



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes April 4 , 2013

Meeting called to order 7:06pm. 22 people present.

- 1 Welcome and Introductions
- 2 Approval of Feb 6, 2013 minutes by voice. (March meeting was cancelled due to snow storm.)
- 3 Committee Updates
 - a Teacher Appreciation Week update
Will take place the week of May 6th. Generous donations were collected from families. Room parents will help coordinate volunteers and donations of supplies, flowers. The Hospitality Committee did a wonderful job last spring and hopefully will do so again; we will supplement with donated funds for bagels, raffle prizes, etc. Student volunteers will be needed to help parent volunteers navigate the building and help deliver gifts. Monday will be a breakfast for the staff; Wednesday will be a luncheon; Friday will be a “cocktail” party (non-alcoholic!). Tuesday will be flowers day and Thursday will be supplies day. Meg addressed a parent concern that all staff will be acknowledged, not just teachers.
 - b Yearbook
Over 1000 pictures have been “screened in” for the yearbook. We aim for group shots, to include as many students as possible. New this year: 2-page spread of baby photos of 5th graders. New pictures will be accepted until April 12th. Still need Popcorn Friday and Walking Wednesday pictures!
 - c Cougar Day
Will be April 12th. School spirit event. 5th graders will provide face painting around the school. The annual volleyball game between 5th graders and staff will take place in the afternoon. Cougar Gear will be delivered in time to be worn. Or blue/white can be worn. There might be costumed cougars roaming the halls! There will be a themed writing project - poems/songs?
 - d Room parent updates
THANK YOU for your efforts for FUN FAIR! An email went out to room parents about buying yearbooks for teacher gifts; students will sign for their teachers.
 - e Fun Fair wrap up
THANK YOU to Room Parents and all volunteers. We netted \$15,000+. This was a little less than last year but more than we budgeted for. It all went smoothly. Special thanks to Liv Van Dyke, new Raffle Chairperson, and committee members Crystal Bowman and Andrea White. The table looked beautiful. You set

the bar high for future raffles! The fire department approved our new game backdrops - whew! Betsy and Michele seek input/feedback for next year. Older students continue to come back to help set up, sell slush, play the Cake Walk game! THANK YOU to the teachers who gave up their rooms for Fun Fair activities.

We do need a General Store chairperson for next year. This does not take a lot of time. A parent made a suggestion for maps to help visitors navigate the building, or perhaps greeters? How about Fun Fair Staff t-shirts? Or pinnies?

f Spring photos

April 2nd. Went well, organized, students were happy. You do not have to buy the pictures. LifeTouch does not keep returns; they shred and recycle them. Why do we do Spring pictures? PTO gets \$2 per click. It's a quick fundraiser for us. There will be no make-up day or class pictures for Spring pictures.

g Programs

Animal Adaptations from MoS, Abraham Lincoln from Young Audiences, GeoDomes for 5th graders, Electromagnetism for 4th graders, Windmills for 5th graders, Ben Franklin is coming, Lifecycles from MoS for 2nd graders coming. Raves for World Of Wonder all-school assembly - puppets, magic, storytelling!

h. Daffodil Days

\$730 was raised for the American Cancer Society. Previous chairperson left fabulous instructions for incoming chairperson!

4 Principal's Report

Discussion regarding class size, re-districting, teachers.

We will keep four 5th grade classrooms. We hope to add a 4th grade class in the fall. We will keep the 2/3 combined classroom and all the 1st grade classrooms. We are on the cusp of having too many per class in 2nd grade classrooms. Mr. Madden will keep in communication with the Superintendent about class sizes. Mr. Farmer recently visited and noted the large number of students in a 3rd grade class. Is re-districting the cause of large class sizes? No. We had many summer move-ins. The word is out about Sharon Public Schools! (Boston Magazine ranking). Will there be new hires of teachers? IF Mr. Madden can interview, he will. He likes to interview and will invite a parent to participate.

MCAS-ELA

The students worked extremely hard. Great effort, using all of their strategies. Younger classes were very considerate of noise levels.

Iron Chef Night

One of the nicer events we have - low-stress, with mingling and sharing of recipes!

New Traffic Pattern for Drop-off/Pick-up

There are a few scofflaws. There are still some safety concerns with pedestrians. A parent suggested some signage? Crossing guard would help, or maybe some cones with signage?

Plowing after snow storms

Indoor recesses were disheartening after the storms. Why did it take so long to get the school plowed? The town is responsible for the playground and it's low-priority. A sidewalk plowing machine was broken, so the town only had one.

5 Treasurer's Report

Liz Theiler talked us through recent expenditures and income. PTO checks were purchased. New this year: seed sale fundraiser took in \$700 - yay! Iron Chef Night - gift cards were purchased for winning dishes plus trivia game trinkets for student prizes. Broadway Cougars Drama Program still has some expenses to pay out. Programs are on-going.

Spelling Bee - how did the PTO team do? We were robbed! Another team won with an Alive in the Hive card. The staff team didn't perform so well. The 5th grade spelling bee was fantastic! Teams were made up with a student from each school.

6 New Business

a Nominations of Officers

Elections will be held in May and take seats in June. A slate of officers was approved by voice.

b Turn off the TV Week

April 29th. No electronics! Mr. Madden will email flyer out before vacation week.

c Family Night at the Y

May 3rd is tentative date. \$100 donation to Y was approved by voice.

d Art Night – Book Fair – May 1

Mrs. Biddle needs matting help on Monday/Wednesday next week. Many volunteers needed to hang art work after vacation week. Contact her if you can help. Great event to have during Turn Off the TV week - come look at student art and shop at the Book Fair!

e Spring Clean Up April 27 1-3

We will ask town to deliver mulch and if we can borrow tools. Volunteers needed to rake, pull weeds, etc.

f Mother's Day Plant Sale May 10th

Volunteers needed to pick up plants at Ward's Berry Farm and for set-up.

g Ice Cream Social – June 12

Last PTO event of the school year. 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

h Family Night at the Revolution

Sunday, June 2nd, 4pm game. We will have a tailgate lot. All 3 elementary schools are invited. Tickets available at cost.

Idea from Meg: Chairpersons - please look at district calendar and plan next year's PTO events well ahead of time. Also, write job descriptions for new chairpersons detailing what is involved in your duties. It's such a big help for new people who take over.

When is Field Day? June 4th. Yes, it seems early, but there is so much else happening in June, it can't be helped.

Last Day of school is a half-day on June 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

PTO Meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Cottage Street School
LibraryFree Childcare is provided
Contact us at: [**CSSPTO@gmail.com**](mailto:CSSPTO@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook:
Cottage Street School-PTO
or on the web at [**www.cottagepto.or**](http://www.cottagepto.or)