



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

Meeting began at 7:00p.m., adjourned at 7:46p.m.
17 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved January 2017 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Cultural Festival:** It was a huge success. It was hard to know how many people were there, but we think it was more than 300. There were 6 performances, 11 country booths, passports and quizzes for students to do, artwork, great food, and a book table. Some feedback offered: perhaps to keep the performances to students only, limit the length of each performance, work on acoustics for performances, move the whole evening to the gym, have recipes to share afterwards in an e-mail or as a cookbook fundraiser. Not only was the event amazing, but it helped to connect some new families to the PTO. Job well done!
 - b) **Programming:** Starlab came for 1st and 5th grade. All school Indian dance was really good—they tailored the performance to each grade level. Krazie Tracy has started the dance program with kindergarten—their performance will be the Wednesday before February vacation.
 - c) **Fun Fair:** Planning is well under way. Book collections have begun. Wendy just followed up with Room Parents about class raffle donations. Kevin just sent out sign ups to teachers. Café team is working together. Room Parents are working with teachers on the backdrop decorations. Someone suggested Fun Fair \$ given by PTO to help families in need—we decided that Kevin and Linda could reach out to those families and give them some tickets for games at their discretion.
 - d) **Yearbook:** The yearbook is coming along and they are putting the layout together. They are still looking for pictures. There are some pictures from the kindergarten family event and the Cultural Festival. We will remind families about the need for pictures in the PTO News.
 - e) **Cougar Gear:** Anne Yu has taken over Cougar Gear and is setting up an online store. In the meantime, we will try to sell all remaining inventory at Fun Fair.



- f) **Roller skating:** Roller skating brought in \$610 and it was a great night!
Thank you Lisa!

5. Principal's Report:

- a) It is a busy and exciting time when there is a lot of focus in the classroom between now and February vacation.
- b) Cougar Day may be changed due to the MCAS schedule. Elizabeth asked that it not be much later, as there is a whole page in the yearbook dedicated to Cougar Day and the yearbook pictures need to be submitted shortly thereafter.
- c) There are a lot of sick kids and it is greatly appreciated that you keep your kids at home if you are in doubt about their health for the day.
- d) Kindergarten registration has occurred. The #'s are high for Cottage, as well as the other elementary schools. This is something that the Enrollment Committee is taking into consideration. Even with the change in Superintendent, the Enrollment Committee will likely implement changes for the fall. All of the other schools are in agreement that something must be done to help with the #'s at Cottage.
- e) Someone asked about whether parents can help other parents going through the whole process of special education screening. We discussed SSEPAC as just such a resource.

6. New Business

- a) Special Election: Treasurer Elect: Aparna Padmaja—we are holding this special election now so that Aparna can start now. This will enable her to shadow Elizabeth, start going to Executive Board Meetings, and see the role of Treasurer during Fun Fair. As Marie Spoto will be graduating, Yafei Sun will be taking over her role in preparing tax returns and other invaluable accounting tasks. Aparna was voted in as Treasurer Elect.
- b) Committee Vacancies—Raffles, Year End Donations, Prize Room, and Hospitality.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46p.m.