



Cottage Street School PTO Membership Meeting Minutes from March 5th, 2015

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m., adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
17 people present

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approved February 2015 meeting minutes by voice.**
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Elizabeth reviewed income and expenses, report distributed.
4. **Committee Updates:**
 - a) **Programming:** Improv Boston recently came and there was great feedback about this program—they did three assemblies so they were able to tailor it to the various age groups. 1st grade science program called Magnet Makers coming tomorrow. 2nd grade will be having Museum of Science “States of Matter”. Kindergarten will be having Blue Hills Trailside Museum program about animal adaptations. 4th Grade will be having a Museum of Science Program and 3rd grade will be having Ben Franklin come soon. Amelia Earhart is being rescheduled. Many programs needed to be rescheduled due to snow days.
 - b) **Fun Fair:** Volunteers are needed for Class Booth signups as well as the General signups. Room Parents should try calling or e-mailing parents individually to fill up their Class Booth signups. The 5th Grade Café signup and the Café Food Donation signups have also gone out. We are also in need of baked goods for the Café, so a signup will be available for that as well. Please remember to donate books. Classroom raffle donations are due by Monday at the latest. While there are about 20 fewer items expected at the Raffle Table, there are some donations from new places and a lot of great items will be available. Marla has the new Cougar Gear including Volunteer t-shirts for those that ordered them.
5. **Principal's Report:**
 - a) School House Rock—The performance went really well. It was nice that it was a smaller group so that everyone had more stage time.
 - b) PARCC—There will be minor adjustments to dates due to snow days. That information will be sent via e-mail. On March 12 at 8:00am, there will be a PARCC breakfast for parents to ask more questions.



- c) Guest reader day unfortunately had a delayed opening, so that some of the guests who had planned to attend first thing in the morning were unable to come. There will still many guests readers, which the students really enjoyed.
- d) It was nice to return to almost a full week of school for students and teachers to get back into a routine.
- e) Technology check in—a parent asked what is being done as a follow up to a previous meeting where this was discussed. There is the desire to ensure that technology is being used equitably among all classrooms, since there is no longer a technology class period. The end goal is integration of technology into a classroom lesson rather than “technology time”. There are technology literacy standards that need to be met. It seems that classrooms are using technology more than ever. One day, Kevin saw a Kindergarten classroom using Type to Learn, then he went to the Art Room where the 5th graders were using laptops for Tinkercad, and then he visited a 4th grade classroom where the students were using iPads with external keyboards. If the budget is approved, Cottage will get two more iPad carts. Then there was a discussion about the need for typing proficiency with the move to PARCC. They are reviewing the report card standards with the 4th grade assessment for typing proficiency. The PARCC test does have less writing than MCAS—there are short answer and open response type questions rather than long composition. There are lots of variables with PARCC—different devices that each school district has access to, what the report will look like, etc. This led to a discussion about whether typing proficiency should replace cursive instruction in the future, especially since cursive instruction is very time consuming.
- f) A big thank you to the custodians—they have done an incredible job with snow removal, shoveling the roofs and walkways even over February vacation week.

6. New Business

- a) Pawsox—This will be the second year for a family outing to a Pawsox game. This year, the game will be on Sunday, May 3 at 1:05pm against the Durham Bulls. The PTO has ordered 45 tickets for reserved box seats (they will be altogether in one section). The cost will be at a group rate of \$10.50/person. Information will be forthcoming and tickets will be reserved on a first come first served basis at that time.
- b) Spelling Bee—The Sharon Education Foundation Spelling Bee will be in the evening on March 26th. There may be a 5th grade team, a PTO Team, and a teacher/administrator team from Cottage. We are looking for strong spellers!
- c) Committee Vacancies—Donations/Year-end giving, another chair for Mother’s Day Plant Sale (Liv will do it unless someone else is interested),



Winter Dance. Also, we are looking for someone to shadow Elizabeth as Treasurer next year with the plan to take it over the following year.

- d) Green Team—The textile fundraiser will be coming up. Bags will be sent home and parents can bring them back at Parent-Teacher conferences so you don't have to worry about students lugging heavy bags in. Everything must be clean, but they will accept plush items that are worn, torn, stained, ripped, etc. Even single shoes will be accepted. This is a great chance to do some spring cleaning and get rid of items that are not readily accepted elsewhere.
- e) Alex and Ani—They are hosting a fundraiser at the Patriot Place location on Monday, April 27 from 7-9pm. Refreshments will be served. 15% of purchases will go to CSS PTO. This was intentionally scheduled prior to Mother's Day. Trying to decide whether to use evite or flyer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.