



Carderock Springs Elementary School PTA  
[www.csespta.org](http://www.csespta.org)

**“PTA Meeting Agenda”**  
**June 4, 2014 – 7:30pm – Media Center**

Meeting called to order 7:40pm  
Approximately 30 people in attendance.

**1. Principal Palmisano’s annual “State of the School” address**

- **Thank you to Karen Roman.** Mrs. Roman did anything and everything to support the school, the students the staff and Mr. Palmisano. Whatever he ask for, it got done.
- **Gallup survey:** Survey administered to entire system (students, parents, staff and admin) . measures level of staff engagement. CSES scored 4.22; MCPS averaged 3.88. We are a green school based on matrix put together by MCPS (green, yellow red)
- **Testing .**
  - **MSA:** No test results yet. Took it for the last time.
  - **PARCC:** Took test as pilot grades3-5 in reading and mathematics. Pilot was a difficult test. Students must synthesize information. Time will tell how it goes. 20 states signed up to be part of the consortium. 17 very concerned about cost on technology needed because it is all online. Cost issue was raised several times at Whitman meeting the other night.
  - **MAP-R** will continue, given 3 times per year. Informs instruction.
  - **MAP-P** and **MAP-M** don’t drive curriculum like the other tests. Tests don’t assist in moving forward on instruction. Map-R letter going home at the end of the year for grades 3-5. Nothing formal that goes home on individual scores.
  - **MCLASS** grades k-2.
- **TECH Mod:** This summer CSES will undergo a tech mod - a year earlier than expected. Coming out to school next week to give more information. Usually every desktop is replaced. Windows is upgraded. Grade 3 and Grade 5 will receive class sets of mobile devices (chrome books)
- **CSES Education Foundation:** CSESEF has purchased lots of technology for us. Started purchasing iPads this year even though not supported be county. K will have 3/class. Grade 3 will have 4/class. Increasingly mobile, rather than desktops.

**Technology Questions from parents:**

- *Do you agree with moving toward more technology vs. handwriting?* Rock feels we need to teach handwriting but feels kids should practice at home. Writing practice in school wastes valuable instructional time. Teachers teach it in third grade. He’s more concerned with students being able to get their thoughts down in a more cohesive way than focusing on how to write the letters.
- *Who gives computer instruction?* We do not have a dedicated computer lab teacher so the instruction comes from our teachers who have a wide array of technology knowledge.. Tech mod provides part-time specialists.
- *How do you monitor screen time for kids?* Are they used as toys or are you using it in a way

that is teaching them something? That's the barometer . how you use it. Teachers are cognizant that computer work should be educational, not game time.

- **Writing program:** Feedback from staff is that Curriculum 2.0 writing portion is weak. Goal should be to raise writers. Lucy Calkins program instills a love of writing. There are units of study that match up to common core. It augments the current curriculum which has too many short pieces and doesn't go through the entire process. CSESEF has purchased a kit for every single classroom here. Dr. Star is a huge fan of Lucy Calkins and doesn't feel we write enough in school. Using the units as a vehicle for teaching the curriculum next year. Has a conference at Columbia next September. Take one teacher from each grade level to the conference. Foundation will help with lodging, asking PTA to help with conference fees.
- **Peer-to-Peer tutoring:** Next year hope to implement peer to peer tutoring program. Not asking students to instruct . may be reading a book with them, practicing sight words. Training component for older kids. Will start slow to make sure we get it right. Older kids tutor younger kids. Pair up 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> graders with K/1<sup>st</sup> graders. Both sides benefit. Will carve out time to do this during school.
- **Math Olympiad:** Next year CSES will have a 5th Grade team coached by Mr. Palmisano. Number of students will be limited to 10-15 kids. Meet once a week after school and enter competitions. All year event, starts in September goes through May. Could have different groups of students.
- **School improvement plan:** Focus on close reading this year . will continue next year. Wanted to focus on one thing and do it well this year. Will begin to include math next year. No changes to school improvement plan for next year.
- **Bell times:** June 17<sup>th</sup> Dr. Star will put forward his recommendations for bell times to the school board. *CSES will have a change in bell times next year regardless.* Due to the growth in the cluster, Wood acres moves kids to Radnor during construction and busing issues. ***We will be Tier 2 and start at 9:15am. Students can enter at 8:55. Closing bell at 3:30pm.*** If they extend the elementary school end time, Rock wants to be able to do what he wants with the extra time. Changes would be 2015-16 school year at the earliest.
- **Staffing:**
  - Media specialist position has been restored to full-time. Will see students every week, be involved with research and work with the teams.
  - CSES is projected to have 430 students next year. Huge amount of growth in a short period of time. This year we're at 420-425 right now. Supposed to level off. All turn over with younger families moving in.
  - Current enrollment:
    - Kindergarten: Two classes with 22 in each class.
    - Grade 1: Three classes with 20, 20, and 21 students.
    - Grade 2: Three classes with 26, 25, and 25 students.
    - Grade 3: Three classes with 23 students in each class.
    - Grade 4: Three classes with 21, 20, and 20 students.
    - Grade 5: Three classes with 25 students in each class.
    - Autism: 6 across the board.
    - *Teacher assignments come out mid-August.*
  - **Staff changes:**
    - Kempski will move to first, Stevens is moving to kindergarten.

- Mrs. Tucker is retiring in October or November.
- Ms. Rule has been looking for a non-classroom position, would also like to go part-time. Only vacancy would be if she took another position.

2. **Welcome and thank you!**

- Karen Roman welcomed every to the meeting

3. **General PTA Membership Vote - 2014-2015 PTA Budget**

- Caroline Walsh presented FY15 budget.
- June 1 actuals understated due to Giant card checks. FYE June 30.
- Membership 285 families, \$9,000, 83% participation,
- PTA donations \$3,000, slightly under budget.
- Book fair \$5,400
- Online fundraisers (amazon, tiny prints, innisbrook): \$2,400
- Giant Card: \$5,700
- Vote taken on proposed budget: **2015-16 Budget passes unanimously**

4. **Thank you's** - Thank you to our departing PTA Board members: Leanne Till, Lisa London, and Anne Kisslinger!

5. **Open PTA Board roles for 2014-2015** . MCCPTA Rep and Autism/Special Needs Liaison  
**MCCPTA Rep.** needed: monthly meetings at night. 2 reps alternate attendance at meeting and attending CSES PTA board meetings.  
**Autism/Special Needs Liaison:** represent the needs of students with autism and special needs to the board  
 A few **Committee positions** still open.

6. **CSES Educational Foundation Computer Camp** - Spaces are still available for our %Computer Camp+ run by our CSES Educational Foundation. It will be held the weeks starting June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders in our Computer Lab with Mrs. Russell. For more details and to register, please go to [www.csesef.org](http://www.csesef.org).

7. **School Supply Kits** . The deadline for ordering your child's kit online is Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Simply visit [www.schooltoolbox.com](http://www.schooltoolbox.com) to register (or log-in for returning customers) and select Carderock Springs Elementary School

8. **Yearbooks** . Here they are! You may still purchase yours if you haven't done so by Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Please go to [www.pay4schoolstuff.com](http://www.pay4schoolstuff.com). If you don't remember whether or not you've already bought yours, you may check your account and go to %Parent Options.+ Yearbooks will be delivered to students on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Allison Smith Gordon!

9. **"Autism Speaks" 5K and one mile walk on July 4<sup>th</sup> in Potomac** - Join our Carderock team to support our autistic students! Contact Wendy Kuhn for details.

10. **Summer Reading and Math programs** - The school will send home information soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm