

# Steller Parent Group 20170207

## Meeting Minutes

Call to Order at 6:06 pm.

### **Greetings and Introductions.**

#### **Attendees.**

Alyse Galvin. Amy Beck. Angie Southwold. Becky Gerik. Charles Wohlforth. Jonathan Halpern. Judy Francis-Woods. Kevin Hedin. Leslie Kramer. Liberty Kyser. Lori Pickett. Pat Galvin. Randy Gibbs. Reed Whitmore. Victoria Weindel.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Click [here](#) to view February Agenda.

MOTION: Add Spending Request from Becky. Approve February agenda as amended.

Motion By: Randy.

Second By: Charles.

All in favor. Motion approved.

### **Approval of Minutes.**

Click [here](#) to view December Minutes.

MOTION: Approve December minutes as posted/as amended.

Motion By: Judy.

Second By: Victoria.

All in favor. Motion approved.

### **Funding Requests.**

Becky Gerik requests intensive supplies. "Whereas a Medieval Fair Intensive can integrate participation from many other intensives for booths and activities on 05/18/2017 as well as an invitation to fifth graders from Northstar to introduce them to Steller, Whereas intensives should offer artistic opportunities to students such as illustrated journals for Jean's intensive "Walk,

Write, and Roll” and Becky’s illuminated manuscripts for a Medieval Fair, Whereas more students can participate in intensives if the costs are lower, Whereas the watercolors and markers would be available for Steller students’ use after the intensives end, Therefore let it be resolved that the parents consider a request for \$734.76 cents for an order from an art supply store, Dick Blick’s, for items for Jean’s and Becky’s upcoming intensives.”

MOTION: Approve up to \$750 to fund the Becky and Jean’s spring intensives.

Motion By: Liberty.

Second By: Alyse.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Pat requests funding for a bookkeeper following suggestions given during the Treasurer’s Report.

MOTION: Approve up to \$500 per school year to hire a bookkeeper for external accounting support and to work under guidance of the new Treasurer role.

Motion By: Randy.

Second By: Lori.

All in favor. Motion passed.

## **Reports.**

### Principal Report.

Reed reporting.

ASD Budget. Governor Walker proposed a flat state budget, the same as last year. One proposal for the school board includes cutting 17 full-time positions from alternative schools, which equals 1.5 to 3 positions at Steller. Overall, the state per pupil ratio will go down though the money will as well. 89% of the budget is people.

Unlikely that the legislature will go above the Governor’s proposed budget. Opportunity for the Steller community to reach out and support and join coalitions like Great Alaska Schools. Superintendent prefers more small schools.

Pat would like a small group of parents to work with Reed and prepare to defend the Steller budget while working alongside parents from other schools. Shannon will lead this effort. Alyse and Leslie volunteer. Looking for more volunteers. Anyone interested should contact Shannon.

Self-Directed Learning. The staff still wishes to move towards a self-directed learning program and hopes to present their ideas to the Steller community soon.

Recruitment. Radio adverts similar to last year will be run again this year, beginning earlier. Schools visits are occurring this week with Steller students visiting their own elementary schools and talking about the benefits of attending Steller. Today was the first Tuesday for February school tours and Steller was visited by 4-5 families. Steller flyer has been distributed to elementary schools across the district.

Peak. New school performance testing. Scheduled for April. Proposed schedule is approximately 90-minute blocks for 7th and 8th graders and approximately 3-hour blocks for 9th and 10th grade students. Blocks are broken into two week sessions per group. Reed, Marianne, and Simone will be covering testing.

Intensive List. Spring intensive classes are posted and sign ups are next week.

Ice Cream Social. February 16 at 6:00-8:00. Randy will lead this effort and purchase ice cream treats. Alyse and Leslie volunteer to help serve during the event.

#### Staff Report.

Becky reporting.

Intensive List. Staff is cognizant that high intensive costs may be prohibitive to students and families and have been diligent in planning more no and low-cost opportunities.

Dance. Valentine's Dance is on Friday, February 10. Looking for parent volunteers to chaperone. Anyone interested should contact the office or contact Becky directly.

Activity Day. February 1. Students walked to Bear Tooth last week and watched "Most Likely to Succeed". Movie was well-received by students and generated lots of productive discussion and student ideas.

#### Student Report.

Nothing to report.

#### Treasurer Report.

Pat reporting.

Available bank balance from 02/07: \$22112.48.

Parent Group needs a new Treasurer. Responsibilities include receiving income from fundraising and donation sources and distributing checks from funding requests. Suggestion to hire someone for bookkeeping and have the new Treasurer act as a financial liaison between the bookkeeper and Parent Group. Kevin volunteers to help with this process and possibly act in the Treasurer role. Charles provided the suggestion of Kristian Dahl as a potential bookkeeper. Jonathan also provided the suggestion of Judi Palma.

### Website Committee Report.

Leslie reporting.

Group met last week and devised a plan to split up website content maintenance responsibilities. They aim to have updates and revisions complete on the Steller Parent Group website by the end of February. Suggestion as a temporary solution to add a link to the ASD website passing users over to the original Steller Parent Group website.

Pat would like to get a group of parents trained and given remote access to the ASD content management system. Kevin will lead an effort to contact ASD and confirm the requirements necessary to accomplish this then report back to Parent Group with a transition plan. Pat will contact Dana, lead of the Website Committee, and inform her of the updated plan.

### Spending Ideas Committee Report.

Alyse reporting.

Ready to kickoff this effort. Alyse is leading this effort with volunteer commitment from Laura and Robbin. Liberty and Angie volunteer as well.

Alyse is looking for ways to solicit information and for parents to connect. Her ideas include: coffee chats before and/or after school on Wednesdays, visits to advisories and op group meetings, leveraging all community meetings, and conducting online surveys to parents, staff, and students.

She will start with the survey to include: background purpose, prioritization of current spending from budget line items, suggestions to enhance Steller with additional funds.

### **New Business.**

#### Spending Requests.

See above.

### **Future Parent Group Meeting Dates.**

March 7, 2017. The date has been pushed one week earlier since our normally scheduled second Tuesday falls during Spring Break. The April meeting will return to its normal schedule.

### **Comments.**

Souper Steller. This Friday will be serving up spaghetti meal instead of soup for Valentine's Day.

Bell Schedule. Better coordination between Steller and West for class schedules. For Steller students to take classes during 1st and 2nd periods or 5th and 6th periods, only minor adjustments would need to be made to the Steller schedule.

MOTION: Present an updated bell schedule proposal to staff and determine if staff would be willing to make those changes for the coming school year. Request that staff report back to Parent Group with any questions and concerns.

Motion By: Charles.

Second By: Alyse.

All in favor. Motion passes.

Potluck. Alyse would like to plan an international potluck. The planning meeting will be on Monday, February 13 at 11:45 AM at Crostini Cafe, 607 W Northern Lights Blvd.

Adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Minutes recorded by Angie Southwould.

***Upcoming Events:***

Souper Steller on February 10 and March 3 at 11:45 am.

Valentine's Day on February 10 at 7:00-11:00 pm.

Steller Open House and Ice Cream Social on February 16 at 6:00 pm.

President's Day - NO SCHOOL on February 20.

Professional Development Day - NO SCHOOL on February 24.

End of Quarter 3 on March 3.

Parent Group Meeting on March 7 at 6:00 pm.

Spring Break - NO SCHOOL on March 13 to 17.