

Carderock Springs Elementary School PTA Meeting 11/6/08

The CSES PTA met on 11/6/08 at Carderock Springs Elementary School @ Radnor. The meeting was called to order at 7: 12 by Sara Bhatia, President. The Board members in attendance included Sara Bhatia, Maxine Schnitzer, Jenn Fechter, Jennifer Gold, Ana Sanchez and Sharon Keegan.

Attendees approved the Minutes from the last PTA meeting.

Sara Bhatia presented the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report

Highlights:

- Our overall financial position remains sound.
- Our cash position is sufficient to handle all upcoming obligations.
- Cash Balance as of November 2008 is approximately \$46,000.
- The "Weather Bug" item, originally included in this year's budget, was removed from consideration at the October PTA meeting; the budget was approved without this item. The PTA has been advised by Tritan Caudron, CSES Foundation President, that the Weather Bug can be purchased for use at the new school closer to the reopening, in Fall, 2010. The PTA has tabled consideration of the Weather Bug for the moment, and may reconsider it in the future.

Fundraising Activities:

- The **Directory Advertising** achieved higher sales than predicted.
- **Sally Foster** fundraiser raised less money than last year.

President's Report

Committee Reports:

Bingo Night:

Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at Pyle Middle School.

Book Fair:

Starts the week of December 8, 2008. Family Night will be December 9' 2008 and will feature a DJ and food.

Community Service:

On November 24, 2008, during recess, children will meet in the Art room to make sandwiches that will be donated to Martha's Table. The activity is optional and easily accessible for those who want to participate.

Staff Appreciation:

Wishing Tree will continue until Parent/Teacher conferences are completed. Staff will receive a “lunch bag” during the two Parent/Teacher conference days.

Principal’s Report**Educational Activities:**

Math-a-thon on Wednesday, November 12, 2008. Grades 3, 4 and 5 will participate in various math educational games. Mrs. Veihmyer is still looking for parent volunteers to assist.

Read-a-thon on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 for grades K, 1 and 2 will include a gallery walk to observe literary works in the bulletin boards, and a read-a-thon in the classrooms. Fourth graders will read to children in grades K-2.

Mrs. McLaughlin reported that CSES achieved 97.4% proficiency in the Science MSA last year. This is the highest rank in the Whitman cluster and second highest in MCPS. Next year the science curriculum will include a school-wide science fair. Each classroom will develop a science project with the teacher. CSES Science curriculum will be discussed in February’s PTA meeting.

Parents in attendance at the PTA meeting discussed the revised Homework Policy (available online: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/carderockspringses/PrincipalPage.html). The homework policy took one year to revise, and included feedback from teachers and parents. The new Homework Policy provides consistency, especially useful in situations when a child is absent and would like to receive the homework. Kindergarten is testing a new online homework system after evaluating feedback from parents during previous years. In general, parents expressed satisfaction with the new homework policy, particularly the availability of homework assignments for children with excused absences.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ana Isabel Sanchez
Recording Secretary