



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2015

Meeting began at 7:07 p.m., adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
13 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved April 2015 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Teacher Appreciation:** Suggestion about the raffles to keep track year after year to make it fair. Don't announce the amount of gift certificates so it seems more equitable. The teachers and staff really appreciate the week. The supplies and flowers are so meaningful. Breakfast and lunch are great. Not every school does it as well as Cottage—they are very grateful.
 - b) **Yearbook:** The orders are in. 350 hard and soft cover books were ordered. They should come in during the last week or two before school ends.
 - c) **Mother's Day Plant Sale:** There are rumors about the number of plants and the free plants. Students can get one free plant only if they don't have any money. The plant limit was discussed and it was agreed on four to begin with and it could be reviewed throughout the sale. 60% of the plants will be vegetables and 40% will be flowers.
 - d) **Book Fair:** The book fair made \$7605 in sales, which yields \$1900 back to the school. Leandra did a great job.
 - e) **Art Night:** It was a beautiful night and so very successful. We gave a round of applause to Jen Biddle.
 - f) **Screen Free Week:** It will take place next week.
 - g) **Alex and Ani/Orange Leaf Fundraiser:** We don't know yet how much Alex and Ani made, although we think just a few of us went. Orange Leaf made \$26. The timing of both were tricky, with Alex and Ani right after vacation and Orange Leaf on a ½ day. Direct asks seem to work better.
5. **Principal's Report:**
 - a) Nepal Fundraiser will be coming up.
 - b) Cougar Day went well. The teachers won the volleyball game.
 - c) PARCC round 2 is getting ready to begin.
 - d) Two more bike racks are hopefully going to be purchased.



- e) The textile fundraiser brought in 3300 pounds.
- f) Custodians have been asked to bring fans up from basement to make it comfortable in the classrooms.

6. New Business

- a) Election of Officers—Not sure if there are enough people here for the vote to be official.
Co-Presidents: Meg Dussault + Liv Van Dyke—8 yes votes (+ 2 yes votes from fellow nominees)
Treasurer: Elizabeth Theiler—8 yes votes (+ 3 yes votes from fellow nominees)
Secretary: Betsy Strauss—8 yes votes (+3 yes votes from fellow nominees)
- b) Ice Cream Social June 15—It will take place at 6:30pm.
- c) Special request: Cameras: Joe Ahern--\$350 cap on 3 digital cameras—all present were in favor.
- d) Talent Show—Mrs. Gilman is not organizing it this year. The PTO agreed to run it, especially since Broadway Cougars was limited to 5th graders. Meg and Giselle will be running it. There will be a K-2 performance during the day and a 3-5 performance at night sometime in June. Auditions will take place approximately 3 weeks before. There might be a SignUp Genius so that parents are also aware of the criteria for auditions. Auditions will take place before, during, and after school. The goal will be to keep the show to 1.5 hours.
- e) End of the year gifts—What PTO will gift to the school—bike racks, music equipment, and projector for cafeteria. What individuals and class groups give to teachers—the same guidelines will apply as they did for the holidays—Amy will send out something to Room Parents at the beginning of June. If a gift is given to the classroom, it can be more.
- f) Textile fundraiser—discussion about doing it twice a year. Don't want drop off outside of the school. We need to be cautious about opening it up to the community. We also need to be mindful of other fundraisers, such as the Coat Drive and School on Wheels (map out fundraisers). This led to a discussion of other possible fundraisers, such as a styrofoam recycling truck (Re-foam it) and stinky socks/laps fundraiser (this could be tied in with health and wellness or the physical education curriculum, although there is already Hoops for Heart).
- g) Bike Rodeo—it was fantastic. Very well managed. There is a kit that can be purchased if we want to continue with it. The kit costs \$400. Health & wellness has a grant that might cover it. There were 40 kids during two sessions. Someone from Landry's was there. The students' helmets were fitted and they were taught hand signals.



- h) Snoopy Shirts—there was a discussion of wearing Snoopy shirts on May 13, which is Joan Wernick’s birthday, and also continuing the tradition of wearing Snoopy shirts on the last day of school every year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.