



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2016

Meeting began at 7:05p.m., adjourned at 8:20p.m.
14 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Special Guest Speaker Russell Rapaport “Relay for Life”:** This event will take place on Friday, May 13 at Sharon High School. It is a walk to raise money for the American Cancer Society. It is a team event and a fundraiser. Registration is online. There will be participants walking around the track from 3-9pm, but you can come and go anytime during that timeframe. There will be events in the middle of the track—DJ, bouncy house, etc. The organizers are hoping that we will send information electronically to the Cottage community, flyers in backpacks, and maybe create a Cottage team in order to get younger students involved.
3. **Approved March 2016 meeting minutes by voice.**
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed. This included the reveal of Fun Fair totals. We discussed the possibility of selling Cougar Gear at one of the upcoming Early Release Days before Cougar Day. Instead, we decided to inventory the current stock and ask folks who were interested in purchasing Cougar Gear to e-mail Marla. We also discussed Amazon Smile and the other ways to give to Cottage and it was decided that we should send out another reminder.
5. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Fun Fair:** In addition to discussing the totals, we asked for feedback. The general feedback was very positive.
 - b) **Programming:** There are no programs in April. The next program is on May 23rd, which is Deborah Sampson Day, when the 3rd grade will be visited by Deborah Sampson.
 - c) **Yearbook:** It will be a 56 page book filled with pictures of all of the students. It must be pre-ordered. Room Parents may consider purchasing one as a class gift for teachers. Kindergarten Room Parents should also remember the assistants.
6. **Principal’s Report:**
 - a) PARCC dates were reviewed.



7. New Business

- a) Screen Free Week May 9-14: A letter will go home with a link to SurveyMonkey where students can sign up. They are trying to figure out what the prizes will be for successfully completing Screen Free Week. Also, they would like to give a prize to the class that has the most participants (perhaps Scholastic Bucks). Someone suggested the possibility of old library books that the library is planning to purge. There will be lots of events for the community that week—Bertucci's/Orange Leaf fundraiser on Tuesday, Game Night on Thursday, and Relay for Life on Friday.
- b) Teacher Appreciation Week May 2-6: They are all set with the budget and do not need to ask for any more money, as we had plenty left over from last year. They will only be needing volunteers and will likely use SignUpGenius that they will ask Mr. Madden or Room Parents to distribute. They are planning the same events as in years past, but are just tweaking and cutting down on the raffles a bit.
- c) Mother's Day Plant Sale May 6: They still need volunteers on Thursday, May 5 at 3:30pm to set up. The SignUpGenius will be included in the PTO News.
- d) Book Fair May 3-5: Leandra will be heading it up once again. She will let us know if she needs volunteers.
- e) New Ideas—labels, pictures, dance: The labels fundraiser will soon be underway. The Ken Berman photography fundraiser will be on June 5. Someone mentioned the idea of a father/daughter dance, but it was pointed out that the winter dance originated as a family dance, since families come in all different shapes and sizes. The possibility of a formal dance or dinner party was suggested.
- f) Committee Vacancies: Playground, Programs, Yearbook, Treasurer, President, Fun Fair Café Co-chairs. We brainstormed ways to get more individuals to be a part of our community. We discussed that it may be telling to ask a friend why they don't join us at meetings. The suggestion was made to have two meetings in September, a fun introductory meeting and then the regular meeting to discuss the necessary business items.
- g) 5th Grade Graduation: The 5th grade graduation committee asked for more money from the PTO to meet increasing expenses, particularly transportation expenses. Instead, they may ask families for \$30 each (instead of \$25), give a less expensive gift to the school, or give the students less swag in their goody bags.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.