

Parent Group Meeting May 7, 2014

Called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Greetings and Introductions Jennifer Hall Jones, Chair, Ty Nesheim, Co-Chair Janine Nesheim, Secretary, Sherry Borer, Treasurer, Dale Evern, Principal, Jennifer Wadsworth, Staff, Amy Rardin, Jessica Cederberg, Colleen Bickford, Ginger Scoggin, Alyse Galvin, Joe Banta, Kyle Bates, Janice Banta, Rebecca Johnson, Tommy Rademaker, Bruce Robson, Mark Thorndike, Jana Ozurgut

Minutes Review:

Approved; will be posted on website

Approve Agenda:

Approved; addition of Tommy to discuss jukebox.

Announcements:

1. Call for parents to help with Meet and Greet 5/9/14
2. Next year's parent group needs a new leader.
3. Update on \$: Fred's program from beg. Feb to end of March with 13 families registered; \$87 to be collected.
4. Link on ASD Secondary Schools Alternative Tab to Steller's website says: Website, operated by Steller Parent Group
5. Sketchbook signing for Dale - available in library
6. May 16th Activity Day Community Service Effort is to pick up garbage on the way to Valley of the Moon Park. Gloves recommended and to be donated by Ginger Scoggin, parent and school business partner. Dale/Jennifer to assist in picking up full bags of trash.

Reports:

Op Group: Dale-voted to collect trash on way to Valley of the Moon.

Staff: Jennifer

Staff meeting on 21st. Class descriptions and intensive descriptions posted on line. New student interviews ongoing. Parent conferences on 19th & 20th, registration on-line; remember to log in as 7th grade student. Fall intensive registration to take place on May 16th prior to walking/biking to Valley of the Moon. Denali Bike Trip intensive closed. Presentations in the morning, Graduation in the afternoon on May 22nd. Fall class registration on May 23, times posted on Flash. Note that there is difficulty changing times if put in incorrectly. Email Dale if problems noted, and he will forward. August 6th and 7th also will be last offered paper registration in addition to the online.

Principal: Dale

Thank you for the gift card. Kids have arrived in Nicaragua, Italy trip kids have arrived in Vermont.

Old Business:

- Student passage proposal update: Jennifer

Several students have not asked for funds that were requested; will roll back into the account. Dale suggests that parent of student be informed, perhaps a signature on the fund request paperwork in case the parent has funded the student and would like reimbursement.

- Reflections on the ACM:

Great turn out and interesting projects at student Passages display. Charles recommends strategic plan of a 3-5 yr range for redefining Steller philosophy to be a community project for the next years fall ACM. Community Café structure used in past for similar activity, to bring equal voice to old and new Steller community members, and would be beneficial with new Principal. Setting goals, and revisiting how they have progressed. Next October would be next ACM. Discussion included also recommending greater advertisement of Passages if presented again for the spring. Students loved opportunity to discuss their passage; also more students involved at this ACM than in past.

Dale recognizes Charles' 10 year service ASD.

- Student Lounge - Jessica Cederberg

All advisory groups, op group etc. have signed off on what is proposed for new furniture. Steel Cage graciously gave us furniture at basically 50% off. Would like them to be acknowledged on website. Will get 2 ottomans, a personal computer table and a new sofa. These should arrive by the time teachers get here next fall. iPhone docking station potential, two new tables or an ottoman may be purchased with any additional funds. Recommend using school colors for furniture.

- Honoring Dale - gift \$ from Ad Board - Bruce

Flowers and gift card from Cabelas. Motion that Sunshine fund cover \$150. Passed. Bruce R. to donate the remainder to cover the cost of the gift card.

- New Principal Hiring Process - Jennifer

Jerry Koetje - discipline supervisor for ASD
Derek Hagler - activities supervisor for ASD
Reed Whitmore - Family Partnership Principal
Russel Clark - Lower Kuskoquim district

- Meet and Greet Agenda Rundown: Jennifer

Glenn Neilson will be ASD representative at meeting, along with all 4 candidates and Dale. Will ask questions "what is your understanding of the principals role at Steller and how will your skills allow you to succeed in this role?". They will be brought out one at a time into MPR and asked the question in front of the community, and will have 5 minutes to respond. They can return or stay to hear other responses. Discussed as not fair to all applicants. Will ask Dale to escort each candidate back to the office so they don't hear each other's response to the question.

Community will be split into groups. Students, Staff, Parents. In each room there must be someone to take notes, someone to ask questions, and a facilitator. Recommend flash card so that questions are asked the same to each candidate. Recommend putting applicant names on flash.

Janice and Janine will take notes. Parent representative can be in student and staff rooms as observers to bring back observations to Parent Group.

We will then get back together to discuss candidates. Last time students had #1 choice that differed from Parent or Staff #1 choice. Discussion aided in helping all groups understand why choices made. Staff short and would like Guide/Shepherd field to be supplemented by parents or parent/student mix. Must be careful not to be anti or endorsers of candidate.

Ty, Colleen, Amy and Rebecca volunteer to shepherd. Suggest note taker could also be time keeper. Suggest 4th room with parent and students to have a 4th rotation, with 15 minute sessions.

4 groups 15 min each with 5 min transition time (2.5 min at each end).

Announcement saying Hello, you have 2 minutes to rotate to your next group.

Recap:

Rebecca J., Ty N., Colleen B., Amy R. are shepherds for the candidates

Joe B. and Jennifer HJ are facilitators

Janice B. and Janine N. are note takers

- Question Discussion in order of what was most popular. 1st question on current list meets what will already be addressed in MPR.

#1 choice - What is Steller's philosophy? Describe an experience in your life that demonstrates this philosophy.

#2 choice - What is something about you that you would have to change to fit into Steller?

#3 choice - Can you describe what it would look like when students take ownership and provide direction of their own education?

#4 choice - What is your understanding of responsible freedom in a school?

#5 choice - If you were a student, or a parent of a student, why would Steller be your school of choice?

Recommend informal 4th room; would like to ask what do you wonder about Steller; decision to stick with 4th parent room with same questions asked.

New Business:

- Treasurer's Report and Budget planning for next year: Sherry -

Recommend Back to school barbeque be funded back to \$500. Passed.

QuickBooks program will expire soon-former treasurer provided it for free to Parent Group. Certificate for non profit through Tech Soup for managing finances; Ty volunteers to assist.

Svetlana says yearbook has become self sufficient and no longer needs Parent Group support; \$885 can be rolled back into general funds. Alyse and others suggest that we use these funds instead to help make sure that students are able to get a yearbook if they are not able to afford. Tabled for further discussion next year.

Website maintainer does not ask for reimbursement, but keeping the funds set aside is recommended.

Motion made to boost sunshine fund to cover Dale's gift. Passed.

Souper Steller has enough money for a week and a half of operation, will address next fall, suggestion to ask business partners to assist. Alyse also to check in with staff on their responses to how it went this year.

- Scheduling Parent Group meeting/events for next school year:

Intensives start on 25th; request moving Back to School Night after intensives, in September. Suggestion that Elections and New To Steller meeting be on Sept. 3rd. Move to have Rebecca, Jennifer and Alyse work on calendar as Parent representatives.

- Tommy R. - jukebox

Has new sound system, iphone jack, and thoughts about selling it on Craig's List. Got a lot of attention when put in lounge. Would like to sell to Parent Group for \$2700 for parts and labor. Students would like music in the lounge; Tommy volunteers to program music—there are no actual cd's—is all digital. Tommy paid at least \$800, Question: isn't the labor part of passage requirement? Tommy proposes that a service contract come with it for at least next year (currently a junior). Fits in any room at Steller. Can take coins, which can be used for repair (retrofitted so casual user can repair). Suggestion made to present to Op Group next year; idea that revenue can be generated rather than Parent Group purchase.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.