer explained that every other year, two teachers and two students attend the Coalition of Essential Schools Conference, which leads to some positive ideas for the school. Next year, 2014 will be when we are slated to attend the annual conference. The attendance and travel is paid for by the proceeds from the Steller merchandise that is sold. Rochelle W. has handled this position and is ready to pass it on. The Parent Group is looking for someone to take the position and some ideas to help market the merchandise.
- **New to Steller Orientation** – JHJ reported that parent group is looking for experienced parents to volunteer at this event on August 19th from 6 PM to about 7:30 PM. Those who have volunteered so far are: Rebecca J., Mark T, Charlotte M., Mary V, Colleen B, Kari M. and Victoria W. JHJ to follow up on asking/reminding parents to help.
- **Weekly wifi password** – The group discussed the new wifi logon requirements. After much discussion about the ineffectiveness of the new policy, Ky agreed to draft a letter to ASD regarding the group's thoughts on this.
- **Parent Liaisons** – JHJ reported that the parent liaison program was successful last year and that there would be some empty positions for parents this year with students graduating, etc., asking for volunteers or suggestions for those who might be approached.
- **Parent Group 9/4 Agenda** – The agenda for the upcoming meeting was discussed. Included on that agenda is Parent Group elections for the year as well as discussion regarding an Ad Board liaison from the parent group. It was suggested that the Parent Group have a game or gameshow type

theme to review the acronyms, etc., from Steller Lingo presented at the parent orientation meeting. It was noted that prizes are a must!

Raylene reported that she was attending the meeting as a representative of Ad Board and that they were also seeking a member to attend both meetings. The All Community Meetings were also discussed. It was noted that the first meeting, which would be a goal setting meeting, would be organized by Ad Board and is scheduled for October 10th. Parent Group help is welcome. The Spring meeting, to celebrate student goal achievements and successes would be organized by the teachers.

- **Escrip Volunteer Position** – JHJ reported that if we could get someone to volunteer as Escrip coordinator and gain the support of the entire student body and parents, we would probably be able to raise enough money to cover more of our expenses. This would help reduce the need for a large event like the auction which requires enormous amount of parent energy. There was much discussion regarding the escrip website and its pros and cons. Several parents described how their experience with escrip was mixed because it wasn't easy or simple to navigate the website interface. No volunteers came forward.

Reports:

- **PG Treasurer** – Sherry reviewed the balance sheet and reported that according to the current balance sheet, it appears that there is a surplus of approximately \$5,000 which is unallocated. She also noted that she was provided with this information just before leaving town and did not have time to do a thorough preview of the records, so spending this money was not advised.
- Discussion about modification of budget and potential for any surplus to be used as supplement to staff to enhance their courses.

New Business:

Discussion about communication and management of funds and requirements for meeting staff / student needs regarding supplies and resources (eg. textbooks). Discussion ensued regarding communication between parents, teachers and staff regarding the classroom needs. The possibility of PG providing teachers with

appreciation gifts, to help with their annual classroom expenses, at the beginning of the year, rather than the solely at the end of the year might be beneficial for planning purposes. Another discussion included imagining helping with a new direction/passage/class, say a dream class that a teacher or student always wanted to lead and then Parent Group might be able to assist with supplies. The possibility of a competition was suggested as a method of determining who would get funds.

(Side note for teachers; what are the dream class / intensive / passage you would like to teach in the future; encouraging forethought to prepare for the class and what funds would be required to make it happen). Ky proposed that we use a budget to help structure and plan for these needs. Once registration is completed for this school year and our new treasurer is up to speed we will have a better sense of the current budget.

Auction: discussion about the future of auction as past organizers suggest moving from garage-sale style to more oriented towards a stated specific goal (as in Souper Steller or some large project benefiting the whole school) and asking for services rather than things from all the people that love us. The notion of raising funds purposefully was indicated.

Announcements:

On the Friday the 23rd there is school for a half day; 2nd Annual Be the Change school fair takes place in the morning(thank you Victoria!), and the afternoon students may participate in organized volunteer services on their own. This is an opportunity for students to work on fulfilling their passages requirement, and to review volunteer options in the community. 12 different service organizations are slated to send representatives to speak about how students can become involved with their organization.

Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.