



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from March 3rd, 2016

Meeting began at 7:03p.m., adjourned at 7:56p.m.
13 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved February 2016 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed. Wendy asked about the Amazon Smile giving to Cottage and many folks were unaware of this giving opportunity. Mr. Madden said he would send another reminder.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Programming:** We shared letters that Mrs. Houston's class wrote about how they enjoyed Hip Hop promotes positivity. The African Arts in Education program took place with small group workshops, 2 concerts (Crocodile River Music), and 10 art pieces from the gallery that are on display for a month. On March 9, the 2nd grade will have the author, David Kelley, visit. On March 21, the 1st grade will have a visit from the Easton Children's Museum for a Science Program. The 4th Grade had the Museum of Science Forces of Motion program and kids seemed to enjoy it.
 - b) **Broadway Cougars:** It was a fabulous production. Hats off to all involved. Mrs. Sellers did an incredible job!
 - c) **Playground:** This is Mark's last year at Cottage. He plans to help reinstall the picnic table that was moved when the gaga pit was set up. There are also plans to install fiber and sand. We are hoping someone else will step up to help Mr. D and Mr. Madden with playground upkeep after Mark leaves.
 - d) **Beautification:** Hana has led folks in beautification and welcomes others to join her. This includes cleanup, gardening, maintaining the flower beds, etc. They are also looking for sand.
 - e) **Fun Fair:** The event is a little over two weeks away. Mr. Madden sent out the Class Booth & General Volunteer SignUpGeniuses. The book collection has already begun. Raffle collection is wrapping up. Mr. Madden sent out the Café food donation e-mail today. Cake donation flyers went out this week and the Hospitality request is included in this week's PTO News. If anybody knows High School or Middle School students who might volunteer, please send them the SignUpGenius.



5. Principal's Report:

- a) It has been very busy after vacation—Broadway Cougars, 1st Grade Pajama Party, High School Buddies with 1st Grade, 2/3 Ice Skating Field Trip, 4th Grade Forces of Nature, etc.
- b) ALICE training begins with students next week. The training will be grade specific. The emphasis will be to listen to teachers.
- c) PARCC will take place in May. There will be 3 units of ELA, 4 units of Math, and Science MCAS for 5th grade. Next year it will be MCAS 2.0. PARCC will be held harmless. Parents can opt their children out if they so choose. By 2019, all schools will have testing online.
- d) FLES has been approved for next year for 1st and 2nd grade.
- e) Mr. Madden has been speaking to Janice Watt, the head of Food Services, about the possibility of eliminating chips, cookies, and ice cream in the cafeteria. They plan to survey parents once we know much more lunch will cost if these snacks are eliminated. The possibility of finding other snacks or having these snacks available only one time per week were also discussed.

6. New Business

- a) Committee Vacancies: Programs, Scholarships—We are looking for someone to shadow Jen and Beth for Programs. They tend to be busy at the beginning of the year through October. You don't have to be available to attend the actual programs. Scholarships currently consists of a committee of 4 people, and we lost one member. It is a minimal time commitment and is all done over e-mail. Mine Erkan and Jacqueline Wiener volunteered.
- b) Ken Berman Photo Fundraiser—we discussed the possibility of this fundraiser, and it was agreed to give it a try.
- c) Mabel's Labels Fundraiser—we discussed the possibility of this fundraiser, and it was agreed to also give it a try.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.