

COTSWOLD SCHOOL PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

October 30th, 2015

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, Ashley Sellner, Emily Peterson, Amanda Price, Sherese Smith, Mary Barlow, and Kathryn King.</p> <p>Staff Members Present: Alicia Hash, Genny Murrell.</p> <p>Officers Absent:, Stacy Beard, Susie Wilcox.</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 9:35am. The minutes from the September 25, 2015 were emailed to each board member for approval. VOTE: Approval was unanimous.</p>	
Principal's Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Hash reported that a technology teacher, Ms. Barnett, has been hired and she will also be responsible for managing Compass Learning. In addition to having a full-time teacher, she said that we are moving in the direction of integrating technology into the classroom on a full-time basis. The focus towards technology is shifting to meet the changing needs. 	
Teacher Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Murrell said that she has heard good feedback from the teachers regarding Reading Rocks. The change in format to a Celebration was well received. She also provided an update on the Ron Clark academy and said that some teachers went in October and the others who are attending will go in November. 	
Budget Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been a busy month for the budget. Money has been spent to pay for professional development (Ron Clark), The PTA membership dues have been paid, and Community Partner money is trickling in. 	
VP Admin Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly met with Laurel Holtzapple to discuss moving fixtures in Clare's garden. Skip Roth was named as a designer who may be able to make repairs to the structures. They might be moved to courtyard near media center to be used as a reflective area for entire school. The problem is standing water and bug problems. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaga Pit is on hold. • Water bottle fountain project is on hold. • There is still a push to add more to Cougar Bites and less to Cougar Folders. • We will add teachers to the Cougar Bites distribution list to give them more access to important information. • We will continue to brainstorm this year on how to capture roster information electronically at the beginning of the year. • Regarding Staff Recognition, it was suggested that we add a ballot box outside the cafeteria to give students the opportunity to nominate their favorite staff members for the monthly award. 	
VP Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant requirement for Hour of Code has changed this year and we need to communicate what ways we will use technology at Cotswold. Ms Hash suggested that we work with Ms. Turner (last year's technology teacher) to write a response to this grant question. 	
VP Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patty Drummond is going to work with Dick Winters to gauge community interest for more walk-to-school days and collect information about what prevents more people from participating. • The book fair and staff appreciation fall on the same week this year. We will reach out to Community Partners to see if breakfast for the teachers can be provided. 	
VP Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to Cotswold chairs are working on syncing up numbers to match current deposits. • There will be one more push on Cougar Bites to request donations. 	
VP Marketing/ Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cougar Bites newsletter is getting a small makeover and we will shift to the new format at the beginning of 2016. Some banner colors will change and it will start going out on Monday instead of Saturday mornings. • School Spirit will be transitioning to a new local company with experience in the CMS community. This move will reduce the amount of inventory kept at the school, improve turnaround time, provide more buying options for families, and generally tailor more to our specific needs. The administration time is expected to be less and the change will begin at the beginning of November. 	
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interior Beautification: The updates have created a more social environment and more staff members are using the lounge. • New Requests: 1st grade - Hall alcove painted 	

	<p>2nd grade - Mural Painted on Corridor 3rd grade - no interior requests at this time. 4th grade - Large frames to hang pictures they have made 5th grade - No interior requests at this time. Office - new paint, new furniture, and curtains. We need about 9 more chairs in Teacher Lounge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cottages: Bathrooms are in immediate need of repair as they are not in working order. Some cottages need moisture issues resolved. ● Eric Davis: Changes in the Magnet Program will be voted on by the school board on 11/10/15. Currently there are no changes that may impact Cotswold, but another Board Member could introduce something on 11/10/15. However according to Eric Davis that seems unlikely. Ms.Gilbert asked Eric if the bell schedule will be revisited. His first response was not at this time, however there will be changes made in transportation for the following year. Regarding boundaries, Eric said that his belief is that parents and students should have more choices. He said he envisions a district that is without boundaries and offers an array of choices to parents. He discussed the concept of implementing quadrants of IB, STEM, STEAM, Language and Arts schools and students could enter into the lottery to receive placement into one of the schools in their quadrant. The downside of this quadrant idea is that currently we do not have enough facilities to accommodate this plan. Other districts using a similar plan are Seattle, Washington, Montgomery Co., Maryland, to name just a few. Eric Davis does not recommend redrawing lines, and thinks it would be better for the district to offer choices and not make forced changes. The new school board will need to choose a priority, either to do a superintendent search or to focus on new student assignment plan. Both of these jobs cannot be done together if they are to be done well. 	
Nominations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No updates. 	
Auditing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No updates. 	
New Business	New business items were already included in above reports.	