



## Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2014

Meeting began at 7:02 p.m., adjourned at 8:30 p.m.  
25 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved February 2014 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Rec Soccer:** Two Board members from the Sharon Soccer Association (Travis Wiebe and Kerry Soby) were given permission by Superintendent Tim Farmer to speak at the meeting about Sharon Soccer. They came to educate us about changes in the league and to increase participation of players and coaches. Some of the changes include a coaches' clinic before each game and co-ed teams grouped by age. They are in need of more coaches. Please go to [sharonsoccer.org](http://sharonsoccer.org) for more information.
5. **Committee Updates:**
  - a) **Iron Chef Night:** Was a success! Thank you to all who volunteered and attendend.
  - b) **Broadway Cougars:** The show, "Willy Wonka Jr.," was enjoyed by many and thanks were given to all of the volunteers who made it happen, especially Ms. Murphy and Ms. Bolgen. The PTO will give new microphones to the school as an end of the year gift to help with the play next year.
  - c) **Seed Sale:** The Seed Sale is now over and seeds will be delivered soon. The sale raised \$430, which is less than last year but more than the goal of \$400. Liv Van Dyke inquired as to the reason for the small number of sales. Some of the possible explanations offered were: 1) using mostly electronic communication and the number of other emails that have gone out lately may have obscured the Seed Sale information, 2) the deadline being set on the day after vacation ended may have been difficult for many to remember.
  - d) **Programming:** Recent programs include "Crazy Tracy" for the kindergarteners, "Abraham Lincoln" for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and "States of Matter" by the Museum of Science.
  - e) **Fun Fair:** We need more volunteers! The FF committee is receiving fewer volunteers than in past years. Donations are still needed for the General Store and Book Room- bins are in the hallway outside of the office. A new feature this year is the "Face Painting/Glitter Tattoo" room and it is in need of volunteers. The Café is in need of chili and baked goods and people were



asked to check the flyer which indicates which food item they are responsible for sending based on their last name. Room parents should be finalizing their class booth schedule and working on their backdrops; the class schedule needs to be submitted to the Fun Fair chairs when completed. The Raffle chair reported she has about \$8000 worth of items donated so far, totaling 90 baskets, and is need of more baskets. Discussion ensued about whether the communication about Fun Fair is confusing for new families and it was suggested that a video presentation about Fun Fair may be helpful.

## **6. Principal's Report:**

- a) The School on Wheels drive is going on right now. Students can have money pledged for the amount of minutes they read, or donations can just be made to School on Wheels. School on Wheels provides school supplies and tutoring to homeless families in Massachusetts. Money is due by 3/14.
- b) Guest readers came to CSS on 3/3 for Read Across America Day.
- c) MCAS and PARCC assessments will begin this month. PARCC is a pilot program and therefore students do not receive feedback on their performance.
- d) The principals are working with the music teachers to explore options that would allow for both instrumental and choral music in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- e) The principals are working on a "FAQ" regarding iReady as a follow-up to the informational night that occurred recently
- f) Kindergarten registration: 76 children are registered but the three classes are capped at 22 each, meaning there is a surplus of students. There is no classroom space for a fourth kindergarten classroom so Administration is exploring options. Parents of incoming kindergarteners will receive a letter soon notifying them of how this will be handles. Possible options are having students go to another school for kindergarten and then returning to CSS for 1<sup>st</sup> grade or a lottery. This led to a more general discussion about the growing population and class size at CSS and how it is being addressed by the district.

## **7. New Business**

- a) Paw Sox: The first CSS outing to see the Paw Sox will be on Sunday 4/6. There is a block of box seats together for CSS families and tickets will be \$10.50 per person. There are 55 tickets which will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. An email will go out next week for ticket sign up.
- b) Spring Picture Day: Will be on 4/1. PTO gets money for every picture taken, regardless of whether the pictures are purchased. It will be OPTIONAL for students to have their picture taken but Life Touch will be more stringent on getting sample pictures returned. Sibling pictures will be offered during and after school.



- c) Committee Vacancies: Elections will be held for Board positions next month. The current Board members will run for their positions again except Jennifer Cooperman, Secretary. Anyone interested in the Secretary position can contact Jennifer for more information about it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.