



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from September 7, 2017

Meeting began at 7:05p.m., adjourned at 8:07p.m.
29 people present

1. **Welcome and Introduction**—all were invited to participate in a “Human Bingo” icebreaker game.
2. **Approved June 2017 meeting minutes by voice**—Mr. Madden answered a question about Lego Club as well.
3. **Treasurer’s Report and approval of 2017-2018 Budget:** Aparna reviewed income and expenses, report distributed. Approved 2017-2018 Budget by voice.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Membership/Directory update:** We are hoping for 100% of the school to join PTO. Joining PTO does not mean you have to volunteer or attend PTO Meetings, but rather that you support our mission. Membership includes a Directory. You can have your information included in the Directory without joining PTO, but you must join PTO to get your own copy of the Directory.
 - b) **Room Parents (Ackerman and Smith):** Linda spoke a bit about what it means to be a Room Parent. Lisa Foulger volunteered to be a Room Parent for Smith, so the only real need for an additional Room Parent is for Ackerman.
 - c) **Programming:** Each grade has two programs throughout the year and then there are a few all school programs as well. The Programming Chairs work with a teacher from each grade level to find out what they want. The programs provide curriculum enhancements. Many of the programs are repeated year after year because they work so well—Historical Perspectives, Krazie Tracy, etc.
 - d) **Back to School teacher luncheon:** Three times a year, we treat teachers to a meal—one around the holidays, one in the spring for Teacher Appreciation Week, and one just before school starts. Monica LaFond has a list of people she reaches out to for baking, buying, setting up, and cleaning up—let us know if you would like to be added to the list. The teachers very much appreciated the luncheon!
 - e) **Back to School cookout Sept 17th 12-2:** The volunteer signup is <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084babab2cabfd0-cottage2> We are hoping to have good weather. The food is Kosher. It is \$10/family until tomorrow, 9/8,



and then \$15 thereafter. Volunteers are needed—it is a fun way to meet people!

- f) **Book Fair September 18 & 19:** The volunteer signup is <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084babab2cabfd0-book> Volunteers are needed, especially during the day. It is a very fun event at which to volunteer, as you are able to help the kids pick out books.

5. Principal's Report:

- a) It has been a quiet smooth start to the school year, as everyone is getting into their new routines.
- b) Stay tuned for more information on the subject of redistricting. Currently the elementary freeze at Cottage is in place, which diverted 30 kids who enrolled over the summer. The last redistricting was six years ago. Right now East is close to 500 and Cottage is at 520. Plans will be discussed in the fall and there will be lots of conversations to follow.
- c) Cottage is the pilot school for trays that can be composted. The students are learning about the recycling and composting systems in place.
- d) There are quite a few new staff members that we are welcoming this year—Mrs. Keimach, Mrs. Dumas, Mrs. LeBlanc, Teaching Assistants, Brenda Ruth-Armas in the front office, new lead in kitchen, new student teachers.

6. New Business

- a) Committee vacancies—Programs, Playground, Popcorn, Yearbook, Scholarship, School Pictures, Hospitality—there are descriptions within the agenda. It is great to be able to shadow someone if possible. Please reach out to us if you have questions or might be interested in any of these committees. For Yearbook, we will put a link on the PTO website for sharing pictures.
- b) Coupon Books—This is a fall fundraiser. Each book costs \$25. You either buy it or send it back to school. Cottage gets 50% of the proceeds from sales. They also have books for different regions. This is Lisa Foulger's last year at Cottage, so if someone is interested in shadowing her, please let us know.
- c) Box Tops—Sue Friedman spoke a bit about Box Tops fundraisers. You can collect actual Box Tops or there is an app now to use on phones. The week of 9/24 is Box Tops week, so be on the lookout for the first contest of the year. Someone also mentioned that you can always send in a “guilt check” or donate on Paypal if you wish to help the PTO fundraiser without sending in Box Tops, buying a Coupon Book, etc.
- d) At the next meeting, October 5th, Dr. Libano, SHS Principal, and Ken Wertz, Director of Maintenance and Operations, will be discussing the feasibility study for the High School.



Meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m.

PTO Meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Cottage Street School Library
Free Childcare is provided
Contact us at: cottagepto@gmail.com