

Carderock Springs Elementary School General PTA Meeting -- October 6, 2009

The minutes of the June 2, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved. Introductions were made as this was the first general PTA meeting of the 2009-2010 school year.

President's Report

PTA membership drive is ongoing. There are still car magnets left.

The budget presented is a proposed budget, allowing for changes to be made based on the discussion at tonight's meeting.

Fundraising

Sally Foster – We have sold \$6,174 to-date (with a net profit to the school of \$3,087; budget goal is \$5,000). Each year the proceeds trend lower but we are extending the deadline by one additional week and hope to meet our goals.

New Fundraisers -- In the springtime, we may introduce a bulb fundraiser, to put towards landscaping since Montgomery County does not provide sufficient funds.

Giant Cards – We have raised slightly more than we had at this time last year. The fundraiser was explained to new parents attending the meeting; it is Carderock's most lucrative fundraiser. The group discussed opportunity to raise more money by recruiting neighbors and other non-CSES parents to join the program.

Giant & Safeway Bonus Bucks – The program was explained to new parents.

Back-to-School Picnic

CSES held this year's BTS Picnic on the rain date for the first time ever. Considering it was held on a Tuesday night, it was well attended and successful on all accounts, including the sales of t-shirts, sweatshirts and PTA memberships.

Community Service Committee

The first food drive at the BTS Picnic was very successful. A Martha's Table program will be implemented all year long. Sandwiches will be brought from home every Thursday, with possibly different themes on different weeks. During the class Halloween parties, students will write cards to veterans and include something sweet to give to sick children. Room parents will get instructions before the parties. President Sara Bhatia suggested that we hold a fundraiser at the PTA Movie Night where parents can bring old movies and/or VCRs to donate to a worthy cause.

Volunteer Committee

CSES is still in need of more volunteers for lunch and recess. Parents are encouraged to register at www.whentohelp.com after sending Angie Child an email to request a password.

The parent breakfast is scheduled for Monday, October 12th, between 8:30am and 9:30am, preceding Open House Day at CSES.

A question was raised as to whether we are bringing back Career Day to CSES (where parents visited the classroom and discussed a profession). There was general interest in bringing this back, so the PTA board will look into this.

“Movie Night Under the Stars”

The first-ever PTA sponsored family movie night will take place on the school soccer field on the evening of Friday, October 23rd, before it gets dark. The movie shown will be *E.T.*

Book Fair

The annual Book Fair will take place in the Media Center for one week during the week of December 7th. As part of the Book Fair, there will be a Family Night in the APR, with a D.J., on Tuesday, December 8th.

Staff Support

New leaves were placed tonight on the Wishing Tree (teacher-requested items anonymously posted on the bulletin board). Parents have been extremely generous in fulfilling these requests. The Wishing Tree has been picked clean and refilled at least twice. The items are typically under \$20. The leaf plucked must be brought back to school for identification purposes (there is a number on it).

The Principal’s Education Fund, which provides additional funds for teacher needs, at the Principal’s discretion, will receive \$5,000 this year (an increase of \$2,000 over last year’s budget).

Staff Appreciation Committee

Every month there will be a coffee and/or a lunch for teachers and staff. Additionally, the committee will provide gift bags for the teachers during conference time. New this year is a birthday celebration for teachers one time per month including a cupcake and balloon with a note attached.

Cultural Arts Showcases

In November, CSES will be receiving an all-day visit from a planetarium. Every class will be invited to experience the indoor planetarium, with the show geared to each grade level. Students will eat lunch in their classrooms on this day, since the APR will be occupied all day. Additional cultural arts assemblies will be scheduled throughout the year for all grade levels, with performances divided into K-2nd grade and 3rd – 5th grade.

Cluster and MCCPTA

The MCPS math workgroup survey questions have been advertised and made available to the Carderock Springs ES community. The math curriculum is posted on the MCPS website – this may be helpful when providing input.

On October 17, 2009 at Kennedy High School, the Board of Education is holding a meeting to discuss budget priorities for the 2009-2010 school year. All MCPS parents are welcome to attend the meeting. The priority consensus for the cluster is to have small class sizes.

The possibility of offering special education services at the new CSES building next year was discussed.

Budget

To date, PTA dues are up versus last year because there are more families at CSES this year and because the membership cost increased to \$30.

There are several areas to which the President proposed allocating more PTA funds this year:

1. Principal's Education Fund. The Principal provides additional funds, at his discretion, to the teachers for training and other needs. The plan is to increase this fund which is currently budgeted at \$3,000 to \$5,000.
2. President's Discretionary Fund. Proposed an increase of \$500 over last year's \$1,000 budget.
3. School supplies and playground equipment -- \$1,000.
4. Visiting Artists program. This is a new program, with \$2,000 budgeted; no organization/artist has been contracted yet.
5. Weather Bug system – educational software system to be wired in the new CSES building, to be used by teachers as part of the science curriculum beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. This is considered to be a donation to The CSES Educational Foundation which will cost up to \$7,500 and will come from the PTA's reserves. The CSES Educational Foundation will oversee ongoing maintenance and fees associated with the system.

The proposed budget items were voted on and approved by those in attendance.