



## Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes May 2, 2013

Meeting called to order 7:02pm. 21 people present.

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approval of April 4, 2013 minutes by voice.
- Election of PTO Executive Board Officer slate - approved by voice:  
Meg Dussault, Chair  
Elizabeth Theiler, Treasurer  
Jen Cooperman, Secretary
- Committee Updates
  - a Yearbook  
Nearly finished! We are losing Rhonda and will be looking for new volunteers. We received more picture submissions from parents this year. We expect to distribute yearbooks during the week of June 14th.
  - b Family Night at the YMCA in Foxboro  
May 10th. Free event from 6pm - 8pm. Cottage families only. Forms were sent home and we need RSVPs for staffing purposes.
  - c Family Day at the New England Revolution  
June 2nd. We will be seated by school and grade. Fun family event.
  - d Teacher Appreciation Week  
Schedule of events will go home on Friday; teachers will receive invitations. Baking committee is getting a lot of donations. Meg asked about the luncheon, to make sure fresh food is put out for each of the 3 staff lunch periods as well as clean-up. This will be taken care of. There will be at least 2 staff raffles/day, gift certificates, etc.
  - e Mother's Day Plant Sale  
May 10th, 8am - 11am in the gym. Classes come in on a schedule. We need help in the morning putting each plant in baggies. Plants are \$1 each. No child will go home without a plant.
  - f Book Fair  
Huge success! Better sales than expected, but no final numbers yet.
  - h. Turn off the TV Week  
Pledge forms winner will be drawn. This program coincided with National Screen-free week.

- Principal's Report  
Mr. Zides has been in charge while Mr. Madden is away at a conference.

The All School Walk took place on the 30th. The whole school walked four laps around the school as part of Project ACES, led by Mr. D. A parent asked that there be more reminders about this event next year so that students will be wearing proper footwear.

Walking Wednesday was held on May 1st. We had great weather.

38 days left of school year and it will be busy; MCAS begins next week.

The Art Show on May 1st was a wonderful evening. Kudos to art teacher Jen Biddle for all of her work, as well as the students for their impressive work.

Friday is Cougar Friday: wear your Cougar gear or Boston sports jerseys and T-shirts.

- Treasurer's Report

Liz Theiler talked us through recent expenditures and income.

Income - Box Tops met budget; bricks have been ordered and shows deposits only at the moment. Spring Cougar Gear came in slightly over budget, nice!

Expenses - Scholarship for HS student - \$50; After Party at HS - \$50; CSS PTO scholarship will be given to HS graduate.

Notes: Drama program shows excess because we set aside money each year for the following year's program. \$200 will be given for the 5th grade graduation celebration.

- New Business
  - a Ice Cream Social June 12
  - b Crossing Guard Mrs. B is retiring and Mr. Madden will coordinate a way to honor her. Please give him suggestions, not direct them to the PTO. There will be a nice picture of her in the yearbook. For future retirements, perhaps PTO can donate a brick in honor of the person?
  - c PTO End of Year Giving - suggestions are sought. Hanna Jenner of the Green Team suggested a water bottle filling water station, like the one at the YMCA. She will submit a spec sheet. There was some discussion about the playground equipment. The PTO does set aside money each year for future playground needs. A parent asked why playgrounds are not part of the district budget.

- d Committee Vacancies: drama, library, room parent, a co-chair for popcorn and yearbook, and a driver for Mainspring House lunches.

Meg encourages parents to ask friends to step up to volunteer for PTO, either as a chairperson or to serve on a committee. We need new people! Many of us who volunteer work full-time as well. The Book Fair chairperson took two days off from work to run the recent fair. A parent shared that she has permission from Mr. Madden to bring her younger child with her when she volunteers at the school. Perhaps if others knew this was an option, they might do the same. PTO sends home a 3-page packet at the beginning of the year with committee descriptions. It's on our website as well. Some jobs don't require in-school presence. Meg is working on a PTO email newsletter for next year.

Other:

A parent brought up continued traffic concerns at drop-off and pick-up. A police officer was present one day to observe and make recommendations. Better signage was suggested. Another parent brought up the high fees for bussing for students who live within 2 miles of the school. Wondered if bussing were less expensive, would the traffic be lessened?

Rhonda Jansky spoke about the Internet Safety Seminar that was held recently for incoming middle schooler parents. She recommended that CSS offer this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

PTO Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Cottage Street School Library Free 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)