



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2013

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m., adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
23 people present

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Mrs. Shea and Mrs. Meisner presented the “Green Space Education Project” which is a collaborative project between second and fifth grade teachers at CSS and Heights. They were awarded a grant from the Sharon Education Foundation under the STEM Initiative. They will be building a greenhouse made from recycled 2-liter beverage bottles. Students will be involved in selecting the site (behind CSS) and construction. The structure will last for five years. They need to collect 1500 plastic bottles and are hoping to publicize their effort to the entire CSS community. Additional information regarding how to donate bottles and details will be distributed soon.
3. Approved September 2013 meeting minutes by voice.
4. Principal’s Report: Mr. Madden and Mr. Zides were unable to attend the meeting tonight.

5. Committee Updates:

- a) **Membership:** All PTO members should have received their directories by now. There are still directories available for those who have not joined yet. Membership is on-going, please contact csspto@gmail.com if interested.
- b) **Fun Fair:** The vacant positions have been filled! Thank you to Wendy MacArthur (Raffles Chair), Candace Gopin (Fun Fair Co-Chair), and Colin and Liv Van Dyke (General Store) for volunteering. In place of the Art Room this year, we will be offering face painting and glitter tattoos- a coordinator is needed for these. Discussion was held about whether to offer the teacher raffles during Fun Fair or at another time of the year- this is being reviewed further by the Fun Fair committee.
- c) **Box Tops:** The next Box Tops collection will be the week before Thanksgiving. A suggestion was made to have a contest by class with prizes for the class that collects the most Box Tops.



d) **Programming:** The following programs are scheduled:

- Grade K: Yoga, dance with Crazy Tracy
- Grade 1: Zoo Mobile, Abraham Lincoln
- Grade 2: MOS States of Matter, MA Horticultural Society Plant Mobile
- Grade 3: Weather with Chris Lambert, Ben Franklin
- Grade 3,4: Earthview (20 foot globe students can walk through)
- Grade 4: Abraham Lincoln
- Grade 5: MOS Windmills & Geodomes
- All-School: Odeko Japanese Drumming Show (Field Day)

e) **Cougar Gear:** Fewer orders came in via the flyers but this is likely due to the large number of sales done at the Book Fair. There has been a problem with the tie dye order but we are hoping to offer them in the spring.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed. Of note, Kidstuff coupon book sales brought in over \$1400 and income from membership exceeded the budgeted amount- great news!

6. **New Business**

- a) The Green Team will be hosting a presentation on composting on Sat. 11/16 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the composting station behind CSS. Children are welcome and can play in the playground. Event will be cancelled if it is raining heavily.
- b) Interest has been expressed in having speakers at PTO meetings. Speakers would present after a quick PTO meeting. The Executive Board will review suggestions for common themes that are pertinent to education, parenting, etc. Suggestions should be sent to csspto@gmail.com or submitted in writing in the PTO mailbox.
- c) The flyer for Broadway Cougars has been distributed. There was an omission of the fee to join (\$20). No child will be turned away due to inability to pay, however. Please contact Meg Dussault if the fee is prohibitive for your family.



- d) The Winter Dance will be on Fri. 12/6. It is unclear if the 5th graders will be selling baked goods to raise money for their end of the year events. If they are not, the committee will address how to provide refreshments for the dance.
- e) The PTO website should be updated soon to include links to various sites that can donate money to PTO with purchases (e.g. Stop and Shop A Plus Program).
- f) During the last meeting a member asked about having PTO create an interactive message board for CSS families to share information. The Executive Board reviewed this and decided that while this could be an excellent service, it is beyond the scope of the PTO Board to moderate this. Interested members who would like to start to such a message board are encouraged to do so independently.
- g) A member of the district-wide Wellness Committee advised that they would like to develop a CSS division. The Wellness Committee works on policies and programs that foster healthy habits among students and family. Please contact Sondra Widland at swidland@gmail.com if interested.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.