

**Minutes of the Mantua PTA
February 5, 2003
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: *Laura Mead, Carole Thomas, Pam Promisel, Beth McKeown, Rob Luftglass*

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez*

Board Members: *Allen Clark, Cheryl May, Chris Love, Dee Ann Jeremiah, Loren Brandman, Randi Kirkland, Barbara Suidikas, Laura Samotshozo, Kristen Lahiff, Leanne Stynchula, Robin Hoffman*

General Membership: *Beth Whitehead, Martha Parsons, Pam Pavord, Karen Muir Nabhan*

Pam Promisel moved that the minutes of the January 8, 2002 meeting be approved. Chris Love seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Beth McKeown presented the **Treasurer's Report**. She provided an Income Statement for the seven months ending January 31, 2003. There were no major items to report on, though she did highlight that income from interest (approximately \$450) and additional Sally Foster sales (approximately \$1,300) were added this month. In regards to Sally Foster, over 4,500 items purchased through this program.

Laura Mead presented the **Announcements**.

- Elaine Wellner has been seriously ill. The PTA sent her flowers while she was in the hospital. Jan-Marie Fernandez added that Elaine is at home recuperating from pericarditis (fluid around the heart) and walking pneumonia. Jan-Marie appreciates the assistance being provided by Cheryl Thomson who has temporarily moved to the front office to help out.
- A study regarding the Fall Fundraiser was conducted. Three companies including Sally Foster were thoroughly reviewed. The final recommendation is to stay with Sally Foster since there is nothing that the others can do that Sally Foster isn't already doing well. We will review this again next year.
- Community Spirit – Laura will put an item in Alert on the arrangement with Glory Days. Other restaurants have approached us and we hope to have similar arrangements soon.
- “Jump for the Heart” and “Hoops for the Heart” will be conducted in gym class on February 27 and 28. This is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association and involves jumping rope and basketball. Forms will come home in the Tuesday Folders. All grades/students will be able to participate whether or not they solicit donations.

- Parenting seminars are being held at Olde Creek Elementary School – information will be in upcoming Alerts.
- Laura asked if the PTA is able to provide financial assistance for interpreters to travel to a National Conference for Interpreters in Chicago. The total cost for two interpreters to fly to Chicago is \$392. Leanne Stynchula made a motion that the PTA provides \$392 towards airfare for the interpreters. The motion was seconded by Allen Clarke and carried in a voice vote.
- A poll was sent home in regards to the Mantua community boundary change request. This poll is intended to solicit the opinion of the PTA members regarding this potential boundary change and if appropriate present these results to the school board. Laura also encouraged anyone who has an opinion of any kind about this potential boundary change to contact the school board and FCPS Facilities representatives directly. It is planned that the results of the poll will be emailed to school board members and Facilities representatives and Beth McKeown will read statement at the February 10 boundary meeting. Laura and Jan-Marie noted that there are currently 929 children at Mantua, with enrollment growing eleven in just the last week.

Jan-Marie responded to some enrollment/capacity questions as follows:

- There are currently 31 pupil placement students and this number is decreasing since only very limited pupil placement is now permitted. Currently, only siblings of TC students as well as children of teachers are even considered for pupil placement.
- To help ease the overcrowding in the Cafeteria, a renovation will take place during the summer in which a second line and tables that fit more children will be added
- Jan-Marie is addressing a Facilities requirement to convert one or both of the pods into classrooms in exchange for the installation of a Quad – a 4 room connected learning cottage. She is researching how other schools have handled this in the past and whether there are alternatives.

Principals' Report: Jan-Marie made several announcements:

- Tomorrow (February 6), an instructional team from Oxfordshire, England is visiting Mantua to observe our use of technology.
- We have begun sign language classes for parents and an after-school program for deaf students to encourage parents of deaf children to take the signing class and improve communications at home. Dinner is provided and 50 people attended tonight. There are seven more weeks scheduled for these classes. Many teachers are staying late and helping with activities for children. Excess money from the Wizards game is being used to pay for food. Jan-Marie is looking at this program as a possible model for the future and is treating it as a potential test case for a future grant. There was some discussion regarding the PTA providing gift certificates to the teachers. It was also suggested that parents could contribute dessert and Dee Anne Jeremiah (Hospitality Chair) indicated that she would coordinate this.
- In regards to small pox, the school system has become involved in the nationwide plan if there were to be a small pox issue. High schools are inoculation sites. Processes are

being put in place based on various scenarios. A letter will be going home with details.

- The Chorus and band concerts will be held February 12th and 13th. The Talent Show is this Saturday.
- The school has received sixteen Dell laptops and a mobile cart and an order for \$31,000 worth of equipment from HP for teacher and student stations is pending. This is all part of the KNECTS project.

Teacher Representative Report: There was no report this month since no teachers attended the meeting due to illness.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Carnival: Pam Promisel announced that plans for the carnival continue to progress and that at the booth meeting, parents selected the game and country for each classroom. The next (and last) planning meeting will be on February 10. Pam noted that prizes will be done differently this year, with points given so students can cash in at the end of the carnival. As a reminder, the theme is Global Connection and the carnival will be held on March 15.

Web-Site: Allen Clarke presented new Mantua web-site. It will be unveiled soon and an attempt has been made to make this site more useful and user friendly, with interesting information and links and improved navigation. We will also begin using a new domain name: www.mantuapta.org. This site will run in parallel to www.mantua-school.com and will ultimately replace it. It is planned that each board member will have their name listed and an email link. If a board member does not want this automatic email link, they should notify Laura. Allen is also planning to add more pictures, but no children's names will be included.

Principal's Coffee: Barb Suidikas announced that their last coffee was very informative and that the next two coffees are scheduled for March 13 and May 8.

Woodson Coalition: Leanne Stynchula provided minutes from their last meeting. She was pleased to report that she received many proposals for funds and no money from our area will be put back in the general fund. The coalition is working on 501-3-C status so it may apply for grants. They are compiling a list of fundable activities. Still need finance liaison and co-chair. Also, email Leanne if want to be on email distribution list.

Spirit Committee: Rob Luftglass reported that the Mantua Fun Night at the Wizards was a success with approximately 300 tickets sold. A new offer for the Globetrotters at George Mason Patriot Center was recently distributed.

Kid's Care Club: The Talent Show will be held on February 8 at 6pm.

Yearbook – Laura Samotshozo announced that order forms were just distributed. Responses are requested so we may order the appropriate number of Yearbooks. The deadline for candidis is February 21 – it is important to label the candidis.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2003.

Leanne Stynchula made a motion that the PTA contributes \$392 towards airfare for the interpreters. The motion was seconded by Allen Clarke and carried in a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm. The next meeting is March 5, 2003.

Robert Luftglass
Secretary