

Carderock Springs Elementary PTA General Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 07, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Amy Moore welcomed parents and teachers.

Karen Roman gave an overview of the following CSES PTA programs:

- Giant Gift Cards – minimum orders of \$100; place all orders through [pay 4schoolstuffonline.com](http://pay4schoolstuffonline.com); next order deadline is early December
- Book Fair in November
- Amazon and Tiny prints ongoing; special deals in the fall leading up to holidays
- Membership dues are our most important fundraiser, so please join if you haven't!

Tiffany Sikes gave an overview of the CSES Education Foundation and its goals for the year.

Lucy Calkins presentation by Erinn Zeitlin and Marypat Veihmeyer.

- Updated based on the Common Core; goal is to raise writers
- Clear, sequenced and vibrant program
- One skill every day in a 10 minute mini lesson
- Start with an on demand writing prompt
- Mrs. Zeitlin providing a lot of non-evaluative support and resources, working with all the students
- Common scoring on the assessments; grade level team meetings to review where they are and make sure grading is the same
- We spend so much time putting information into students - writing is the opportunity to get it out of them
- Goal is 60 minutes a day of writing in every classroom. Little breaks built in so it's not straight writing for 60 minutes at outset
- With PARCC, students will have to complete a whole story in a certain amount of time so volume counts

Inside the mini lesson – 4 parts

- Connection
- Teaching
- Active engagement
- Link – It's not a closing it's a launch

What will change because of this new writing program:

- Celebrations and author's teas will change. They may do mini-celebrations with 4-5 kids each month. This will vary by grade.

Miss Stevens, Kindergarten

It's helpful for parent volunteers to see the mini-lesson. Very helpful to know what to work on with the students when you volunteer. Lucy Calkins recommends giving the kids the writing paper that they want and are most comfortable using.

Mrs. Veihmeyer

Previously, parent volunteers focused on editing; now volunteers will help with the research part. Ask the kids questions – find out what they are thinking about. You don't need to read the whole piece. Ask them to read the best part of it. Delve into it. Ask questions to draw more out of them. Show them, rather than tell them.

- K/1 - don't focus on the spelling
- 3rd grade - the words they know by heart (word wall words) should be spelled correctly and it goes up from there
- 4/5 grade - asks 'so what's the so what' of the story?
- 5th grade - students should be able to make changes to their stories without re-writing the entire story. The spelling correct and other review features have been turned off so as to not interfere with the writing process. Some kids are choosing to write in their notebooks, which is fine.
- Teachers want to see students' mistakes - students will cross things out and fix them rather than erasing everything or writing it all over.

NOTE: Kids really need to learn keyboarding as early as possible.

How parents can support the younger grades at home: Set up a writing station. Ask them questions about what the author was trying to do. Why would the author do that? Be clued in to what they are doing. If they are working on how-to books in school and you're baking a cake, ask them if they want to write a how to book on how to bake a cake. Make it real for them.

Parts of Lucy Calkins have been incorporated into the MCPS. CSES wanted fidelity in the program and have adopted it fully rather than trying to incorporate pieces without success.

Teachers working on systems to keep track of who they have conferenced with and what they have conferenced about.

Q: Are the texts preset or do the teachers have discretion?

A: They have several 'mentor texts' to work with but the teachers may also bring in other texts.

There are 4 units per grade – each will be worked on at the beginning of each marking period, leaving several weeks to work on the other parts of the curriculum.

Teach the kids to read like an author. Why did they say it that way? Why did they use that word?

Other announcements

Mr. Palmisano will be out for a couple of weeks. He is fine and will be back. School will keep you informed as they have permission to.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.