



## Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from January 3, 2013

Meeting began at 7:03 p.m., adjourned at 8:05 p.m.  
20 people present

### Welcome and Introductions

Approved December 6, 2012 meeting minutes by voice.

### Committee Updates:

**a) Roller Skating Party** Sunday, January 13 from 12pm – 2pm at Carousel in Whitman. Flyers went home this week. Make checks payable to CSS PTO. Check-in at the door. This is a private party for CSS!

**b) Seed Sale** – New fundraiser this year! PTO will send out order forms for organic seed packets and collections later this month.

**c) Providence Bruins Family Day** – Flyers will go out soon. The game is Sunday, Feb. 10 at 3:05pm. Our school chorus will perform. Our seats will be near East ES. Ticket orders are due by Jan. 21. Family and friends are welcome! This is a family event, not a fundraiser.

**d) Iron Chef Night** – Probably in Feb., date TBA. This will be a potluck to celebrate CSS diversity. Families are encouraged to bring a favorite dish and share tasting portions. Prizes will be given. There will be games and/or story time for the kids.

**e) Brick Sales** – Orders will be taken for engraved bricks for our outdoor walkways through March 29<sup>th</sup> including at Fun Fair. Our new teachers will be honored with engraved bricks. These make nice end of year teacher gifts! Or for 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduates!

**f) NStar Fundraiser** – Orders will be in next week. Notices will go out to families to pick up orders, and prizes will be given to the students. Barry Fritz told us that NStar has not updated their inventory and he suggests we might want to shelve this fundraiser next year and try something else.

**g) Broadway Cougars** – This program for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be directed by Ms. Murphy, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents Irene Fahy and Melissa Leonard will co-chair along with PTO liaison Ellen Bordman. The performances will take place on Thursday, March 14, two during the school day and one in the evening. Auditions



will be held next week. The show is *Jungle Book Kids*. There will be a Parent Mtg. January 15 at 4:30pm.

**h) Cougar Gear** orders were distributed before the holiday break, and we took in \$15 more than we budgeted. Nice!

**i) Fun Fair** – Room Parent Meeting 1/7. Liv and Crystal stepped up to take on Raffles. The Green Team will be involved this year. Fun Fair is Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-4pm.

### **Principal's Report given by Mr. Zides**

- ' Transition plans for 5<sup>th</sup> graders going into middle school have begun.
- ' CT Tragedy: CSS has installed locks on all classroom doors and reviewed main door locking policies. Police presence the week before holiday break was for our comfort.
- ' Artist in Residence – Bren Bataclan left us with a unique mural, incorporating ideas from the students. He also donated two original works of art, perhaps to be auctioned off at Fun Fair?
- ' Kindergarten Orientation will be 1/15 and CSS Kindergarten registration will follow on 1/23.
- ' A parent brought up concerns about the idling cars at pick-up and the traffic flow.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Our Treasurer Liz Theiler took us through the current budget, noting recent expenditures. Cougar Gear took in slightly over \$1000. We paid a deposit for the photo booth at Fun Fair. Coupon Books profited us \$1400. Popcorn Friday supplies have been purchased. We paid a deposit for the Roller Skating Party. The Winter Family Dance was supposed to break even, but we actually made some profit. We pay for childcare at PTO meetings. We've paid out funds for Programs such as Geodomes, Southwick Zoo, yoga, and more will come this winter. We paid two Special Teacher Requests last month. We will give Teacher Stipends again in February.

A parent asked about the MainSpring Lunches. It was explained that families send in donations to buy supplies, and our intention is that it pays for itself by the end of the year.

### **New Business**

There will be **Committee vacancies** next year. Chairpersons will be needed. Please recruit your friends to help with PTO events and programs!

We had a discussion about **PTO communication**. We intend to send out a PTO Survey before the end of the school year to seek feedback. We try not to inundate families with



separate emails, instead relying on Mr. Madden's weekly emails to include our information.

Eric Norman was praised for his work on our <http://www.cottagepto.org/> site. All upcoming events are listed there, including order forms! He also urged us to use the **Facebook** page: *Cottage Street School – PTO*, and to take and submit pictures of students at school events for the **yearbook**.

**Teachers present at the meeting thanked the CSS PTO for the December Breakfast.** Kudos to the Hospitality Committee for organizing this and for all of those who donated food!

Sarah Dolinsky brought up School on Wheels and whether CSS could get involved with a Read-a-thon to benefit the organization. This should be organized through administration, not PTO.

A parent asked about the bird feeders outside the office windows. Who pays for the birdseed? PTO says it isn't us.