

PTA Meeting at Carderock Springs Elementary: School Year 2006-07
Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 7:00-8:00pm

PTA Board Members in Attendance:

Kristy Keteltas, President

Sheryl Golub, Deb Lang, Maxine Schnitzer and Lucy Winkler.

Lynn Gertzog, Karen Hutchinson, Lois Kramer, and Yong Sun were not in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Kristy Keteltas reported on the PTA's financial status. The CSES PTA now has a total fund balance over \$50,000 at this time due to improved cost control and better revenue than estimated. For example, the CSES T-Shirt and CSES book sales brought in more money than anticipated. Savings is over \$12K and Checking is over \$38K.

PTA By Laws

Every 3 years the PTA is required to resubmit and sign onto the PTA By-Laws. The PTA Board reviewed the by-laws and made some minor changes to them which permit the Whitman cluster representative and the Montgomery County PTA representative to vote at the PTA Board Meetings. A motion was made to pass the By-Laws as revised. A motion was made to second that motion. The revised PTA By-Laws were approved.

Math

Mrs. Thompson led the discussion about Math. Mrs. Thompson is trying to provide 3 teachers for 3rd through 5th grade math classes next year. CSES currently does not have the staff to accommodate 3 teachers for each of these math classes but Mrs. Thompson is trying to develop creative solutions that would provide for 3 math classes for these 3 grade levels. Mrs. Thompson and staff reviewed their findings regarding students and parent's perception about math and the actual progress being made in math by the students.

Parent Survey. Mrs. Lang reported that when the parents were surveyed, of all the responses received about math this year, approximately 58% of the responses were positive saying things were fine with math or they were very happy with math as is currently being pursued. Approximately 32% of the responses were negative, The concerns ranged from expressing concern that a strong math foundation was being sacrificed, too much learning needs to be done at home, too much testing, student self-esteem and confidence issues linked to math groupings, and that children performing at grade level can no longer be proud of that.

Teacher Findings. Ms. Veihmeyer (Staff Development) and Mrs. Long (4th Grade Teacher) presented the teachers findings.

The staff thought the following things currently worked very well:

-each math class has a para-educator in the classroom

- teachers teach the whole class as well as in small group instruction
- students have been appropriately assigned into math levels meeting their skill levels
- math currently challenges students and allows for acceleration
- longer math classes work well
- students making great progress

The staff thought the following things could be done better/need improvement:

- younger classes need at least one hour for math
- need to align all units by grade (e.g., on/at grade & above grade) to work on the same grade curriculum at the same time (e.g. all groups work on geometry)
- try to provide 3 math classes for each grade
- current classes are not always broken up evenly so some classes are larger than others

Student Poll

Mrs. Thompson randomly polled the students to determine their feelings on math

The questions to the children were:

- “Do you like Math?” (Answers to select from: yes, sometimes, no)
- “Are you a good math student?” (Answers to select from: yes, sometimes, no)
- “How is your math class?” (Answers too hard, just right, too easy)
- “My math homework is” (Answers too hard, just right, too easy)

Most students designated themselves with the more positive answers, “yes, and “just right”

Student Achievement. Ms. Veihmeyer (Staff Development) presented the actual student achievement findings based on testing by the county/state. Students were tested at the end of Unit 1 and the end of Unit 2.

Of those On Grade level for that grade level testing

Approximately 67 % demonstrated they understood the Unit 1,

Approximately 66 % demonstrated they understood the Unit 2.

Of those On Grade level for that one grade level above testing

Approximately 29 % demonstrated they understood the Unit 1,

Approximately 28 % demonstrated they understood the Unit 2.

Of those Above Grade level, for that grade level testing

Approximately 53 % demonstrated they understood the Unit 1,

Approximately 69 % demonstrated they understood the Unit 2.

Of those Above Grade level, for one grade level above testing

Approximately 11 % demonstrated they understood the Unit 1,

Approximately 22 % demonstrated they understood the Unit 2.

Mrs. Thompson closed the discussion by noting that testing towards the end of the year will help determine how CSES will set up the math classes for the next year.

International Night

Mr. Ned Hodgman indicated they are still looking for volunteers to host country booths. Any assistance is appreciated.

The PTA closed the meetings with thanks to all for the questions and concerns.

Meeting Adjourned.