



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

Meeting began at 7:07p.m., adjourned at 7:55p.m.
13 people present

1. **Welcome and Introduction**
2. **Approved November meeting minutes by voice**—Shanna Belenky volunteered to chair Halloween Bingo. There were some questions about the timeframe for redistricting in general and there was a discussion about what redistricting will mean for PTO committee chair vacancies.
3. **Treasurer Report**—Casey reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Gift card fundraiser:** We discussed that the fundraiser did well, but came in under budget. The feedback shared was that more people would participate if there were a way to purchase the gift cards with a credit card. Of those at the meeting, it seems more people looked at buying gift cards for their regular shopping needs rather than for holiday gifts.
 - b) **Programs:** We shared the update from Aparna with the scheduled programs. The program for 3rd grade and multiage with Pamela Gardner had just taken place prior to the last PTO Meeting and then aired on the news shortly thereafter. Yoga is under way and has been well received. Lights and Lasers is coming up for the 1st grade on December 22. All other programs will take place in the New Year.
 - c) **Cougar Gear Sale:** The sale was not quite as big as the one last spring, but still did well. There will be some inventory for sale at Fun Fair.
 - d) **Fun Fair update & remaining vacancies:** There will be a Room Parent Meeting on January 8, 2018 at 7pm in the CSS Library for Room Parents for grades K-4. Fun Fair is March 25, 2018. The remaining vacancies are to shadow the Face Paint/Glitter Tattoos chair and the Concessions chair, as it is their last year with a child at Cottage, and then to take over the following year.
 - e) **Broadway Cougars:** Auditions are under way thanks to the leadership of Sharon Whitehead and the assistance of Ann Gerrietts. The production will be Jungle Book and rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Fridays after school. For those new to Cottage, we explained what Broadway Cougars is all about.
5. **Principal's Report:** Search is under way for an additional teacher for the Developmental Learning Program for the remainder of the school year due to enrollment increase and the age span of students in the program.



6. New Business

- a) Winter Dance, December 8th—The Winter Dance is tomorrow night. It is not too late to come. The cost is \$20 to pay at the door. It should be a lot of fun!
- b) Holiday teacher breakfast, December 21st—The SignUp Genius link has been posted to Facebook and will be shared with the whole Cottage community in the PTO News portion of the Weekly Update. We are looking for people to help set up, buy or make food items, and clean up. If you are interested in being on the Hospitality Committee, we can put you in touch with the Chair, Monica LaFond.
- c) Donations/gift guidelines for teachers & classrooms—Mr. Madden sent out the guidelines earlier this week. Someone mentioned that it is nice to remember the support staff at the holidays too.
- d) Roller skating party, Jan 6th—The date was switched from Sunday, Jan 7th to Saturday, Jan 6th, as the rink was unavailable on Sunday. They gave us a discount for switching and hopefully many will still be able to attend. The time will be from 5-7pm. A flyer will be forthcoming with all of the details.
- e) Cultural Festival—The Cultural Festival will take place on January 28th from 1-4pm. It is an event to celebrate the diversity in the Cottage community. There will be performances, country tables, and food. Most of the event will take place in the gym rather than the cafeteria to make more room, although they will move to the cafeteria to watch the performances on the stage. The event will take place on a Sunday rather than a weeknight so that there will be more time for setup and the event will hopefully not be as rushed. There will be both a paper flyer for RSVP's and a SignUp Genius. We discussed whether they will need to limit the # of performances and/or the length of each performance—the thought was to see how many are interested before deciding whether to limit the # of performances and to make sure that no performances are longer than 5 minutes (they will put a note about the possibility of limiting performances in the signup). We also discussed the merits of keeping it as a Cottage event for this year vs. a community wide event, although they are hoping to invite the Superintendent and the PTO Exec Boards of the other schools so that they can see it. They are thinking of scheduling the following Sunday as a snow date.
- f) Coat Drive—The Coat Drive is going on until Thursday, December 14th. They are collecting gently worn coats and snow pants in kid and adult sizes.
- g) STEM Night—Shanna brought up the idea of a STEM night for an additional family night. Anne Yu's sister, who works for a museum, has successfully run such a night for some of the area preschools. One of the activities could include making slime, since that is so popular right now.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55p.m.