

**Minutes of the Mantua PTA
December 3, 2003
Mantua Elementary School**

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

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

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Cheryl Thompson, Jan Pry, Ann Baum and Tanganyika Jackson.*

Board Members: *Jennifer Cooper, Loren Brandman, Randi Kirkland, Chris Love, Nathan Merrells, Leanne Stynchula and Laura Samotshozo.*

General Membership: *Pam Pavord and Debbie Schwartz.*

Pam Promisel made a **motion** that the minutes of the November 5, 2003 meeting be approved. Laura seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Beth McKeown distributed an income statement for the six months ending 12/31/03. The Drama Club numbers are in, with a profit of approximately \$2,700. Beth added in line items for Original Artworks and for upper grades Math Happenings.

Carole Thomas presented the **Announcements:**

- There is approximately \$20,000 available for wish list.
- Tonight's topic, presented by Tanganyika Jackson, is the drug awareness.
- Dr. Domenech announced retirement, effective in March.
- Thanks to Beth Whitehead for drama productions.
- The Book Sale very successful, with approximately \$7,000 profit to go towards library.
- There will be a Washington Wizards half-price night and Hockey.
- Please use website when possible to minimize paper. Please let Carole know of any ideas to use the web more effectively.

Mrs. Fernandez made the **Principals' Report:**

The Thanksgiving Luncheon went well. Over 1,500 lunches were served.

The Shakespeare festival was very enjoyable. The Drama Club and parent volunteers did a wonderful job.

The US Secretary of Education (Paige), along with the Minister for Education for Ireland (Dempsey) and Congressman Tom Davis were recent guests at the school. A videoconference was held with St. Josephs School in Dublin followed by a tour of school.

All were impressed with the integration of technology and inclusion of special needs programs at Mantua.

This Friday, Mantua is the host site for 6th annual UN Student Conference on Human Rights. This will also be on closed circuit to classrooms.

Tina had nothing to report.

Teacher Representative Report: Jan Pry and Ann Baum had nothing to report.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Kids Care Club: Jennifer Cooper reported that the KCC is working on holiday basket for a family with eight children. Talent show audition information will be coming out soon, with registration for acts available online. The Talent Show is scheduled for February 7.

Sally Foster: A discussion was held regarding whether we want to continue with Sally Foster as our fall fundraiser next year. Since most feel that this is a good program, with good products, yielding a good profit, it was concluded that we would use Sally Foster again next year.

Yearbook: Laura Samotshozo discussed that portrait day went well and that a makeup day will be forthcoming. It is requested that teachers make a special effort to have their pictures taken since many were not on the first portrait day. Preorder forms are out and Yearbook orders can be made online.

Carnival: Pam Promisel reported that there would be a meeting in January. We need volunteers. If anyone is interested, please contact Laura Mead or Pam. The carnival will be held on March 13.

Woodson Coalition: Leanne Stynchula reported that planning is underway for upcoming events. Leanne attended a session of Saturday Night in the Suburbs, where information on what goes on in teen lives is presented and parents sign forms agreeing not to serve alcohol to minors. She also recommended that everyone keep a special watch for teen parties.

Ms. Tanganyika Jackson, a Counselor at Falls Church HS, made a presentation to the PTA about Drug Awareness. The presentation is intended to be a proactive approach for parents so parents know what kids know. Drug issues are happening with younger and younger children and parents need to learn while kids are at an early age.

The presentation included much information on tobacco, alcohol and drug use by children. In some instances, this use begins as early as the fifth or sixth grade level; so all parents are encouraged to attend similar presentations. In particular, this presentation included information on each of these drugs, signs for parents to look for that might

indicate that their child is abusing a drug and suggestions for parents on how to prevent drug use by children.

The general consensus from those in attendance was that this presentation was very useful and informative and all parents are encouraged to learn what they can about this subject. Parents should also talk to their children to both understand what their child knows and to keep the lines of information open as the child grows older

Carole thanked Ms. Jackson and asked Ms. Fernandez if there are any relevant experiences at Mantua. Ms. Fernandez indicated that this has not been an issue at Mantua, but it is a big concern for older children, e.g., middle and high school.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next meeting will be January 7, 2004.

Robert Luftglass
Secretary