

## ***Carderock Springs Elementary School General PTA Meeting—March 3, 2009***

The minutes of the 2/3/09 general PTA meeting were unanimously approved.

### **President's Report**

Despite efforts to retain 2 important full-time staff development positions, CSES will most likely have those positions reduced to part-time next year due to county budget cuts. Fifty e-mails were sent earlier this year to MCPS in support of maintaining the full-time positions, but the school board made no changes to its recommendations to reduce staffing. Members of the CSES community are welcome to travel to Annapolis on 3/25/09 to urge state legislators to fully fund these positions.

The PTA needs parent participation on the principal selection committee. The time commitment for service on this committee will be limited, and offers an opportunity to make suggestions about the qualities needed in a new principal. Interested parents should contact PTA president Sara Bhatia at sarabhatia@aol.com.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The budget remains stable; and the Giant Gift Card program continues to perform well.

### **Committee Reports**

Staff Appreciation has begun a new policy where each grade will sponsor monthly lunches for staff. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade kicked off the new strategy on 3/4/09 and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is scheduled to host lunch on 5/5/09.

Celebration of the Arts went well on 3/5/09 featuring the artwork and musical talents of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Parent volunteers led by Ana Sanchez and Alison Ewing and CSES music and art specialists worked together on this event.

Lunch Time Live, a new take on the annual variety show, begins 3/12/09. Student solo acts will perform during lunch periods. For more information, contact Karen Hutchinson at zahutch@aol.com.

MCPS, following a trend nationally, has decided to remove the "GT" label from its gifted and talented programs. The change in policy should not affect the services provided. A resolution regarding the GT label, written by MCPS and delivered by our GT liaison, was approved by those present at the PTA meeting.

### **School Programming/Family Events**

There is strong support for some kind of artist in residence program at CSES next year but the definite form such a program may take is still under consideration. Something academic yet fun would fit the bill. Suzanne Dritschilo will research program possibilities in time to apply for a state grant to fund the program.

A traveling planetarium will be set up in the APR sometime in the spring to help students learn about the night sky.

Other ideas for CSES family events include buying a block of tickets to see a new Disney movie called *Earth* coming out in April or an outing to a Big Train baseball game in May or June.

Respectfully Submitted  
Joni Lucas-Shapiro  
Recording Secretary