



## Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2017

Meeting began at 7:05p.m., adjourned at 8:08p.m.  
16 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved March 2017 meeting minutes by voice**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
  - a) **Fun Fair:** In addition to revealing the Fun Fair totals, we just wanted to thank everyone for all of their contributions in making it a success and a great day!
  - b) **Programming:** There is a lull in programming because of MCAS.
  - c) **Yearbook:** Pictures should be submitted now. The order form is out with the final deadline being just after April vacation. Linda e-mailed Room Parents re: yearbooks for year end gifts for teachers. Room Parents may want to consider buying a brick for a new teacher as well.
5. **Principal's Report:**
  - a) Special Guest Speaker, Karen Woods (kwoods@sharon.k12.ma.us), the Elementary Science and Social Studies Coordinator, made a presentation. She talked about the 5<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS, the 2016 Science, Technology, & Engineering Standards (STE), Science & Engineering Practices, Instruction, and Standards in action. They decided to move ahead with new standards even though the MCAS teaches the old standards. They will have to look at scores differently. They felt that students are getting better instruction now.
  - b) MCAS is under way. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade ELA MCAS online went well. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade started today. The questions seem fair.
  - c) Enrollment update—The School Committee acknowledged that Cottage is overcrowded and other schools have space. Many options were presented. The School Committee is hesitant to make big changes at this late stage for next school year. This will be further discussed at the April 12 School Committee meeting. There will be some temporary solution for next year and then a long term plan moving forward. This impacts Cottage now and long term all of the schools. There were some questions about 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade and



how many sections there will be next year—this will be based on #'s and needs.

- d) The Girls on the Run Program has started—it is for up to 20 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Candice explained a bit about the program, which is off to a great start!

## 6. New Business

- a) Teacher appreciation week May 1-5—it is earlier this year than in years past. It will follow the same schedule—Monday breakfast, Tuesday flowers, Wednesday lunch, Thursday supplies, Friday dessert. They will be looking for volunteers and the Hospitality committee will ask for baked goods. They will ask for Room Parent help. The teachers greatly appreciate all that is done for them that week. Mr. D gets the before care kids to help. If someone is interested in joining the planning committee, they would welcome the help. Linda will send an e-mail to Room Parents.
- b) Book Fair & Art Night May 2-4—Leandra is heading up the Scholastic Book Fair once again and can always use volunteers. Art Night will be on May 3 and Mrs. Biddle will ask for help with mounting and hanging artwork. It has become a STEAM night, with tech and literacy involved as well.
- c) Screen Free Week May 8-14—It will be the week before National Screen Free Week. There will be a parent letter with a link to Survey Monkey for students to sign up. They are trying to think of prizes. They are still planning activities for the week, but might have Monday as Bertucci's/Orange Leaf and Thursday as Game Night. A Menchie's fundraiser is also a possibility.
- d) Mother's Day Plant Sale May 12—this will be the Friday before Mother's Day. The plants come from Ward's and each plant is sold for \$1. Volunteers will be needed and it is a very rewarding event at which to help.
- e) Cougar Day May 26—Cougar Gear will be available before then.
- f) Vacancies—Prize Room—Mary Mesiha volunteered for this, as Tiffany may not be able to do this next year. Yearbook—Aparna will need help. Someone suggested Dropbox for teachers to share pictures at the same time that they share with parents. Also, someone will need to take pictures in the school, as we cannot expect teachers to do so. Programs—Aparna will need help with this. Jen Zhang may do this and maybe someone else too. Raffles—Wendy will not be able to continue doing this in the same capacity.
- g) Talent Show—A big thank you to Meg for organizing the talent shows!
- h) Broadway Cougars—The performance will be on May 24. We discussed that it is the Broadway version of "Peter Pan" and how they have addressed some of the controversial aspects of some of the versions of the show.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08p.m.