



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2016

Meeting began at 7:02p.m., adjourned at 8:09p.m.
20 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**—We began the meeting with the election of President Elect Casey McLaughlin, as she had to leave. The motion was approved.
2. **Approved September 2016 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Book Fair:** In addition to being extremely successful with the money that it brought in to the school, there were several other positive aspects to the Book Fair. Students received scholastic dollars for demonstrating Cougar values, in a locker lottery, for completing Mrs. Goldberg's summer homework, and for prizes from the reading specialists. Also, teacher wish lists were fulfilled. Great job, Leandra!
 - b) **Membership/Directory:** The membership drive is ongoing. Directory forms were largely completed online, which was much easier for Liv. Overall, it was a great success. Membership total is currently \$5000 not including teachers, which comes to 51% of our community. Our goal is \$5600, so we are almost there. Someone asked about the possibility of an online directory, but we decided that it would be hard to protect information and it is a tangible perk of PTO membership to receive a paper directory. For those trying to organize a birthday party in September, someone suggested visiting the office to see old directories, since we can't really produce a directory with a quicker turnaround time.
 - c) **Programming:** Aparna and Jen Zhang are going to shadow this year. They need to meet with Jen and Beth. Kindergarten will be doing yoga and dancing with Krazie Tracy. 1st grade will have a program on sound from the Acton Discovery Museum (it is very pricey, but they are giving us a new grade level discount) as well as maybe something from the Museum of Science about animals. 2nd grade will have someone from Plimoth Plantation and States of Matter. 3rd grade will have Water, Water Everywhere (together with 5th grade), a weather person and Deborah Sampson. 4th grade will have Museum of Science program about electromagnetism and a Young Audience history program. 5th grade will have Water, Water Everywhere (together with 3rd grade) and the Museum of Science Starlab. There was some discussion about



where the multiage classes should go, and it appears they are going with the 2nd grade programs. They are still working on the all school programs.

- d) **Coupon Books:** The fundraiser officially ends tomorrow.
- e) **Back to School BBQ:** Wendy did a wonderful job and it was very successful! It was great that it was not on the same day as the Pats game. It was a really fun event. Neil was very helpful too!
- f) **School Pictures-Retake November 18:** Pictures went very well. It was the best year yet in terms of running smoothly and finishing ahead of schedule. They will try to coordinate better with teachers to stay on schedule instead of ahead of schedule. It takes 3 to 5 weeks for pictures to come back. There was a bit of confusion about whether you need to pre-pay. Someone thought that it was too early in the school year for pictures, but this was actually the latest that we have done it. It doesn't seem to work as well if you wait much later.

5. Principal's Report:

- a) New school psychologist started yesterday. She has been going around to classrooms to introduce herself. She is responsible for cognitive testing and various services.
- b) Mrs. Mardo returns from maternity leave tomorrow. The sub will then transition to Mrs. K's classroom for her maternity leave. Aparna asked about the guidelines for a class gift for Mrs. K. Linda will send out guidelines to Room Parents.
- c) There were some questions about testing for ELL programs and when parents are notified.

6. New Business

- a) Diversity: Linda and Flo are chairs. They are planning an International Festival event with country booths, food, and performances with song and dance. They wish to promote inclusion, tolerance, and accepting differences. They are looking at ways to tie in to curriculum, such as immigration and art. They want there to be a US booth. They need a few more parents to help and a lot of participation. They can be reached at linda.cveckova@gmail.com and mfvidano@vidanolaw.com. The event will be January 19 at 6:30pm.
- b) Popcorn Fridays Oct 14: First one is free, then \$.25. Need more volunteers.
- c) Halloween Bingo Oct 27: Tiffany is chairing again. It is from 6:30-8pm. The event is free, but there will be a 5th grade bake sale. Costumes are optional. There is a pumpkin carving contest for those who wish to bring a carved pumpkin and everyone can vote. It is a fun event!
- d) Vacancies: Fun Fair Café—it doesn't have to be done the same way as in years past. Playground—only when issues come up and then work with Mr.



Madden and Mr. D. Yearbook—Aparna is going to take over from Elizabeth. They always need help taking pictures when attending an event. Elizabeth and Aparna check the “do not photograph list”, so you don’t have to worry about that. Cougar Gear—need someone who enjoys merchandise. There are different ways to do it. Meg will mentor the new chair. FAME—liaison to go to FAME meetings and advocate for Cottage.

- e) Election of President Elect—Casey McLaughlin: Now that the motion has been approved, Casey will shadow Meg and attend Executive Board Meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09p.m.