

Carderock Springs Elementary School PTA Meeting, 4/1/08

The CSES PTA met on 4/1/08 at Carderock Springs Elementary School. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Maxine Schnitzer, President. The Board members in attendance included Maxine Schnitzer, Kristy Keteltas, Jenn Fechter, Sara Bhatia, Karen Hutchinson and Sharon Keegan and Lynn DeBettencourt.

President's Report

After welcoming parents back from Spring Break, Maxine introduced the topic of Kindergarten assessments that take place early each year. The county is currently seeking to formulate a uniform approach to these assessments. The MCCPTA has sought parental input which will be forwarded to Ebony Langford with MCPS. CSES parental input reflected some support for a rolling start to Kindergarten at Carderock, with assessments done while fewer children are present. All children would be present by the fourth day of school. Further suggestions by our community include:

1. Mrs. Zeitlin has recommended a half day each day of the first week of school with 30 minute appointments in the afternoons for assessments of children. This would allow the teachers to build community while also providing individualized assessments.
2. MCCPTA supports performing assessments in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th weeks of school to provide accurate testing.
3. Sharon Keegan suggested that a form similar to one parents fill out before the first day of Kindergarten at Norwood, "All About My Child," might be helpful for Kindergarten teachers as well.

MCPS has not yet made any final decisions regarding the future structuring of early Kindergarten assessments, so this issue remains open.

Maxine reported that the PTA transition to paperless communication has gone relatively well. There has been a decrease in enrollment in after school activities, but this is expected to rebound as the community acclimates to the new system.

Maxine announced that Lisa Bronfman will be forming a committee for the transition to the Radnor building. She thanked Karen Hutchinson, Lynda Mc Intyre, and Nancy Holden, the chairs of the Variety Show, for a job well done. Maxine also congratulated Sara Bhatia and her committee for a fantastic Arts & Literacy Night.

The minutes from the February 5 PTA meeting were approved.

Maxine announced that the slate of new PTA officers will be presented at the next PTA meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Lynn Debettencourt reported that the PTA has an \$11, 764 profit YTD. Please see attachment for the documented Treasurer's Report.

Committee Reports

Spring Fling

- Kristy Keteltas encouraged people to volunteer for Spring Fling which will take place on May 16th.
- Lynn DeBettencourt raised the idea of providing healthy food alternatives at PTA sponsored events.
- Sharon Keegan suggested the purchase of prepackaged fruit and vegetables from Costco as an option.

Radnor Transition

- Sara Bhatia suggested a Family Night scheduled for January, once we have relocated into the Radnor building, with entertainment (such as a DJ) to reconnect and energize the community after the move into the temporary school.

Principal's Report

Mrs. MacLaughlin will have a coffee on April 17 for the parents of incoming Kindergarten students. The PTA is considering placing a welcoming table at the coffee in order to introduce new parents to opportunities and general information about CSES and it's PTA.

Mrs. MacLaughlin reminded parents of 2nd grade students to send in their "Parent Recommendation Form". Terra Nova testing will take place in 2nd grade in the next few weeks. 3rd grade students who have applied to the GT center school will be notified of acceptance in the next month.

Sharon Keegan raised the question with Mrs. MacLaughlin about providing teachers with individual voice mail when we move into the renovated school, stressing that this would benefit all in the community. Mrs. MacLaughlin explained that this and other phone options, including individual cell phones, are being considered at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenn Fechter
Recording Secretary