



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from November 2, 2017

Meeting began at 7:03p.m., adjourned at 8:15p.m.
29 people present

1. **Welcome and Introduction**
2. **Approved October meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer Report**—Aparna reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Halloween Bingo:** Thanks to Tiffany Dunn for chairing Halloween Bingo and to the Belenky family for donating the photo booth. It was a fun night! Tiffany has organized Halloween Bingo for many years and is ready to turn it over to a new volunteer. She will help with the transition. Please let us know if you are interested.
 - b) **Programs:** Aparna and Zainab are halfway through scheduling the programs for the year. Pamela Gardener, a meteorologist for WBZ News is coming in for the 3rd grade tomorrow (Friday, 11/3). The all school programs are set for January and June. The 4th and 5th grade will be having a program on Forces in Motion. The Kindergarten will be doing yoga and then Krazie Tracy will be leading the dance program. 1st grade will be having a lights and laser program. They are trying to get the author David Kelley back for the 2nd grade. The multiage classes will be having a Deborah Sampson presentation.
 - c) **Town Meeting:** Town Meeting is next Monday, November 6th. The SHS Building project, which was the topic of the presentation at the last meeting, is the 1st article on the warrant. We discussed a bit of the logistics of how the meeting works and someone gave the example of the Heights roof vote to show that every vote counts.
5. **Principal's Report:**
 - a) Planning has begun for this year's Cultural Festival with Linda and Zainab. A wonderful event is in the works once again. More information will be forthcoming.
 - b) MCAS reports will be going home for students who were in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade last year. There have been many changes to the test in recent years and the reports have changed as well.
 - c) More pencils are needed for the collection for the Artist in Residence who will be coming in December.



d) They are collecting candy in the front office for Operation Gratitude.

6. New Business

- a) Game Night, Tuesday November 7th—This will take place at 6:30pm in the Cafeteria. There will be demo Gamewright games available for play and families can also bring games from home. Teacher wishlists will be on hand if you want to buy a game for the classroom. There is no obligation to buy games. There will be free popcorn and juice.
- b) Cougar Gear Sale November 8th-21st—Like games, Cougar Gear makes for great holiday gifts. There will be the same items available as were for sale last spring. Once again, we are using Booster online purchasing and if you don't want to pay for shipping, all of the items will go to Anne and she will distribute them to teacher mailboxes.
- c) Winter Dance, December 8th—This is a Friday in December and the annual winter dance takes place in the gym. There will be a DJ and dance motivators, many prizes for the kids. Information will be forthcoming. It is not a dropoff event. Kids come in all manners of dress. It is a fun, family night!
- d) Gift Card Fundraiser, due November 14th—We use the Scripps fundraising organization. A handout should have come home this week in backpacks. You can buy gift cards for yourselves or as holiday gifts. A percentage of your purchase goes to CSS PTO. There are many options for retailers that participate. Orders are due November 14th and the giftcards will come in time for the holidays.
- e) Fun Fair vacancies—The Café chairs could use more help and parents do not need to have 5th graders to volunteers. We also could use someone to shadow Wijen, as it is his last year chairing Concessions, and Beth, as it is her last year chairing Face Paint and Glitter Tattoos.

7. **Q & A with Dr. Greer, Superintendent**—Dr. Greer spoke a bit about the work she has been doing thus far. She has been trying to get to know the community and learn as much as she can and is thoroughly enjoying her work. She has met with parent focus groups and student focus groups. She is diligently watching enrollment #'s and is trying to get as much data and input to look at both the short term and the long term so we won't have to redistrict every few years. She also wants to make sure that there is a clear vision for the district as a whole. She then opened the discussion up for questions and addressed many topics, such as: alignment for the district while respecting the creativity and culture within each school, social emotional well-being of students, anxiety, redistricting, transportation, homework, recess, technology, class size, anti-bullying programs, and the math curriculum.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.