



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

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m., adjourned at 8:15 p.m.  
28 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved October 2014 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed. She noted that Cougar Gear is in the positive now. Signing bonus is not in our hands yet, but is on its way.
4. **Committee Updates:**
  - a) **Box Tops:** We are ahead of what our projection was this time last year. The winners have already been announced for the last contest.
  - b) **Picture Day:** The picture make-up date will be December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will include all families who were absent on picture day, as well as those unsatisfied with their photos. Two classes will also be retaking class pictures because of teacher absences on picture day. Photo packages should be delivered by the end of next week.
  - c) **Programming:** Programs have been set for K-5 and are as follows:
    - Kindergarten:* Yoga classes on Nov. 19, Dec. 3 and 17; Krazie Tracie in January and February (with performances the Thursday before February vacation).
    - First:* Zoomobile on Nov. 18 & High Touch High Tech in March.
    - Second:* States of Matter from the Museum of Science on Feb. 2 and Plantmobile from Mass. Horticultural Society in May.
    - Third:* Energy Guyz/NSTAR on Nov. 10; Benjamin Franklin, Young Audiences/Historical Perspectives on March 6; Animal Adaptations, Museum of Science on April 28.
    - Fourth:* Abraham Lincoln from Young Audiences/Historical Perspectives on Jan. 9; Animal Adaptations/Museum of Science on Feb. 6.
    - Fifth:* Amelia Earhart from Young Audiences/Historical Perspectives on Feb. 9; Starlab, Museum of Science on June 1.
    - All School:* Bubble Mania, Casey Carle on June 9 (Field Day).



- d) **Fun Fair:** Looking for someone to lead/coordinate the fifth grade café. There are also a few people who will be leaving next year, so will be looking for people to shadow various sub-committees.
- e) **Winter Dance:** The dance will take place on Friday, Dec. 5. We are using a new DJ company this year because the old one increased its rates substantially. Because this is Beckie's last year, we will also be looking for a new person to coordinate the dance next year. There will be another bake sale at the dance to raise funds for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation events. Cost for the dance will be \$10 per family in advance and \$15-20 at the door.
- f) **Gift Cards:** Deadline for the gift card fundraiser is November 12<sup>th</sup>, but we may extend through the end of that week to give people more time. Tiffany will be ordering all gift cards during the first week in December. She is thinking of expanding to online ordering for next year.

## 5. Principal's Report:

- a) Mr. Madden reported that there will be an all-school assembly on 11/10 with Paul Bergeron from the Town's Office of Veteran Affairs. The assembly will focus on the theme of respect. The first grade class will sing a song that honors veterans at the assembly.
- b) Cottage received two grants from the Sharon Education Foundation. The school is using those grants for (1) a new 3D printer, which grades 2-5 will pilot), and (2) a Lego League Team for grades 2-3 which will begin in December. The program will consist of 18 students, divided into three teams of six (6). They will be participating in lego and robotics projects.
- c) A concern was raised by some parents regarding teachers taking away recess as a punitive measure for entire classes. The concern was whether it was fair to punish an entire class for the behavior of a few and whether that punishment should be taking away unstructured time from the kids. Mr. Madden indicated he would look into the issue and report back at the next meeting.
- d) There was also a concern raised about the amount of outdoor recess time that students missed last year as a result of unplowed playground areas. Mr. Madden clarified that this is primarily a DPW issue and that the school has done everything they can to alert DPW when the playground is not clear for outdoor play.

## 6. New Business

- a) **Gamewright:** This is our next family night and will take place on Nov. 18 from 6:30-8pm. The company will have a variety of games set up for families



to enjoy and there will be an opportunity to purchase the games at the end of the evening. Popcorn will be provided at the event.

- b) **Barnes and Noble Night:** Cottage is hosting this event this year and it will take place on Dec. 10. Families are asked to mention the schools when purchasing items and a % of those purchases throughout that entire week will go to the three elementary school PTOs. The Cottage Harmonettes and Harmonizers will perform at 6 pm and the Marimba band will perform at 6:30 pm. We will also be coordinating guest readers for the event.
- c) **Speakers:** Superintendent Tim Farmer will attend our December PTO meeting to provide information about the current condition of our High School and how parents can support efforts for a potential rebuilding down the road.
- d) **Town Meeting:** Members were informed about a Town Meeting on Nov. 17 where the Town will vote on the purchase of a property on Pond Street that is adjacent to the High School. The current owners of the home are selling the property and have offered it for purchase to the Town before putting it on the market.
- e) **Acknowledgements:** Meg acknowledged and thanked some new and relatively new PTO members who, in their short time at Cottage, have taken it upon themselves to head various committees, including Book Sale, Family Nights and various Fun Fair sub-committees.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.