



## Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from October 3, 2019

Meeting began at 7:04 pm and adjourned at 8:07 pm  
29 people present

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

### 2. Principle's Report

**a) Homework** - Mr Madden discussed the homework rumor that was circulating. At the October staff meeting they were planning on having a discussion around homework to create a more consistent policy for the school about both the types of homework and the amount of homework. They would be looking at the purpose of homework and taking into account the varied views of parents. There was a white paper created on homework by the Sharon School District – the PTO will find paper and put it on our website.

[https://cottagepto.org/?page\\_id=16](https://cottagepto.org/?page_id=16).

**b) Walking Wednesdays** - Volunteers are needed to supervise the different routes to school, there isn't enough teachers and staff members to supervise all of the routes.

**c) Walking alone** - There is no formal school rules – as long as parents are comfortable for their child to walk home on their own.

### 3. Special Guest

Liz Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, came to discuss the High School project. She showed us the schematic plan for the new website (the plan is available at <https://www.shsbuilding.com>). The current plan is for the school and grounds to be completed by fall 2022. The cost is \$163 million with a state grant to cover \$53 million of the total cost. There is a contingency fund built into the \$163 million budget. The special town meeting on November 4th will be asked to approve the funding for the new High School and there will be a special town election to pass the debt exclusion. Questions were asked about the capacity of the new building and whether there is scope for extension if we outgrow the new building. On the website there is an extensive question and answer section and additional questions can be asked of the architects.

### 4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### 5. Finance Report

An update to the PTO budget was shared.

## 6. Committee Updates

- a) **Box Tops** – there was a question about the changes to the Box Top fundraiser it was requested that another update about the changes be publicized through the PTO website.
- b) **Membership** – 130 families have joined the PTO so far this year. The directories are currently being printed and will be delivered to families within the next couple of weeks.
- c) **Popcorn Friday** – there is always a need for volunteers to help with making popcorn for the school.
- d) **Cougar Gear** – orders are being taken through the coming weekend.
- e) **Mainspring** – volunteers are needed for shopping, packing and driving for this monthly event.
- f) **Diversity** – Fiesta the first Hispanic Cultural Festival is to be held on October 16.
- g) **Halloween Bingo** – Halloween Bingo will be held on October 24, there is bingo and haunted hallway.
- h) **Fun Fair** – this is our biggest fundraiser of the year so please consider offering your help for any of the areas at the Fun Fair – in particular we need raffle and café volunteers.

## 7. Next Meeting

Thursday November 7 7-8pm

Guest Speaker Mrs Gilman