



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from January 5, 2017

Meeting began at 7:05p.m., adjourned at 7:55p.m.
13 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved December 2016 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Winter Dance:** The DJ's were new this year and treated the event like it was for Middle Schoolers, rather than elementary school students. It was not the same experience for our families. Meg passed this feedback along to Siagel Productions. They were very receptive and assured us that it would not happen again next year.
 - b) **Cougar Gear:** Everyone received their orders and there were only a few mistakes. Anne Yu is taking over and they are making plans for any changes for the future. There will be a table at Fun Fair to sell any current inventory. There will also be another order prior to Cougar Day.
 - c) **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast:** Teachers loved it. It was easier for the Hospitality Committee this year. Monica did a great job—a success all around!
 - d) **Roller-skating-January 8:** Create buzz if possible. There have been some sign ups in advance, but it would be great to at least break even. Skate rentals are included. There is food available for purchase.
 - e) **International Night January 19:** Cultural festival and diversity potluck. They are still in need of food. There are 4-5 performances planned. Currently, there are 9 tables—they would really like Russia represented if possible. Students will be able to take a passport around and there will be a quiz and raffles. Mrs. Biddle is providing artwork. It should be great!
 - f) **Fun Fair March 26:** The Room Parent Meeting is next Monday, January 9 at 7:00pm in the library for K-4 Room Parents. Café committee met this week. We are still in need of someone to shadow and help the Raffles chair.
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) Superintendent search—There are three finalists, one from Lincoln, one from Cambridge, and one from Sudbury. They will each be coming for a day long visit to the district and parents will have the opportunity to meet them. The School Committee will ultimately make the offer.
- c) Various programs will be coming up—Indian dance assembly and Starlab.
- d) They are in the process of finalizing the MCAS schedule, which will likely begin on April 3 and end on May 26.
- e) Someone asked about the foreign language program and why 3rd and 4th graders currently do not have any foreign language offerings. This went into an explanation of the FLEX and FLES programs.

6. New Business

- a) Talent Show—it will be on March 30 instead of in February. The K/1 performance will likely be at 9:30am, the 2/3 performance will likely be at 1:30pm, and the 4/5 performance will likely be at 6:30pm. Each act cannot be longer than 2 minutes. Each student can only be in 1 act. Only Kids Bop versions of songs can be used.
- b) Vote on Robot for Coding—Mr. Ahern, the Tech Specialist, is looking for Makerspace ideas. The other two elementary schools have different robotics. He would like to provide additional opportunities for students at Cottage and asked whether the PTO could purchase these items. It looks like the cost will be \$643 + shipping and handling for several different items. We had not budgeted for it, but will likely have a surplus at the end of the year. Additional items can also be supplied by Community Ed. The vote was approved for an amount not to exceed \$700.
- c) Committee Vacancies—Raffles, Year End Donations, Prize Room, and Hospitality

Meeting adjourned at 7:55p.m.