



Steller Parent Group 01/16/2024
Meeting Minutes - FINAL

Location: Steller *and* via Zoom

Attendees.

In Person:

Dee Dee Zobian - Chair
Lea McKenna - Co-Secretary

Lisa Wells - parent
Kate Hopewell - Parent
Kylara Hollingsworth - parent

Leigh Anne Bonney - Teacher

Via Zoom:

Ashley Sylvester - parent
Monica Perez Verdia & Isabel - parent and student
Karen Brennerman - parent
Sarah Bernhardt - parent

Approval of Agenda.

Click [here](#) to view 1/16/2024 Agenda.

MOTION: Approve 1/16/2024 agenda as distributed/as amended.

Motion By: Leigh Anne.

Second By: Lisa.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Slides can be viewed [here](#).

Approval of Minutes.

Click [here](#) to view 12/12/2023 Minutes.

MOTION: Approve 12/12/2023 minutes as posted without amendments.

Motion By: Lea.

Second By: Leigh Anne.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Reports.

Principal Report.

Leigh Anne reporting on behalf of Maria. Lots of new staff coming in next year with incoming 6th graders. Hoping for two sixth grade teachers. Troy is retiring. Ashley is taking a sabbatical. Emma was here as temp special ed and she is going back to elementary. Mark who has volunteered with IT stuff at Steller for 20 years is retiring.

By next week teachers will have 2 ideas each for intensives.

Planning for Professional Learning Communities and 50th Anniversary.

Staff Report.

Leigh Anne reporting.

Started new Professional Learning Communities, which are why students go home early on Tuesdays. Discussing how to integrate 6th graders. Three areas we explore on Tuesdays:

- Will have 120 new students and new staff. How to integrate into our culture.
- Thinking of Wednesday schedule being advisory, op group, and passages (a Steller focused day).
- Self-directed project based learning.

Op Group Report.

Isabel reporting.

Op group giving money to model UN, classes in first aid and wilderness, unHalloween dance. Thinking of scheduling a meeting with SPG a week from Monday to discuss 50th anniversary.

We have 4 parents per shift for dance. Probably enough but can go to SPG website to sign up. Troy will be helping with prom in February. Will send another reminder out in a day or two for more chaperones.

PARENT GROUP REPORTS

Chair Report - Dee Dee reporting.

SPG is currently recruiting officers to begin learning this year with co-officer. Openings for:

Co-Chair (with Dee Dee)

Co-Treasurer (with Kirsten)

Co-Secretary (with Lea and/or Sarah)

Co-Communications (with Kirsten)
Co-Fundraising Chair (with Monica)
Member-at-Large (with Amy)

Communications report - Kirsten reporting

See slides re click rate.

Fundraising Report - Monica reporting

Next fundraising meeting: TBD. Will send out posting.

Bear Tooth Movie night, Sunday April 21 at 1:30.

Last year goal was family-oriented and prospective families encouraged. This year we prefer to pick a movie that current students want to attend. Asking Op Group to choose 3 options at their next meeting and we can approve one of those movies. Still waiting on movie list from Bear Tooth. Cannot show Disney films.

Also working on 2-3 other projects.

Treasurer Report - Dee Dee reporting

See slides - only income is one more donation of \$1000.

Treasurer Report with Statement of Financial Position as of 1/10/24

Deficit of \$5,442 in income/donations from budget. \$2,000 proposed income from upcoming Bear Tooth movie fundraiser. But still need \$3,442 in additional donations.

Bank balance from 1/10/24: \$26,823.58

Click [here](#) to view Treasurer Report.

Old Business.

Bylaws review

Bylaws committee has been working hard. Have met 3 times, reviewing other PTO's bylaws, etc. Things like voting procedures, quorum, etc not in our current bylaws that are important. We want to finalize it in coming days, will then send out to Steller community for comment for 30 days, then will vote on it. Goal is to vote at the March meeting. Currently only old bylaws on our website. Will keep that posted so people can compare that to new bylaws.

One parent requested an overview summary of changes be prepared. We are using a new format that has standard language/topics in bylaws, whereas our old ones did not, which makes it difficult to do line by line comparison or redline. We can still call out major changes.

Draft is not yet on website and we will not be voting in February, as stated in the slides. Dozens of hours by 5 or so people on bylaws committee went into drafting bylaws. If people want to comment on draft, let us know.

Chaperones for Unhalloween Dance - 1/19/2024 6:15-10:00 PM

Chaperones needed. Please visit SPG website to sign up.

Early and late shifts available.

Steller Student Recruitment - See Signup Genius link under Student Recruitment

Parents (and students) needed to:

- visit elementary school PTA meetings in Jan/Feb., Leigh Anne has stickers/brochures to bring;
- help at the alternative school fair (January 27 at Loussac Library from 1-4 PM; and Saturday 2/4/23 12-4 PM at Begich Middle School, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.) and
- ice cream social at Steller - SPG welcome table (Thurs. 2/15 6-7:30 PM). Students can sign up with Leigh Anne to give tours and parents needed at welcome table.

Sign up at Sign up Genius on SPG website. Ideally bring at least one student with you to alternative school fair. Leigh Anne and Jason will be there to set up. Even doing one shift: 12-2 or 2-4 PM is helpful.

Will have 20 9th grade spots next year, so spread the word among middle school families. There will also still be student shadowing and Tuesday tours in February.

SPG has done radio spots in past to recruit. Will check in with Kirsten to check. We have money in budget for recruitment.

Lottery opens February 1 and closes early or mid March.

50th Anniversary update - celebration Friday September 13, 2024

Tentative plans:

Celebrate at Steller - fun activities for students and alumni at Steller; and

Steller Evening Out - night out at a restaurant for alumni, staff and parent. Will be contacting Bridge Restaurant to possibly host (owned by Steller alum).

Finalizing plan in next few months. All SPG members welcomed and encouraged to join the planning committee. Lots of help needed! Email 50yearsSPG2@gmail.com

118 alumni have responded to survey saying they intend to attend. Some alumni have their own ideas but we will stay focused on what we have planned. Some are planning their own events. SPG to set up initial meeting with Op Group leadership.

Do we want to do silent auction or some fundraising at the evening out?

Many businesses in town will always donate - AK Railroad, etc.

Others agreed - but keep it simple because we don't have a lot of volunteers.

Or we could sell Steller swag at markup price - hoodies and mugs. Office will be in charge of ordering and selling 50th Anniversary swag, not SPG.

There will be an art contest for 50th anniversary - could put that design on swag we sell.

Kylara will be liaison between SPG and alumni.

We will also be meeting with Maria.

Consider having SPG buy tix for staff to the evening out.

Open Forum.

Comment from Monica: Last year Student Advisory Board from each school went to a statewide meeting. Jason took the students last year. Monica heard not going to happen this year for lack of funding. But no parents were asked if they would pay. Last year parents paid ½ and other half met. Unclear who paid that other half. Jason paid his own way. But if planned in advance perhaps SPG funds could be requested. Usually a small group but great way for students to get involved in leadership at state level. Perhaps we could send our seniors with another school?

Leigh Anne says any interested students should ask Maria and Leigh Anne can mention it to her. Last year Maria asked who wanted to go and Jason said yes. Not sure who is in charge this year. It was never brought to staff. Last year was the first year. Focused on younger students because creating leaders to continue to lead at Steller - asked through Op Group. Spring conference is in Utqiagvik. Last year it was in Skagway. It rotates and fall conference usually on road system. If overnight it requires a staff to stay awake all night if staying at a school, which can be difficult.

Parent asks: Driver's Ed offered in past as intensive. When did that last happen and can it be revived? Hard to find the time to do it. Other parent agreed it would be a great offering. Leigh Anne said it was offered once. Last year offered as an option and not enough students interested. Usually 14-16 year olds and we need 20 kids to commit. Otherwise other intensives get too big. With smaller group and price, it was not offered. There is an intensive idea box in the office or students can talk to teachers with intensive ideas.

TBA is another idea for intensives. Last two years there were theater intensives. Shakespeare and Sword Play and another one.

Funding requests - SPG wants staff input on how to revise funding requests to make it more equitable. Leigh Anne says some kids will never ask for fee waiver for intensives. Don't want to make them all free and SPG can't afford it. Equal funding among all intensives? Or SPG sponsors one really great one that would otherwise be expensive? Leigh Anne will discuss with staff to come up with ideas.

New Business.

Funding Requests - None

Future Parent Group Meeting Dates.

Next meeting- Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 6-7:30 PM in person and via Zoom

Adjourn @ 7:07 PM

<https://www.stellerschool712.org/main/steller-parent-group-meetings/>

Minutes recorded by Lea McKenna, Secretary.

Signature: *Lea McKenna*

Minutes approved on 2/13/2024.

Six pages.