

## **Steller Parent Group Meeting January 8, 2014**

Call to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Introductions** Jennifer Hall Jones, Chair, Dale Evern, Principal, Rebecca Johnson, Mark Thorndike, Kim Stryker, Luca Silva, student, Andrea Beltran, student, Chris Selin, Staff, Victoria Weindel, Bruce Robson, Sharon Holland, Ken Varee, Staff, Ky Holland, Wendy Woolf, Heidi Smith, Sherry Borer, Treasurer, Janine Nesheim, Secretary, Ty Nesheim, Co-chair

### **Minutes Review**

Will be put on flash for review

**Approve Agenda**-added Luca, ICAP

**Announcements**- Gardening grant opportunity, Drivers needed for recruiting at feeder schools-see Rebecca J.

11 new families in Steller this semester; New To Steller meeting next Tuesday at 6:30 pm in Ken's room.

### **Reports**

Treasurer's Report: Sherry: Auction Proceeds=

\$12,315.12 available for special projects.

Motion to move funds from \$3.82 of e-script/intensive fund line item to travel scholarships by Wendy; seconded.

Op Group: Ken No report; first meeting of the semester takes place tomorrow.

Staff: Ken Class schedules solidified. Discussion about alternative fair and ice cream social. Not clear there will be an alternative fair, ASD proposal to have scheduled tours for schools set for Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in February, and February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m. is an open tour.

Principal: CES: two staff and two students every 2 years sent to conferences to get ideas about what other schools are doing. Report back to school upon return. Beneficial but not cheap; about \$5000 to send group. Assume next conference to take place November 2014. Students are sophomores or juniors. Try to rotate staff so all open to participate. Conference rotates east coast /west coast.

Generally Steller ahead of the curve, and have been asked to present in the past. Discussed the possibility of presentations done by students at the spring (2015) All Community Meeting to share what was learned at conference, so all would have the opportunity to hear what was learned.

Ad Board: Jennifer Ad Board created a grant committee. Guidelines similar to last year, funding request form available in office. Parent, students and staff all part of committee to create full representation of all bodies at Steller. Committee will make decisions about what to fund and Parent Group will distribute funds/write checks for Ad Board.

### **New Business:**

Videocamera: Ken

Requests \$5529.04 for quality production video camera. Portable with hard case. Wireless external microphone and other options available and that can be added down the road. Made to be rugged but students will take good care of it because they want it to continue working. Purchased out of state from B&H Photo Video, but easy to work with and have good support. Potential for extended warranty. Able to use editing suite in computer lab. Has HDMI cable / connection.

Saturday: Anchorage Caucus event from 9-12 at Loussac Library. District set to lose 115 teachers next year, potentially another 100 in 2015. Encourages parents to attend, and is an opportunity to speak directly to our legislators.

"Futures" - or Individual Career and Academic Program (ICAP) - Ky

From the All Community meeting last fall has started a pilot effort to help students, from their time of enrollment at Steller to graduation, explore their passions and opportunities for learning and prepare for their future after Steller. The pilot is being offered in two of the advisory groups to test existing curriculum from other districts and learn how it can be adapted to Steller learning opportunities and a student lead learning culture that supports self directed learning opportunities both in and outside of Steller core curriculum including Passages, mentoring, volunteer work, self direct learning, KCC, etc. A key goal is providing students with tools and resources to plan their academic program of studies and customize their learning opportunities while also aligning their course work with Steller, ASD, State AK Performance Scholarship, and chosen post secondary program requirements. Not a "college" prep program, this is an effort to make learning matter now, engage students in their passions and class choices, and prepare students with the skills for life long learning. Following the pilot, this summer the materials will be modified and put in a package in order to offer through all of the advisory groups. Would like to discuss more with staff and parents. Would like to see students lead program in

future, incorporating into Advisory Group process. Currently looking into support, assistance and funds from State, UAA/APU and ASD (Diane Maples), and perhaps Steller to support the summer curriculum work, fall teacher profession development class, and potential 2015 summer revisions following the first year of delivery.

Parent group will be willing to support and looks forward to updates.

Audiovisual Passage Funding Request: Luca

A lot of class projects require access to this kind of equipment, and would like these things to be available to all students when done with Passage with Philip.

Anticipates the possibility of the beginning of an audio-visual lending library.

Requests: 3 consumer camcorders (Canon Vixia HFR00), various tripods, rigs, dollies, boom poles, microphones, lights w/ stands totaling \$1745, all to remain at Steller. Envisions TPC using this equipment to help manage events, dances, Steller will continue to see value. As some of this will be constructed by students, this will also enrich their education regarding production and the production process. The tripods will also support Ken's proposed camera. Luca is graduating this year, and would like to leave Steller with this capacity.

## **Old Business**

Pugmill revisited: Chris

A clay recycler. 2' x 21/2" put clay in the top, auger moves it around (dry, wet used leftover clay) de-airer device and then puts out recycled clay. Andrea: clay has to be a certain consistency to be used. Helps environment by recycling, saves money. Question about whether recycling scrap clay could be done by taking to other potters; Wendy asks what would be the cost benefit to purchase instead of reusing new clay; projecting from intensive use: 20 bags of clay dried out at ~\$220 for scrap from 2 weeks, roughly \$1500 savings if recycled. Fuse will work, ASD will not need to modify. This unit is top of the line safe mill; auger stops when opened to feed. This will run for as long as school is in operation, noise level comparable to a blender. Wendy asks if there is another school's mill that could be used; difficulties in transportation and scheduling. Students may also use as they work, is not dependent on load. Class fees cover clay. Fits small space; contains dust. Cost \$4100.

Travel/CES /Passages etc. allocation discussion: Jennifer

Travel/Intensives fund at Steller currently has \$6855 available (all travel scholarship \$ have been awarded for the school year 2013/14, so this is what we will begin the next school year with).

CES currently has \$4100 plus whatever Talent Show in February contributes. Last year Talent Show made \$844.

Proposal to have set amount assigned to the Travel/scholarship account and to fund to a pre-set level that would always be constant. We are assuming that Parent Group will always be able to fund a certain amount. This would allow staff to know how much is available. In the past this amount has been a percentage. Question: is there a problem having a lot of funds in a non-profit account? Answer is no; would like to use money because we raised the money. Trips have different costs attached to them; it is difficult to project how much will be needed per semester; also dependent upon airfare, the amount of kids and their ability to pay their way. Remember, this scholarship was set up so that kids whatever their ability could take advantage of the funds to have this experience. As staff, not certain whether they should reduce amount of trips because costs are rising, and it isn't always certain that enough kids (usually 10 minimum) can continue to fill the current goal of 4 travel trips per year.

Wendy moves to allocate \$1000 to CES and the remainder to be rolled back for the next CES. Seconded by Jennifer.

Mark moves to allocate \$4000 to Travel / Intensives. Seconded by Kim. Dale reminds that this would push over the \$5000 amount that would have to be approved by ASD. This is money that could be used for the Fall intensives beginning in August 2014. Jennifer reminds that \$3500 already allocated but checks not written, so the actual current balance at \$6855 should really be  $\$6855 + \$3500 + \$2000$  that was allocated last year, 2013. The \$10,400 reported for the 2013 travel/scholarship distribution is misleading because it includes \$ that are actually for 2014 trips. Hence the \$10,400 reported for 2013 distribution is too large; 2013 trips really only cost \$6,900. Friendly amendment to the first motion to allocate an additional \$2900 on top of the original \$2000 increase to a total of \$4900 to travel. Seconded by Sherry. Passed.

Rebecca moves to fund Luca's passage the total of \$ asked because Ad Board unable distribute funds in time for his passage, and they don't currently have the money to allocate.

Wendy makes friendly amendment to fully fund Luca. Seconded. Passed.

Ky makes motion to allocate \$6000 to Ad Board. Seconded by Bruce. Passed. This will allow Ad Board to approve projects, and that they can come back to Parent Group to request more funds on an as needed basis. Parent Group prefers to have Ad Board make the decision on larger \$ funding projects.

New motion that Parent Group have any proposal over \$2000 go to Ad Board for approval for vetting; second that pug mill and video camera proposal be referred to Ad Board; third that \$6000 be allocated to Ad Board. Seconded by Bruce.  
Discussion.

Friendly amendment to remove \$2000 in first portion of motion. Seconded.

Amended motion summary to refer pugmill and videocamera proposals to Ad Board, and have \$6000 allocated to Ad Board, passed.

Conversation about funding guidelines regarding \$ given to Ad Board from Parent Group tabled for another meeting. Agreed that creating guidelines for each body will clarify who goes where for \$.

<b>Proposals:</b>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Passed</u>
Video camera (Ken)	\$5529.04	\$6000	<b>Deferred to Ad Board</b>
Travel/Scholarship	\$4000	\$2900	<b>\$2900</b>
Video Prod. Equip (Luca)	\$1745	\$2000	<b>\$2000</b>
CES	\$1000	\$1000	<b>\$1000</b>
Pugmill	\$4100	\$4100	<b>Deferred to Ad Board</b>
Ad Board	Unknown	\$6000	<b>\$6000</b>

Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.