

COTSWOLD SCHOOL PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2016

at Cotswold Elementary

Agenda Topics	Major Discussion Points	Next Steps (Who, What by When)
Attendees	<p>Officers Present: Morgan Cromwell, Alison Tennent, Katy Burge, Kelly Catanese, Sherese Smith, Mary Barlow, Stacy Beard, Emily Peterson, Susie Wilcox, and Kathryn King.</p> <p>Staff Members Present: Alicia Hash, Genny Murrell.</p> <p>Officers Absent: Ashley Sellner, and Mandy Price</p> <p>According to the bylaws, a quorum consists of a majority of Board Members (7/14). With 12 out of 14 Board members in attendance, a quorum was present.</p>	
Welcome and Review of Minutes	<p>Morgan called the meeting to order at 9:37am. The minutes from the January 29th board meeting were presented for approval. A correction was made to one of the snow make-up days. A motion was made to approve the minutes. VOTE: Approval was unanimous.</p>	
Principal's Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hash spoke about the upcoming Celebrate of Culture. Dinner will be provided from Pizza Peel and then there will be four rotations. Kindergarten will provide activities on Japan and Scotland, 1st grade will provide activities on Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Israel. There will be a storyteller in and an African American Wax Museum in the Media Center. There will also be Randolph Middle School students in the hallways serving as foreign language ambassadors. There will be Irish Folk dancers in the gym. • There is a district principal's meeting today (Feb. 26) to find out our allotments for next year (number of students) • She discussed the IB Advisory Parent Group and said that there is an opening for 2 parents to join this district wide group. Ideally, it would include one parent involved in PTA and one who is not. • The Father-Daughter dance went very well but she suggested that we add a few more chaperones in the future. • Ms. Harrison will return the first week in March. • There are 39 teachers going on the staff retreat in March. 	

Teacher Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher appreciation week went very well. The luncheon provided from Maggiano's was well received. • Update on the trees: They are only going near the 2nd grade hall for now to make it a little easier. Ms. Dowker is taking the lead. • The clubs were postponed this month because many teachers were out (some for Ron Clark) and it would have been understaffed. It will resume next month. 	
Budget Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have about \$8,000 left for Clare's garden. • We are in good standing and in good shape. 	
VP Admin Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautification Day: Around 50 people came out to help! • Jason Brown is getting some quotes on the price to purchase picnic tables for our outside area. We have 2 for now. • Staff Appreciation: It was a huge success. Nothing Bundt Cakes donated desserts for the luncheon and Maggiano's catered the lunch. Renee Preece organized the staff extended lunchtimes with the parent volunteers and it went very smoothly. • Clare's Garden: There has been a change with the designer and it may now be handled by by SP Design, LLP. The owner is a Cotswold parent and has offered to provide his services at no cost. When the equipment gets added to the project, there will need to be official approval from CMS to ensure the safety. Once this project is complete, it is expected to cost about \$1000/year to maintain, which needs to be built into the ongoing budget. 	
VP Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hype Team is 3 and 3! Playoffs at Billingsville elementary are weekend of Feb. 26th. It has been positive experience for all involved. • There was a \$1,600 grant given to the 2nd grade team for the trip to Olde Salem. • .So far, \$6,800 of the grant money has been spent and there is \$ 1,800 remaining. • A flyer is going out to help get more volunteers for the Backpack program. 	
VP Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Book Fair chairs would like to bring someone in to shadow them to be able to take over in the future. It will be moved to October because November was a hard time for many people last year. • Numbers are down from last year for the Parent Teacher Social. We might need to move it to the fall in the future. 	
VP Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was discussed that it would be helpful to start handing out worksheets again to remind students and parents to turn in box tops. • The Boosterthon organizers are busy getting ready for the campaign which will begin April 4th. 	
VP Marketing/ Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The yearbook is in need of more photographs. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MySchoolAnywhere is an app that will be introduced next year and it will take the place of our paper directory. It has many more capabilities that will streamline communications for room parents and the PTA. The cost is \$500/year which is significant savings over the cost of printing the directory, in addition to being much more efficient and convenient. • The Cougar Bites will go out through MySchoolAnywhere so we can discontinue our Constant Contact account. We will pay month by month (\$45/month) until we have fully migrated to the new system. 	
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant amount of information has been dispersed in recent weeks regarding reassignment. See attached report for more detail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A few points to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Whatever plan the board decides, it will more than likely need to be cost neutral. CMS does not have extra funds in the budget to make sweeping change. ■ There is a Request-For-Proposal out for a consulting firm to help make decisions about the changes. ■ Regarding the districts that the board has indicated they are reviewing for ideas, there are many differences between our district and those districts, i.e. student enrollment, teacher pay, and teacher unions. • Regarding Beautification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CMS has introduced a plan to spend 2 billion over the next 10 years in facility improvements. Cotswold did not end up on a renovation list. We hope that can be revisited given the abundant need for more classroom space at Cotswold. ○ New furniture has been added to the front office at no cost! ○ The lounge chairs from the teacher's lounge will be removed. 	
Nominations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherese has been able to fill all but two board positions, Auditing and Marketing/Communication. They should be filled shortly. • There is an opening for the Community Partner positions. It has been a very big job for the current chairs. There needs to be a more clear delineation of responsibilities in the future. There was discussion of adding this position to the Board which could be beneficial for a few reasons, one of which that we would now have an odd number of board members which is helpful in voting times. This could be an appointed position who can vote. 	
Auditing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report 	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reminder to keep rooms clean. Some of the meeting rooms are starting to become disorganized 	

