



## Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2015

Meeting began at 7:03 p.m., adjourned at 8:30 p.m.  
40 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **FLES Overview:** Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mosley, and Coordinator Signora Andrade-deLeon, gave overview of the new FLES program that will start this year in the K +1<sup>st</sup> grades. Program consists of an hour of week of immersion instruction in Spanish.
2. **Approved June 2015 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Liv reviewed income and expenses, budget approved for 2015-2016 by voice.
4. **Committee Updates:**
  - a) **Membership & Directory:** Membership is ongoing, while the directory has a print deadline of the last week in September. Introduced our new Paypal account and told where it could be found. Encouraged members to spread the word.
  - b) **Room Parents:** Explained the role of room parents to new families. There are still some openings for room parents for classrooms including Smith, Mardo, Pirrello, Fowler and Shea.
  - c) **Programming:** Jen Brown explained how programming works for the new families. Each grade has its own programming teacher liaison that helps decide on programs, which are tied to the curriculum. Programs are organized by grade with two all-school performances. Our Artist in residence is already selected and will be in February.
  - d) **Book Fair:** Described the Book Fair and requested volunteers for the evening shifts. This led to a discussion about **Cougar Gear**-which also will be sold at Book Fair. We showed the new logo and asked for volunteers to help sell at the Book Fair. Cougar Gear discussion led to a discussion about the Sharon 250<sup>th</sup> Celebratory Parade. We shared the plans for students to walk along with the other elementary schools wearing our Cougar Gear.
  - e) **Back to School Lunch:** The teachers very much enjoyed the lunch and found it a great way to come together after the summer break. Also took the opportunity to introduce Hospitality and recruit volunteers.



- f) **Back to School BBQ:** Wendy gave an update that presales are down from last year. She is hoping that we have some new ideas for fun activities that the kids and families could play at the BBQ. People discussed potato sack, and three legged races. Wendy reminded everyone we use a Kosher caterer.

## 5. Principal's Report:

- a) The School had a library makeover; in addition we have fans in the gym, buddy bench (5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation present), 2 bike racks (PTO donation), and an acoustically sound classroom for each grade level.
- b) We do not know the schedule for PARCC but will update as soon as we have information.
- c) We are looking into a Capital request to do a significant traffic study so that we can properly address the traffic issues at pick up and drop off. .
- d) The space issues in School are well known but being carefully and closely monitored. We are currently capped in 5<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

## 6. New Business

- a) **Committee Vacancies:** Fun Fair Café, Donations/ Annual Giving, Yearbook, are all looking for new volunteers. In addition we are looking for an accountant or tax preparer who might be interested in assisting with our year end accounting.
- b) **Coupon Book:** Teachers will each receive a box to keep in their classrooms. Books that are not purchased will go in the box and PTO volunteers will collect the boxes.
- c) **Popcorn Friday:** Popcorn Friday will be starting in October. Volunteers are needed for 7:30 a.m.
- d) **Board Vacancies:** An impassioned plea for new volunteers to serve on the board was given. Both Meg and Elizabeth have served for five years and we are looking for someone to shadow in the role of President and Treasure to ensure a smooth transition.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.