



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from November 5th, 2015

Meeting began at 7:02p.m., adjourned at 8:07 p.m.
22 people present

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approved October 2015 meeting minutes by voice.

3. Committee Updates:

- a) **Programs:** Kindergarten will be doing yoga for 3 sessions, Krazie Tracy for dance, and a music program to tie in with family celebration day. 1st grade will be having the Zoomobile from Southwick's Zoo on November 30 and a Science Program from the Easton Children's museum in March. 2nd grade will have author David Kelley visiting in March. 3rd grade will have Animal Adaptations on February 1 and a Deborah Sampson visit on Deborah Sampson Day, May 23. 4th and 5th grade together will have a visit by Young Audience, Right to Liberty about the American Revolution on February 12. 4th grade will also have the Museum of Science visit and the 5th grade program is To Be Determined. The program chairs are still working out the All School programs, one with Young Audiences and the other a performer for Field Day. Beth and Jen also made a pitch for new Programming Chairs to take over from them.
- b) **Picture Day:** Pictures should be coming back next week. In the meantime, folks shared some feedback about the process. Some thought the packet was confusing in regards to whether you have to pre-purchase pictures. Others were confused with instructions, particularly in regards to sibling photos and family discounts. It would be a good idea to remind the librarian that pictures will be taken in the library if it rains, so she is not caught off guard. Teachers did not know who was doing sibling pictures—getting them a list ahead of time would be very helpful. The process seemed to go more quickly inside, so perhaps it would be better to have the pictures inside regardless of the weather.
- c) **Halloween Bingo:** Tiffany did a wonderful job organizing the event. It was extremely well attended and enjoyable.
- d) **Popcorn Friday:** Beth has been doing a great job with her team of volunteers and it is off to a strong start. Beth has asked for Kevin to include a weekly reminder about Popcorn Friday and the need to have a quarter to buy a bag each week.



- e) **Broadway Cougars:** It is up and running. The cast has been set and rehearsals have started. There is a SignUp Genius for parent volunteers to help corral the kids when not on stage and to assist with dismissal/carpool lane. There will be a daytime performance on February 10 and an evening performance on February 11.

4. **Principal's Report:**

- a) PARCC vs. MCAS—The state will vote on November 17th. If PARCC will not be used next year, the testing would likely be MCAS 2.0, rather than the traditional MCAS, but we don't know what this will look like. Parent reports for last year's PARCC exam will be coming in December, but it was advised not to put too much stock into these reports due to all of the glitches last year. 5th grade will continue to use MCAS for Science.
- b) There are a wide variety of activities going on at school—2nd/3rd grade Lego clubs, Broadway Cougars, Math Olympiad. There will be a 4th/5th grade Lego club in the future.
- c) The gaga pit has sand added to it and the slide has been fixed, so the playground is in good shape.
- d) Halloween went well with everyone invited to wear costumes. Students and teachers alike seemed to enjoy all of the activities.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.

6. **New Business**

- a) Gift Card Fundraiser, due November 12th—All of the forms can be found online on the PTO website. They will also add it to the Facebook page.
- b) Game Night, November 12th—This is a fun family night. There will be games from Gamewright to play and purchase if desired. Families can also bring games from home. Ann is looking for a few volunteers to help set up. Wendy MacArthur said she would assist.
- c) School Pictures/Picture Retakes, December 1—This is a different date than on the original PTO calendar.
- d) Barnes & Noble Night, December 2—This year, it will be organized by East. There will be storytime at 10:00am, deals with Papa Gino's, and musical performances by all three elementary schools from 5:30-7:30pm. Cottage performs first at 5:30pm. This also was not on the original PTO calendar.
- e) Winter Dance, December 4th—DJ is booked. There will be a 5th grade bake sale. This is a wonderful family event.



- f) Fun Fair update and vacancies—Tom suggested coming up with a short description of the different roles needing to be filled and posting those on the website and on Facebook. We are looking for help with Café, Café Personnel, and Raffles. We brainstormed ideas for a Fun Fair theme—Presidential election/presidents, Star Wars, Cougar values, children’s literature (based on author studies by grade level).
- g) Committee & Board Vacancies: Yearbook, Exec Board, Donations & Giving, Programs—it would be good to get new blood and fresh ideas in each of the areas. Some of the areas have chairs who have already graduated or will be graduating from Cottage, so the need is there. If folks have pictures for the yearbook, they should e-mail Elizabeth regarding dropping those off.
- h) Celebration Books—Wendy will be re-sending something next week to explain how one can purchase these online and how they are for all occasions, not just birthdays. Now that they have tried it, it takes 3-4 weeks for a book to come in and they have figured out how to make sure the information about making an announcement/dedication gets communicated to the right people.
- i) Cougar Gear—New t-shirts are in and we came up with pricing for kids and adult t-shirts. The Cougar Gear team and other volunteers will sell merchandise at the upcoming Early Dismissal Days and at Game Night. The consensus was not to sell Cougar Gear at the Winter Dance. There was also a discussion about the possibility of setting up an online store through Paypal.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.