



## Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from April 3, 2014

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m., adjourned at 8:45 p.m.  
18 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved March 2014 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.  
**FUN FAIR NETTED ABOUT \$18,000-THE LARGEST AMOUNT IN YEARS!** The gross amount was about \$24,000. Raffles brought in about \$7000. Please see Elizabeth if interested in the entire Fun Fair income distribution.
4. **Committee Updates:**
  - a) **Fun Fair Wrap Up:** Michele Spiewak thanked everyone who volunteered at Fun Fair. The Fun Fair Committee will be holding a wrap-up meeting soon so please give any feedback to the co-chairs soon in order for it to be considered at the meeting.
  - b) **Yearbook:** Yearbooks are on sale now and the due date for orders is 4/14. It is customary for room parents to order a yearbook for the teacher from the class. There is a specific form for the class order and it will be distributed to room parents soon. The Yearbook Committee is still accepting photographs which can be emailed to Eric Norman on the PTO website. It is best to send pictures in their original size or largest format option (choose "actual size" on an iPhone).
  - c) **Bricks:** Bricks for the CSS walkway and Poet's Corner can be purchased and engraved with a personal message, family name, etc. Room parents of classes with new or retiring teachers are encouraged to purchase a brick in the teacher's honor.
  - d) **Spring Photos:** Spring Photo Day was on 4/2. Sibling photos were especially popular this year- over 50 taken compared to about 20 last year. Samples will be sent home and parents **MUST** send them back if they are not going to purchase them. The system for ordering spring photos will be different next year.
  - e) **Programming:** Beth McLaughlin reported the Museum of Science had two presentations recently (States of Matter and Windmills) which were enjoyed very much by the students. She noted the programming budget needs to be increased due to the increased number of students and President Meg Dussault concurred.



- f) **Paw Sox**: The CSS outing to a Paw Sox game is 4/6. There are still 7 tickets available. CSS has a section of box seats together and tickets are discounted at \$10.50 per ticket.

## 5. Principal's Report:

- a) MCAS and PARCC assessments were recently finished. This is the first year students took the PARCC assessment (only 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders) and Mr. Madden reported most students loved taking the test on the computer but the questions were more difficult. He noted it is common for questions to be more difficult when a test is in the pilot stage. The PARCC assessment focuses more on critical thinking skills and questions can have more than one correct answer. Students do not receive their individual results.
- b) Sharon Police will be coming to the school during drop-off and dismissal in the next few weeks to monitor traffic and offer suggestion for a safer process. They will be giving out tickets to cars parked illegally. Mr. Madden is getting more signage for Cottage Street. He has observed more cars parking on Woodland Ave. and Cottage Street- cars are supposed to park on the far side of the church. There was a lengthy discussion about this topic and many people expressed concerns about the safety and efficiency of the current routes and practices.
- c) The Safe Routes to School Committee will be holding a Bike Safety presentation, including a Bike Rodeo, in late April or May.
- d) A letter will be sent home to parents soon requesting parents' input regarding class placement for next year. It has not been determined yet if "Step Up Day" will occur or what format it will take. A new second grade class will be added, all other grades will have the same number of classes as this year.
- e) Kindergarten registration occurred and 77 students registered for 66 slots. Therefore, a lottery was held to determine who would remain at CSS. Eleven students will go to either East or Heights (not determined yet) and will come back to CSS for first grade. There will half day kindergarten at Heights.
- f) There will be a meeting for the entire town on 4/22 to address the need for improvements in several municipal buildings, including the high school. Superintendent Tim Farmer is encouraging parents of young students to attend to learn about what is needed in the upcoming years in order to bring the high school building up to date. An email was sent to the PTO membership with details.
- g) The elementary school principals are meeting with the music teachers to finalize a plan for the choral and instrumental music programs next year. Information on the plan should be available in the next few weeks.



## 6. New Business

- a) **Nomination of officers:** Nominations were taken for PTO Board positions for the 2014-15 school year (positions start in June 2014). The following people were nominated: President- Meg Dussault, Liv Van Dyke (automatically becomes President since she is President-Elect this year), Treasurer- Elizabeth Theiler, Secretary- Irina Gott & Betsy Strauss. The vote will be held next month.
- b) **Beautification Week:** Will be April 14-17. The committee is exploring placing a garden in front of the school. They are in need of volunteers.
- c) **Cougar Day:** Will be April 17. Students wear their Cottage Cougar gear and there is a volleyball game between the 5<sup>th</sup> graders and teachers (all students attend). Please see Elizabeth Theiler or Meg Dussault if interested in buying Cougar Gear, which is always available for purchase.
- d) **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Will be May 5-9. The committee thanks all who have donated. They are in need of volunteers to assist with flower arranging and distribution of school supplies. Please contact Yully Leonardi if interested in volunteering.
- e) **Screen-Free Week** (formerly Turn Off the TV Week): Will be May 5-9. Students are encouraged to refrain from TV, tablet, smart phone, etc. use for one week. Prizes are given out to participants. An email will be sent out for families to sign up soon.
- f) **Art Night:** Will be 5/7 from 6:45pm-8:45pm. Art work from every CSS student is displayed around the school. Volunteers are needed to help with matting and hanging artwork. Mrs. Biddle generally needs help between 9 am- 4 pm and can use help for any amount of time you can give. Please contact Crystal Bowman if interested in volunteering.
- g) **Book Fair:** Will be 5/6-5/8 and will have the same format as the fall.
- h) **Mother's Day Plant Sale:** Will be on 5/9. Ward's Farm provides small plants which are displayed in the gym. All students are able to select at least one plant to purchase for \$1.00 per plant. Volunteers are needed to help with transporting plants from Ward's to CSS on Thurs. 5/8 at 3:30 pm and to help with the sale on Fri. 5/9 between 8 am- 11:30 am. Please contact Beth McLaughlin if interested.
- i) **Mrs. Valley** requested \$11.67 for reimbursement for a cultural presentation she did for her students on St. Patrick's Day. Request was approved by vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.