



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from January 5th, 2015

Meeting began at 7:02 p.m., adjourned at 8:02 p.m.
24 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved December 2014 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Family Dance:** Final numbers were not available at the meeting, but the dance definitely made a little bit of money (covered expenses), even though it was not a fundraiser. Everyone seemed to like the new DJ.
 - b) **Barnes and Noble:** The evening did not do very well financially. The families who were there were mostly from Cottage. 81 people purchased at the register for a total of \$2200, 15% of which goes to the elementary schools, divided equally among the three. Has the event run its course? Does the timing of the readings need to be changed? We can't count on much money anymore in contrast to other fundraisers that have done well. Other ideas are to try an online sale week or to try a different time of year.
 - c) **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast:** It was very delicious and there was plenty of food. The teachers really enjoyed it and did not have any suggestions for change.
 - d) **Roller-skating—January 11:** It is always a fun event. The rink is just open to Cottage families. Beckie Gray is still taking forms until Friday. If not, families can pay at the door (credit card is accepted).
 - e) **Broadway Cougars February 12 and 13:** The show is School House Rock. Everything is going really smoothly. Information for parent participation will be forthcoming.
 - f) **Programs:** Kindergarten just finished yoga with a new teacher and it went well. 4th grade has Abraham Lincoln coming tomorrow. At the end of the month, the whole school will have a program with Improv Boston (3 performances). The Krazy Tracie performances had more parents in attendance than any other program.
 - g) **Fun Fair March 22:** Room Parent Meeting will be next Monday, January 12. An e-mail was sent to new families this week. We will be using online signups this year for volunteers. Wendy MacArthur is in need of assistance for Raffles.



5. Principal's Report:

- a) Lego Club—would like to do it on a bigger scale next year.
- b) PARCC information will be coming to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade families. Practice tests will be administered later in January.
- c) There will be networking opportunities for families with Type I diabetes. This will be distributed to the Cottage community and then can, in turn, be shared with preschools.
- d) School budget—The next School Committee Meeting will be January 21. Foreign language is the big issue on the table. The proposal is for the 5th grade flex program to continue (every day for 20 minutes) and for foreign language to be introduced to 1st and 2nd grade for 20 minutes 3 days/week. The next year, it would be added to 3rd grade and the year after that 4th grade. How would this fit in the schedule, especially since music was cut to create more time? 5th graders get polled to pick out which language they want to take and whether they want to play an instrument in 6th grade. Perhaps read aloud would be given up one day per week. It would be one language for all students in grades 1-4 at all three elementary schools. This would impact the other languages. How would kids moving into the district be able to catch up?
- e) Bike rodeo—Perhaps this could be done before the bike tour of the town that is scheduled for the 250th anniversary celebration. Maybe Cottage could be part of the Walking Tour and parade in the town celebration.
- f) Traffic pattern—Kevin is meeting with Officer Hocking to look at options.

6. New Business

- a) Iron Chef Night—February 3, please bring a dish to share. Volunteers welcome to set up and clean up. Start at 6:30. Make a dish to go a long way. Bring a card with recipe. It's okay to come for the experience without bringing food too. Is there more that is going to be done for the diversity aspect? A map to show where dishes come from, diversity quiz, flags to color that would then be put on bulletin board in mail lobby, come in cultural dress? Can we use the TV in lobby to advertise the week before?
- b) Committee Vacancies—Raffles, Year End Donations, Birthday Books, Box Tops, another chair for Mother's Day Plant Sale. You do not need to be a PTO member to volunteer.
- c) Cougar Gear—Tie dye party with white t-shirts or Holy Day celebration with dance groups and Indian food. Ms. Mo suggested bandanas that students could wet with cool water to keep cool during the warmer months.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.