

## **Steller Parent Group Meeting November 6, 2013**

Call to order at 6:03 p.m.

### **Greetings and Introductions**

Jennifer Hall Jones – Chair, Sherry Borer – Treasurer, Alyse Galvin, Bruce Robson, Corinne Borley-Steinke, Victoria Weindel, Milo Stickle-Frizzell, Heidi Smith, Colleen Bickford, Kyle Bates, Molly Bates, Christina Sammons, Tristan Sammons, Kyrie Speer, Kim Stryker, Erica Stryker, Ty Nesheim, Charles Wohlforth, Jessica Cederberg

**Minutes Review:** Minutes approved

**Approve Agenda:** Approved

### **Old Business:**

*Summary of All Community Meeting-action items to follow up:* Jennifer; Great kudos to Bridget and Leigh Anne for creating a productive ACM. Charles W. reported on developing parent involvement; thinking of pilot program during intensives, with parents as teaching assistants to make classroom more effective. Suggestions include working individually with students on creative skills like art or writing, supervising a group of students while teacher works with another group, teaching skill-level groups in sports related intensives, and helping to supervise groups leaving the building. 4 steps to put into action: teachers identify needs, parent group recruits parents, teachers and parents coordinate schedules and plans, and post project discussions for follow up on effectiveness of parent involvement. Review about thoughts behind concept; bringing in parent skills, connecting parent with education process, improving intensive experience, net benefit for teacher time and effectiveness, and importance of teacher pre-planning.

*Overnighter presentation by students:* Milo Stickle-Frizzell; Kyrie Spear; Tristan Sammons

Discussion about origins; began in 70's, evolved in the 80's. Looking for alternatives due to safety issues from sleep deprivation. Milo advocating midnighter. Overnighter helps students that have bad habits; productive students need sleep to function and contribute to society. Conceived originally to help provide alternatives to drugs and drinking, activity night will still act as prevention even if ends at midnight rather than ending at 7 a.m. Kyrie advocating pros. Testing to take place day after original date, but proposes to have at end of Red Ribbon Week to tie in with drug/drinking prevention. Well planned activities provide great experience instead of poor planning. Great time to be with friends for socializing. No bags / no energizing drinks, can promote as healthy activity. Thinks it can be memorable and fun for younger students, and make it something that kids will continue to look forward to.

Milo - example of TOB serving sugar drinks repeatedly.

Alyse - poll among all bodies of Steller? Suggests survey monkey; volunteers to do it. Including how staff, students and parents perceive the issue. Staff voted 17 to 2 to make the change, seniors 23 - 9. Will have all school meeting to discuss. It is a community event. All 3 groups need to be addressed; hot topic for the Steller community.

Kyrie proposes presenting agendas/proposals of both viewpoints on Survey Monkey, and they can be voted on at this time.

Milo - students thought student rights were being taken away; and this year seniors inherited the issue. Communication important for educated decisions.

Kyrie - felt like last year it was a quiet secret taking place, and proposed changes were without asking anyone. This year people have mixed feelings about it. Also, there was a mixed feeling about what "tradition" was, and reaction strong because it was not straightforward.

Tristan - very supportive to keep the overnigher. Years and years this took place without complaining. Has been planning for event since 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and would like to have events staged to keep students interested and energized. Feels it is important for kids to experience the connection between the grades, and the friends,

Milo - feels important to keep up with traditions, and to set traditions to encourage school spirit.

Ken - a few other things to consider; difficult to find PG type movies that are interesting for students. Last year's seniors spent quite a bit of time to get going. Appeal less because they have Saturday commitments, and last year seniors were not excited about the time spent on the event, and clean up etc.

Alyse - Question - would it be Ad board or the Seniors who would make the policy decisions?

Dale - it is an activity; and will follow student's lead on a decision like this, as long as parents support. Suggests adding question in Survey Monkey addressing whether parents would be available to volunteer to help-especially in the early morning hours.

Ken - would like to have consistent information.

*Auction Update:* Rebecca

Going well; three parents are brand new to Steller and taking lead role; happy about how people have stepped up. Wendy will miss auction, due to family emergency. Charity event; want to make sure something like last year's Souper

Stellar item for people to support. Current suggestions are the Student Lounge, money for the Art department, and Souper Steller. Potential to have donations online specifically for Souper Steller.

Discussion about benefits of auction vs. button to donate on website; button would need to be continuous, but risk of being ignored after time. Discussion about amount of money that can be accrued before becoming ASD designated.

Student Lounge discussion; would like to have ideas on how to present for auction.

Kim Stryker - lounge is heart of school; where kids study, communicate etc. Most importantly, first impression for school. Currently tired looking and does not give good impression.

Jessica - parent architect assisting. Proposed concept floor plan reviewed. \$14,000 for whole proposed package, not including shipping or extras. This is similar to what UAA has. Shelves near TOB to be removed as they are against code; a safety hazard per disabilities. Student renovated jukebox can be easily added if desired. New seating arrangement will seat more than current configuration.

Suggestion from parent to have items broken into different amounts and phases to be presented in auction. As all community, Lounge group brainstormed about dance dedicated to contributing funds, graduates at 40<sup>th</sup> celebration, plaques for donations. \$3500 for Corner Nook Project, \$3500 for Center Table Project etc. to limit fund designation. Presentation to school community to be made by Jessica. Flooring and furniture all that is currently scheduled for remodel, no walls to be moved or other large scale changes. Discussion by Lounge committee with Auction committee to determine how to present for sale.

## **Reports:**

*Op Group:* Tony

Discussion about inability to pay for jukebox.

*Staff:* Marla

Sculpting intensive folded due to lack of interest. 26 students signed up for rock gym, but only 20 may participate for safety. Students chose other intensives.

*Principal's:* Dale

Washer & dryer operational. TOB operational MWF before school and at lunch. Computer science dept. at UAA wants to research apps that work for teachers, wants to team with Steller. Next semesters schedule 99% complete. Will be put on Flash and copies in main office. Kiln ordered yesterday, should arrive in a week. Work order in for installation. All grades will be in on Monday. Parent request for

experiential learning; staff corner of newsletter good article regarding this. 15 new students to be added at semester. Risk of budget cuts in future. Anne will be presenting Monday at 11 am about marijuana called Power. Rolling lecturn ordered. Steller is sponsoring business partnership lunch on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> for district. 16<sup>th</sup> legislature representatives visiting school; funds asked for sustainable energy greenhouse, new seating for MPR, new furniture for entire building, renovate art room (electricity, pug mill, pottery area).

Alyse suggests orientation for new student families; Dale states difficult - if we can't have approval to have them when registration must take place at semester.

*Ad Board:* Bruce

Agreement that agenda be published 10 days prior to meeting; if no agenda, no meeting to take place.

### **New Business**

*Budget:* Jennifer & Sherry Borer

\$13, 840.65; soup has ~\$2400. Alyse says we only need \$1800 to continue.

*Forward of funding of teacher ideas:* Jennifer

Concern that funds are not benefiting students. Suggestion to ask teachers on how to spend money at last meeting; Ken would like \$5000 to purchase video camera.

Mat for acro/ju jitsu purchased by ASD, but being used for wrestling at another school. \$5999 for 42 x 42 mat. \$3000 for size that would be adequate. Space behind stage made for them to be used. Alyse suggests process for getting the money for special needs may be not communicated adequately. While on Flash, may not be used. Kyrie states most students go to Op group for money because it is easy and accessible during school hours.

*Proposal for Ad Board meetings:* Alyse

Ad-Board Agenda Proposal reviewing the proposal that meeting not take place unless agenda issued ahead.

Vote; All in favor of cancelling meeting if no agenda issued a week prior. Passed.

**Adjournment at 8 p.m.**