



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from January 7th, 2016

Meeting began at 7:04p.m., adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
17 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved December 2015 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Family Dance:** Kudos to Meg for doing a great job organizing the dance. The event made money after covering expenses, even though it was not intended as a fundraiser. Everybody seemed to have a great time!
 - b) **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast:** The teachers and staff really look forward to the breakfast and thoroughly enjoyed it. There was plenty of food, so even some leftovers to be had for lunch. They very much appreciated it!
 - c) **Programs:** Pamela Gardner, CBS meteorologist is coming for the 3rd & 4th grade tomorrow. They will see how it works combining the two grades and perhaps will only have this program every other year. On January 15, Matt Kelly is coming to do mindfulness workshops with the 5th grade. The Museum of Science is coming for Animal Adaptations on February 1 with the 3rd grade. The All School assembly for Field Day has been planned. On January 26th, the all school Hip Hop Promotes Positivity will have three performances. The Artist in Residence is coming on February 26th. All programs for the year have been booked. Beth and Jen also made a pitch for new Programming Chairs to take over for them—a new chair or chairs could shadow them. There are 2 programs/grade and two all school assemblies in total to be booked.
5. **Principal's Report:**
 - a) A second 2/3 Multiage class was proposed to the School Committee last night and looked to be supported. It wouldn't add or take away from the budget, but would just use staff differently. The School Committee wanted to know if the program would continue long term.
 - b) Meagan Sullivan, the new District Coordinator for Recycling, met with some 5th graders--they discussed a new recycling system in the cafeteria. There will be a new textile recycling bin placed at the school so folks can donate on an



ongoing basis. Mrs. Bordman started Water Bottle Wednesdays with 4th graders to chart the # of water bottles saved. All of these initiatives are shifting more Green Team responsibilities to students.

- c) The 5 minute change for lunch just began, shortening recess but adding to lunch time—so far they have seen positive results in the cafeteria. Janice Watt and Tim Farmer have been meeting to discuss the big picture at lunch—food offerings, timing, etc. It will be interesting to look at the # of kids buying lunch now that the lunch period is longer. Lengthening lunch has been a districtwide change at the elementary schools.
- d) Someone asked if the 2nd & 3rd grade ice skating field trip will still take place. It is still in place as part of the PE program.

6. New Business

- a) Roller Skating: January 10, 5-7pm—The new time is an experiment and we shall evaluate after this year how it works. Please encourage friends to attend. The cost is for skaters only—non-skaters are free.
- b) Iron Chef, January 20th 6:30pm—Last year, the event was cancelled due to snow, so Angela is all set with materials for this year. She is working on getting the flyer out and notecards to list recipes and ingredients, which are particularly helpful for those with food allergies. The event is a way to experience different cultures through food. There will be games about exploring the world. There are three categories for food—appetizers, entrees, and desserts. Food should be served in tasting size portions. The suggestion came up to rename it to something like “Taste of the World” or “International Iron Chef” or to better explain what it is, so that more people understand the event and participate.
- c) Broadway Cougars: 2/10 & 2/11
Volunteers: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4aa9aa22a3f49-broadway>
They need more help, so please consider signing up, even if you don't have a child involved in Broadway Cougars this year.
- d) Fun Fair—The Room Parent Meeting will be this coming Monday, January 11 at 7:00pm in the library. It is for K-4 Room Parents only (not 5th grade Room Parents). Fun Fair will be on Sunday, March 20 from 10am-4pm. The theme is children's literature and we are in the process of getting authors for each grade level, which will inspire the backdrop artwork. We can always use more volunteers, but seem to have enough people on the various committees. We will send Tom the logo and he will post a “Save the Date” after we send out an explanation about “What is Fun Fair” to families new to Cottage.
- e) Committee Vacancies: Yearbook, Programs, Exec Board—We will be advertising these openings at kindergarten orientation. There are some folks who will have kindergartners next year who may be interested in the Exec



Board. Some of these people have experience at their preschool PTO. The job descriptions are in the bylaws, which we should revise and then post, so those interested can read about the various positions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.