



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2013

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m., adjourned at 7:50 p.m.
20 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Transition of Executive Board**
Thank you Ellen Bordman for a great year as PTO Secretary!
Meg Dussault and Elizabeth Theiler will retain their positions as PTO President and Treasurer, respectively
Jen Cooperman will assume position of PTO Secretary
3. **Approved May 2, 2013 meeting minutes by voice.**
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Yearbook:** Yearbooks have been sent to the printer and delivery is set for 6/14. Collection of photos was more challenging this year and the committee is looking for ways to facilitate it, possibly starting collection earlier.
 - b) **Turn Off the TV Week:** There were 131 participants this year, an increase from last year. Each participant got a prize (total cost=\$210) and one participant from each grade received a gift card from the Village Toy Store.
 - c) **Scholarship:** Committee needs more members! Awarded the \$750 CSS PTO Educational Scholarship to graduating senior and CSS alum Gabrielle Ross. About 25 students apply each year and it is awarded to a student who demonstrates service, strong academics, and commitment to Cougar values. Gabrielle's application letter was distributed.
 - d) **Programming:** Field Day was a huge success! Students liked the new format (8 stations) and many thought more students were participating. Jen Brown advised more notice and more clarity of parent volunteer roles would be helpful in the future.
5. **Principal's Report**
 1. Step Up Day will be done differently this year since there will be vacant positions at the end of the school year, and final decisions have not been made about the number of classes in 2nd and 3rd grades. The assembly in which each grade sings

PTO Meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Cottage Street School Library
Free Childcare is provided
Contact us at: CSSPTO@gmail.com



- to the upcoming grade will occur. Students at all three elementary schools will not find out who their teachers are on Step Up Day, rather a letter will be mailed on 8/1/13. Each grade will meet as a group in the cafeteria with the teachers of the grade they are entering and receive general information about the upcoming grade. In future years, students may find out who their teachers are on Step Up Day if all of the teaching positions are set.
- Mrs. Palter is retiring. Mrs. Parker has accepted the position of ELL teacher. Both will be missed at CSS!
 - The next two weeks are very busy: Ice Cream Social on 6/12, 5th grade Camp Day at Everwood on 6/18, and 5th grade Evening Celebration on 6/19.
 - An elementary school version of the Internet Safety presentation will be given to the 4th and 5th graders on 6/14. Mrs. Kinney suggested having high school students present in the future because they may have more impact on CSS students.

6. Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Theiler reviewed income and expenditures.

Income: Brick sales are starting to make money. Spring pictures came in slightly over budget. The Spring Book Fair did very well and came in over budget.

Expenditures: The following line items are currently under budget: Field Day, Programs, Teacher Appreciation, Turn Off the TV. A deposit was just made on the yearbooks.

7. New Business

Liv Van Dyke stepped up to become PTO President Elect. Vote held and Liv was unanimously voted in as President Elect. Congrats!

The Ice Cream Social is on 6/12/13 and volunteers are still needed. Please contact Laura Morrison at nitakitty@verizon.net if interested.

Broadway Cougars needs a teacher volunteer for next year.

Michele Spiewak announced she will serve as co-chair for Fun Fair for 2013-14, but cannot do it for 2014-15. The Fun Fair Committee is eagerly seeking someone to be a co-chair & it would be best for this person to train with Michele and Betsy next year. The Fun Fair Committee also needs a chair for Raffles and the General Store. Fun Fair will be on Sunday 3/23/14.



The Beautification Committee is seeking volunteers to help with garden clean up (weeding, etc.) on Tues. 6/11 from 6-8 pm.

The Room Parent Volunteer forms were sent home this week. Please send them in as soon as possible if you are interested!

The PTO acknowledged Bridget Young, who is a graduating Cougar parent. Her multiple contributions as Treasurer and on other committees were recognized. Thank you Bridget, and good luck!

End of the year gift-giving was reviewed. It is customary for the PTO to give gifts to the school that will benefit a large number of (if not all) students and will last for years to come. Rhonda reviewed the proposed gifts for 2013:

Playground Reserve Fund (\$5000)*

Broadway Cougars (\$2000)

Weatherbug station, a weather station that would be on the roof of CSS and collect data for students to use (description distributed, \$5500). This was considered last year but Cougar TV was purchased instead. Part of the STEM initiative.

Literacy Closet K-2 (\$1000), *Literacy Closet 3-5* (\$1000)

Hydroboost Water cooler that contains a bottle-filling station and measures the amount of water dispensed (description distributed, \$1625). One will be purchased for upstairs.

5 document cameras that allow teachers to transmit images onto a screen at the front of the classroom. District is purchasing 10 for each school, PTO would like to add another 5 (\$1125).

Shredder that has more capacity than the current one being used (\$800).

Software apps for iPads. This will allow school to bank apps for multiple users (\$800).

Microwave for Mrs. Molinda, for heating packs, etc. (\$100).

**Expenditures not to exceed amount in parentheses*

Proposed Year End Gift-Giving was approved by vote.

Ellen Bordman was presented with flowers and thanked for her service as PTO Secretary this year. Thanks Ellen!

An emotional farewell was given to graduating CSS parent and outgoing PTO President Rhonda Jansky. Meg spoke about how “no one has more Cougar Pride” and how Rhonda worked so hard for ALL of the CSS students. Rhonda’s many,



many contributions to the PTO were acknowledged- she was the chair of too many committees to list, as well as PTO President. Thank you Rhonda!! Rhonda accepted her flowers and gift of a “Queen” glass by saying “no one can do a bad job” and thanking the parents and teachers of CSS.