

**Minutes of the Mantua PTA
November 6, 2002
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

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

School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Jennifer McClelland, Janet Sottolano

Board Members: Pete Brandman, Randi Kirkland, Jennifer Cooper, Barbara Suidikas, Allen Clark, Gretchen Martens, Laura Samotshozo, Chris Love, Miriam Smolen, Robin Hoffman, Bev Baugham

General Membership: Ann Ames, Elana Plotnick, Caroline Nazarian, Diane Alejandro, Maza Mestein, Sandy Jablonski, Ginger Jabour

Robin Hoffman moved that the minutes of the October 2, 2002 meeting be approved. Pam Promisel seconded. The motion carried.

Beth McKeown presented the **Treasurer's Report**. She provided the Income statement for the four months ending October 31, 2002. Highlights include the revenue from the Fall Fundraiser (Sally Foster) with over \$18,000 profit so far. Basketball revenues are also coming in. Expenses include gifts to the Custodians of \$75 each.

Marilyn Hamly made a presentation on the **School-based GT program**. She discussed the various GT programs offered at Mantua, including the School-based programs for K-3 and grades 4-6 as well as the GT Center for grades 3-6. Evaluations for these programs are made based upon various standardized tests and teacher and committee. This presentation resulted in some discussion about the "middle level children". It was discussed that the goal of the school is to enrich all students and that efforts are being made to extend GT curriculum throughout the school. An additional suggestion of a GT Parent Support Group was discussed.

Laura Mead presented the **Announcements**. Laura mentioned that tax exempt information was provided in the purple folders at a previous PTA Meeting, including tax ID information. If anyone needs this letter, it is available in a manila folder near the PTA mailbox along with other financial forms.

Laura announced that we will be nominating Janet Sottolano for Teacher of the Year.

Jeanine Davies asked Laura to report that 377 students participated in the Sally Foster Fundraiser and gross income exceeded \$27,000 and net income to the PTA exceeded \$18,000, with online orders continuing until 12/31/02.

Laura reminded everyone that the Book Fair will take place Nov 15-22. There is also a Frost Book Fair from December 2-6.

Mantua Basketball once again has many participants. Over 250 players signed up spread over grades 3-4 and 5-6 (boys and girls). Evaluations are to be held on November 9-10, with a makeup date of November 12. Clothing order forms will be available at these sessions. The new scoreboard has been ordered and will hopefully arrive before the season begins.

Principals' Report: Jan-Marie Fernandez emphasized that the goal of the school is to provide the children with an environment where all students work together – GT, general education, special ed. One method that is being employed is flexible grouping. This benefits all levels of student both academically and socially.

Another example of this is a project being conducted. The 6th grade is participating in a UN video-conference with students from 15 different countries. On December 6, a group of students in Distance Learning lab and all others in 6th grade classrooms, including GT, general ed, and special ed will participate in this project. The project will continue through year. Mantua is only school in Virginia participating in this project and will partner with school in Northern Ireland.

Mantua has also become a friend of Plateau School for the Deaf in Nigeria. This relationship was fostered through an alumnus who is now a professor at Gallaudet University. Dr. Simon Guteng will be meeting with K/2 classes on November 8 to discuss the school and growing up in Africa. It was suggested that donations might be made to the Plateau School at the Book Fair. Jan-Marie also mentioned that several teachers are learning African Drums.

Upcoming events include the Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 20 and 21. The Band will be performing holiday music on Good Morning Mantua roll-ins. String Students will be performing at Sunrise Assisted Living. Also, the Halloween parade was a big hit with the theme this year being community helpers.

There are now numbers in front of school at each entrance/exit as a security measure. These numbers are for the police and fire departments so they can be referred to the appropriate entrance during an emergency.

Jan-Marie thanked to parents and teachers for their support during sniper saga. Everyone was calm and supportive. Teachers and children were incredible – living with no outdoor recess.

A new safety procedure has been established in the event of a chemical/environmental spill/attack. The school would be sealed until safety personnel arrive.

Tina Tingler mentioned that Elaine Wellner is at a conference so was unable to attend this meeting. She also mentioned that volunteer babysitters are needed for the Bright Beginnings program from 10am through 12:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Teacher Representative Report: Janet Sottolano reiterated that teachers love the warm fuzzies. In reference to the earlier GT discussion, Janet mentioned that the flexible grouping that is employed provides many of the benefits of this program – with access to GT materials the teachers are able to provide the students with enrichment without pulling them out of classroom.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Directory: Miriam Smolen announced that the Directory is at the printer. It is too late to change anything. Thank go to Carole Thomas for validating 810 addresses. Boxes should show up within a week. Directories are complimentary with PTA membership.

Current membership level is 662 parents (392 families or 59%) and 54 staff (47%).

Auction: Carole Thomas mentioned the upcoming auction on November 17. In addition to the live and silent auctions (over 300 items), there will be a raffle, food and drinks, and musical entertainment.

Yearbook: Laura Samotshozo announced that things are on track for the Yearbook. Last year's committee has been a big help. Photo day was completed and went well. Group photos and candid photos are coming. This year, we will involve teachers more than before, adding a class page. There will be a Cover contest – with one winner from K-3 and another from grades 4-6 - one front, one back cover. The theme is Science and Information Technology.

Community Spirit: Gretchen Martens. Clothing order forms should be available in two weeks. Other upcoming events include more restaurant nights and the Wizards Fun Night in January.

Spring Carnival: Pam Promisel announced that the initial planning meetings is to be held on December 2. We need chairs and co-chairs for various positions.

Pam also announced that there will be a **Parent Education Seminar** on November 11 on what it takes to be a successful student.

Math Happenings: Jennifer McClelland presented a new Take home math program for grades K-2. It includes thirteen games so far with more being developed. Financial assistance from the PTA is requested to help provide materials and envelopes for approximately 600 games. The cost per game is approximately \$1.34. Jennifer

demonstrated the game 'Flip'. The goal is to start the program in December. So far, expenses have been covered by the school.

Randi Kirkland made a motion to create a line item called Math Happenings in the amount of \$2,000 for this year. Pete Brandman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kids Care Club: Jennifer Cooper announced the need for additional leaf raking volunteers. The Talent Show has been rescheduled to Feb 8. Rehearsals will be held the Thursday and Friday before that.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the revised minutes of the October 2, 2002.

A motion carried to add a line item in the budget for Math Happenings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next meeting is December 4, 2002.

Robert Luftglass
Secretary