

Monthly PTA Meeting -- June 5, 2012

Wendy called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. There were approximately 30 people in attendance.

Treasurer Report, Laura Gwyn

Laura went through important components of the budget for this year and proposed budget for next year. The PTA was \$3,000 under budget this past year due to Giant Gift Card program, Book Fair sales and slightly higher membership than expected.

The PTA is splitting the expenses with the Foundation for the tile mosaic project in the front of the school. Laura still needs to expense yearbook. The Foundation will also be splitting the Principal Education Fund which is running over budget because 2.0 curriculum training.

A vote was called on the 2012 – 2013 budget and was approved by the parents in attendance.

President's Update, Wendy Kuhn and Karen Roman

The Tile Mosaic Project is well underway. Special thanks to Kristina Valencia for her vision and hard work. Parents, alumni and community members have been contributing their time to attach tiles and donate tiles to assist Kristina Valencia, our Artist in Residence. A Public Relations effort will take place once the project is finished.

The deadline for Student Supply Kits has been extended to Monday, June 11th. Parents can go to www.schooltoolbox.com to register and enter 4CARD20817 to place your order. Wendy stressed that buying kits are strongly encouraged, but not required. Angie Child will put the link to Schooltoolbox website.

The yearbooks have arrived and will be delivered to students on Friday.

The Autism Speaks 5K race/1 mile walk will be on July 4th. Please register to participate or making a donation making a donation to our team. There is a link to register for Team "Carderock Best Buddies." April was Autism awareness month. Ms. Klotzman met with students in each grade and created a "We All Fit Together" puzzle with different pieces relating to the autism program which will be displayed in the lobby for the first day of school.

Ms. Zeitlin will be organizing the reading postcard program again this summer. Information will be sent home on Monday, June 11th. There will be a summer math packet that goes home on Tuesday for students. This information will also be on the website. It will involve 2.0 curriculum for those grades impacted.

Wendy highlighted goals that were achieved this past year including exceeding our membership goal, implementing the Lemonade Ripple project and finishing year with tile mosaic project. Parent volunteering also increased this year.

She shared the Starfish poem and highlighted the books displayed in the media center that were donated to the school on behalf of graduating families.

Karen Roman discussed some of her thoughts as the incoming PTA President. As a former member of the Foundation Board, she highlighted the \$35K was raised at the last fundraiser including laptops, computer teaching, the grant project, and new APR equipment.

She thanked Mr. Palmisano, staff and parent volunteers who have all had a huge impact on the school and students. Karen also mentioned the Lemonade Ripple project. In addition, Volunteerspot was introduced and will continue next year as the primary tool to organize and track volunteering at Carderock. She also thanked Wendy for her 2 years as President.

Suzanne Dritchillo talked about the outstanding 5th grade students who worked on the yearbook this year with her. She encouraged current 4th graders to participate on the Yearbook Club next year.

‘State of the School’ Update, Rock Palmisano

Mr. Palmisano started his discussion by highlighting the increase in parent volunteers this year. He expressed his interest in providing a more consistent experience in every classroom and will be working on this.

For the reading program, 12,000 bouncy balls filled the gumball machine 3 times.

He mentioned the ‘Caught Being Good’ program, the bullying assembly, and Ms. Klotzman taking an active role in resolving issues at recess. Dr. Starr wants to focus on the social and emotional well-being of children which increases academic performance. The Social/Emotional Learning components are Affirmation, Contribution, Power, Purpose and Challenge.

Mr. Palmisano said that he focuses on regular communication and a positive school climate as desired by parents during the principal search three years ago. In a recent survey, 72% of staff participated. He reviewed the survey results with the overall theme staff is very satisfied with high morale.

Terra Nova testing will not be taken by Montgomery County students after this year. Mr. Palmisano did discuss this year’s TN results which were excellent with huge gains particularly in math. All test scores in all grades were reviewed in this meeting and were considered extremely good in relation to previous year’s results and in comparison to other schools in the County.

For his staffing update, Mr. Palmisano told parents that he would keep them informed over the course of the summer. The current situation is as follows:

Kindergarten—62 students (Teachers will be Ms. Holmes, Ms. Mattingly, and Ms. Noonan)

1st grade—61 students (Teachers will be Ms. Stevens, and likely Ms. Katz)

2nd grade—57 students (Teachers will be Ms. Barna who is moving from 3rd grade and Ms. Sims)

There will be a 1st grade/2nd grade combination class taught by Ms. Rule which will result in 24 children in each class in first and second grades.

3rd grade—72 students (Teachers will be Ms. Talvac, Ms. Smith, and he will be hiring another third grade teacher)

4th grade—61 students (Teachers will be Ms. Healy, Ms. Chung, and Ms. Clougherty). He will be monitoring the student enrollment over the summer, but anticipates Carderock will keep the newly hired teacher

5th grade-52 students (Teacher will be Mr. O and Mr. Gammon)

The Autism program will have 15-16 children total next year

Ms. Ross is leaving to move to California for family reasons. She wants to be a professor at a Community College. Ms. Fitz is leaving for family leave for 1 year. In addition, Carderock received more recess aide time and two new people have been hired.

Mr. Palmisano discussed the criteria for students who will be in the 1st/2nd combination class which primarily includes being able to work independently. He stated that every parent will be contacted who has a child identified for this class to get their thoughts. Ms. Seabold will be the sole art teacher next year.

Other issues, Wendy Kuhn

Wendy asked parents to review the May PTA meeting minutes which were approved by the parents in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.