

**Carderock Springs Elementary School  
PTA Meeting  
October 1, 2013**

**Welcome and Introduction**

Karen Roman welcomed everyone and began the meeting at 7:30 pm. Given that there were two speakers scheduled, no PTA business was conducted.

**Mr. Palmisano – Review of State and County Testing Data from 2012-2013**

Mr. Palmisano and the faculty use data throughout the year to assess and guide instruction. M-class (K-2 assessments), quarterly data checks, MAP-R, etc. are all resources. Summative data from the state is also used.

- A quarterly data check is coming soon and all teachers and specialists (guidance, speech therapist, etc.) will be included.
- Team meeting structures have been revamped. Each team meets for 75 minutes weekly and now has an added 45-minute meeting weekly to discuss assessments. Ms. Veihmeyer facilitates the grades 3-5 team and Ms. Zeitlin facilitates the K-2 meetings.

**M-Class Testing (K-2)**

- Kindergarten – 44% of students are reading at level 16, which is the end of first grade benchmark. Written responses to reading become a part of the M-class testing at end of first grade level. Focus is on how well students understand the text versus fluency.
- First grade - 39% tested at level K or higher; 50% at J or higher. Focus again on understanding text.
- Second grade –highest level is P; 31% of students tested at level P (19% the year prior)

**MAP-R (Grades 3-5)**

MAP-R is given 3 times per year in grades 3-5 on the computer. It is a norm reference assessment.

- CSES students performed well
- MAP-R is viewed as a predictor for MSA results
- 48% of students scored advanced
- Will continue to give this assessment as it provides valuable information (Montgomery County is not requiring 3 times per year testing)
- MAP-P (math assessment for primary grades) and Map-M (math assessment for upper grades) results were comparable; also used to predict performance on MSA
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**MSA**

This is the last year the MSA will be given in grades 3, 4 and 5 for reading and math, and science in grade 5.

- Alt MSA – for the Autism program; 100% scored advance or proficient
- >95 % of students with an IEP scored proficient or advanced on MSA.

**MSA Reading (percent of students scoring advanced grades 3-5)**

- 2011 70%
- 2012 77%

- 2013 72% (93% in grade 5 scored advanced)

**MSA Math** (percent of students scoring advanced in grades 3-5)

- 2011 75%
- 2012 79%
- 2013 75%

Carderock performs well relative to other schools in the cluster on the MSA. The CSES 5<sup>th</sup> grade took the Science MSA in the spring and scored 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the county. Cold Spring scored highest.

**PARCC**

The MSAs will be replaced by the PARCC assessments. PARCC is the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers developed by Pearson and Educational Testing Services (ETS). PARCC will assess reading, language arts, writing, mathematics, and may include a speaking and listening component. It is designed to measure the full range of knowledge and skills students need to be career and college ready through performance-based tests. Twenty states are involved in this partnership. The rollout has been delayed due to implementation costs. Many states don't have the resources to administer it because it is computer based. A pilot has been planned for next year. Carderock has not been chosen as a pilot school.

ELA / Literacy and Math – PARCC will look more closely at writing abilities and critical thinking. In math, students will have to solve complex problems, show their work and demonstrate how they solved the problem. Students will have to type their responses. There is concern about how the younger grades will be able to do this.

**School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

CSES is very focused on how reading is taught. One of the school's goals is to have 100% of students show growth in citing evidence from text. The following summarizes the three main focus areas submitted by CSES for approval:

1. Students will learn to refer back to text to answer questions; this is called close reading and is a focus area in training. This is part of a 2-3 year plan that Mrs. Zeitlin started his year.
2. Increased use of non-fiction text. 50% of what students will read will be non-fiction. Students will continue to read literature and learn to respond to text (text to self, text to world, etc.)
3. Math – Focus will be on Practices 2 and 3 of the Common Core Standards, standards for Mathematical Practice. Practice 2 is to reason abstractly and quantitatively and Practice 3 is to construct viable argument and critique the reasoning of others.

Karen introduced tonight's Parent Ed speaker, Emily Jones, LCSW-C, a licensed clinical social worker, who spoke on "How to Talk with Your Children about Scary News." Handouts from the speaker are available on the PTA table in the school lobby.