

DSST: Byers STP General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2015

6:30PM

150 Pearl St, Commons

STP Officers in attendance: Lisa Seaman, Rayna Freeman, Suzannah Brown, Jen Wilshire, Maria Burke, Dawn Stewart, Beth Ferguson, Michelle Morgan, Michel Brossmer

Absent: Eric Martinson, Marcia Toll, Anna Baker

Lisa Seaman, STP President, opened and facilitated the meeting.

DSST: Byers Parent Directory: Suzannah Brown gave a brief update on the Parent Directory. The Directory is now online. Parents can use the directory to look up address, phone and email information for other DSST: Byers parents. We will use the Volunteer Sign-Up function going forward to track volunteer opportunities. In December, we will begin emailing our newsletters to parents vs. sending them a print newsletter.

Lisa Seaman requested that our STP General Meeting Minutes are translated into Spanish. Suzannah Brown will send the minutes to Berenice for translation prior to posting them on the STP website.

Fundraiser Update: Lisa Seaman asked Dawn Masters, Fundraising Co-Chair to give an update on all the small fundraisers we will conduct on an ongoing basis.

STP Board members will staff fundraising information tables during Parent/Teacher conferences and before and after the Trimester 1 Awards Ceremonies. Dates: December 10, 11, 17 and 18. King Soopers cards will be available to purchase on these dates and we will advertise our other fundraiser opportunities.

King Soopers Cards – Parents can use King Soopers gift cards to purchase food and gas. The gift cards are re-loadable. The King Soopers cards have \$2.50 loaded on them so cost \$2.50. King Soopers will donate 5% of purchases back to the school.

Mighty Nest - Rayna Freeman signed the school up to participate in Mighty Nest's school fundraising program. Mighty Nest is a Healthy Living website. If you register with them and indicate DSST: Byers as your school, they will donate 15% of your sales back to the school.

Whole Foods bag donations - Suzannah Brown will visit the Cherry Creek Whole Foods to find out how to get on their bag donation calendar. We are already set up with them as a vendor. We just need to get back onto their calendar.

Restaurant Nights – Susie Sabol is working on setting up some restaurant nights. We haven't picked dates yet but will advertise the nights as soon as they are established.

Spirit Wear Sales – The STP benefits from Spirit Wear sales. The last day to order Spirit Wear is November 22nd. Suzannah Brown advertised the Spirit Wear sales on the DSST: Byers Facebook page and in this week's STP Newsletter. We will advertise it again on the Facebook page.

Box Tops – We have raised over \$100 from Box Tops to date. Dawn is going to confirm the next date we have to turn in Box Tops so we can advertise that to the parents. Each Box Top is worth \$.10.

Target Card – This program ends May 2016, but until then, parents can use their Target Card (debit or credit) and assign DSST: Byers as their school. Target will then donate a percentage of all purchases back to Byers.

Girls Night Out ideas: These are both social and fundraising ideas.

Ever Eve – Women's Clothing Store. Suzannah Brown volunteered to contact them.

Adorn – Rayna Freeman's Salon

Common Threads – Jennifer Wilshire's clothing store.

Village Cork Wine Bar – Need a volunteer to work on this.

Infinite Monkey Theorem – Wine Bar

Lisa Seaman recommended that we ensure these events are spaced apart from one another and don't interfere with our big fundraiser.

Large Fundraiser Event: Maria Burke gave an update on our large parent social and fundraiser.

What: STP Social Fundraising Event Where: The Watering Bowl, 5411 Leetsdale Dr, Denver, CO 80246

Who: All DSST Community & Local (Byers Area) small business. 21 or older event as alcohol will be served.

When: Friday February 26th, 2016: 6:00, Doors open Event 7:00-11:00pm

Why: To bring all of DSST and local community together, to raise money for students extra-curricular activities and to help start-up the high school STP fund.

Committee Groups

Food/Drink - Tailored Menu provided by Watering Bowl (Byers receives 20% of food sales)

Alcohol - STP will purchase alcohol in advance at wholesale and STP will Bartend and make all profits from alcohol.

Music/Video - Sound system provided by Watering Bowl, STP provide a playlist. We also have access to large projector screens; we can make a video to play in background during event.
Action Item: Michelle Brossmer can provide the names of the parents who have given photos to the Yearbook so we can use them for a slide show during the event. Want to be able to advertise what we are raising money for.

Small Businesses - At least 6 businesses we know of are interested in donating an item for the give away. We will collect gift-cards/items for them and have giveaways throughout the night. The goal is to have 6-10 items to give away.

Evite/Invitations - Send out an Evite or another electronic communication to DSST community to manage # of attendees. FREE to attend. We can list our supporting businesses on our evite.
Action Item: Suzannah Brown to investigate whether MySchoolAnywhere or WIX has an event “plug-in” we can use to track events. Suggestion – Sell tickets so that people have a reason to show up. Pay a \$1 or \$2 to go.

Activities/Games - Poker Tables (2) \$20 to buy a seat at the table, play for fun. Pool (2) \$10 to play. Darts (2) \$5 to play. Need to determine what the players will win.

Action Item: Maria to record all suggestions made regarding the event at the meeting and send them out to the Board members.

Payment Methods: We would use Square and Cheddar Up as payment methods.

Lisa Seaman opened up the floor for concerns, questions.

Communication - Parents indicated a continued frustration with communication from the school to the parents. We had a picture retake date, but the wrong date was communicated to the parents. On the date photos were rescheduled, the school missed half the 7th graders. Suggestion by Maria Burke for Michel Brossmer – get a parent that takes photos to come to school and take the pictures of the students who were missed.

Parents would like to have a way to receive information electronically vs. all the paper that is sent home on Wednesdays.

Concern with how the phone system is set up. It is very difficult to get a person to pick up the phone. If there is an emergency situation, there should be someone answering the phone. This is especially true from 7:45 – 9:00am, after intervention calls go out and at the end of the day. Voicemail should be the exception, not the rule. Need to work on the phone system menu.

Concern from parent that he can't reach anyone that speaks Spanish. Kathy and Molly both speak Spanish – so you should always be able to speak to someone who speaks Spanish.

Parents raised the following: Is there a staffing issue? Can we offer parent volunteers who could staff the phones at peak times or record students who are late to school so Kathy Crespo can answer the phone?

Is there a technology issue? Does the phone system need to be reconfigured making it easier for parents to get to the main line. Is it possible for parents to “hold” while waiting for the phone to be answered?

Action Item: Lisa Seaman agreed to raise these concerns with Elin Curry and Brad White at their next meeting.

8th Graders - Wyatt Stephens dad is going to chat with 8th graders about attending high school at DSST. This will be very informal – This parent doesn't work at DSST anymore but did for years. Going to be on Dec. 12th at 2pm. Saturday afternoon. If you want to go, please contact Beth Ferguson. Beth will advertise it on the parents FB page.

Meeting adjourned by Lisa Seaman 7:38 PM

Next meeting:

Tuesday, December 15th, 2015 6:30PM

DSST: Byers Room 27

Minutes submitted by Suzannah Brown