

**Minutes of the Mantua PTA
March 3, 2004
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, Kandy Barham and Rob Luftglass.*

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

Board Members: *Pete Brandman, Beth Whitehead, Kathy Frongello, Randi Kirkland, DeeAnn Jeremiah, Jennifer Cooper, Barb Suidikas and Laura Samotshozo.*

General Membership: *Sabrina Pagkalinawan, Linda Halkias, John Jennison, Donna Yudkin and Allen Clarke.*

Pam Promisel made a **motion** that the minutes of the February 4, 2004 meeting be approved. Beth McKeown seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Carole Thomas presented the **Announcements**:

- Tonight's Topic is the Woodson Renovation
- Upcoming Meetings/Events that include a Parent Advisory Council Meeting, the Spring Carnival, Principal's Coffee, Woodson Coalition Saturday Night in the Suburbs and Community Spirit events. These are all shown on the PTA website.

Beth McKeown distributed an income statement for the nine months ending 3/31/04. Our financials are tracking well. We purchased the camcorder and computers from the wish list and we have spent approximately \$1,400 to date for sound system repairs/upgrades. The school band has recently purchases a Bass Clarinet and a French horn. We should open next year with approximately \$14,000.

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

- The teachers and staff are excited about the new computers that the PTA donated. It provides a good mix of PCs and Macs and allows us to move some of the laptops onto the mobile cart.
- Last night was Read Across America evening. Thanks to Janet Sottolano for organizing this event.
- Last week we held an evening for Korean Parents with approximately forty families participating.

- The Band and Strings concert, which had to be rescheduled due to snow, was very successful. There are 256 students taking either band or strings..
- A reminder that April 2 is now a school day (snow makeup).
- Ann Baum will be leaving at the end of this week to begin substituting, with an ultimate goal to become an art teacher. The PTA expressed its appreciation to Ann for her many contributions to Mantua.
- There was a visit by a principal from an Egyptian school with 5,000 students. The principal met with 5th graders and held impromptu discussions on ancient Egypt and technology. Discussions regarding future distance learning opportunities took place (e.g., field trip to pyramids in Cairo).

Cheryl Thompson announced that there will be an assembly next week regarding the magic of books as well as an upcoming Meet the Author event with Eric Kimmel.

Tina Tingler thanked the PTA for desserts for the after-school TC program. The last class is March 31. Tina is working with Dave Lennox (special education representative for the PTA) to provide information to parents regarding the processes for special education and IEP.

Teacher Representative Report: Janet Sottolano expressed thanks to the PTA for its contribution for the Baltimore field trip and to Jennifer Cooper/Kids Care Club for support with the Read Across America. We hope to make Read Across America an annual event.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Kids Care Club: Jennifer Cooper reported that the Raccoon Run planning is in full swing and that we are looking for sponsors. This is the 4th annual race and paperwork will be sent home after the carnival.

Woodson Coalition: Jennifer Cooper reported that the budget was approved and much activity is underway including parent agreements that were distributed and upcoming events including Saturday Night in the Suburbs, a Mock Trial and a MADD presentation.

Principal's Coffee: Barb Suidikas announced that the next Principal's Coffee will be March 24 at 9:30am and the topic will be testing.

Parent Education: Pam Promisel announced that we are looking for the next topic. The Korean parent night was very successful.

Pam made a motion for the PTA to support the Korean parent night for expenses up to \$275. Allen seconded the motion. Carole emphasized that this event helped educate these parents as to what is appropriate for parental involvement in US schools and will encourage more involvement both in the classroom and the PTA. This money would

cover speaking fees. Tina Tingler mentioned that we are also working on a similar event for Hispanic families. The motion carried.

Carnival: Pam Promisel reminded everyone that the carnival is March 13. Tickets (booth and raffle) can be purchased on the website. This year, there will be new games and craft booths. We still need some booth volunteers.

Community Spirit: Donna Yudkin announced the upcoming Skate night. There will also be Laser tag and rock climbing available at the Skate Park. There will be a \$2.00 per person admission to cover our cost. Donna also presented a fundraiser idea through Safeway for a family planner calendar. The general consensus (Donna included) was that this was not needed at this time.

Sabrina Pagkalinawan asked if we can include items in the Newsletter that are non-school related – e.g., bilingual volunteers needed for domestic violence hotline. Carole answered that while this type of information cannot be in hard copy form for the children to take home, it can be included in the electronic version of the Newsletter.

Old Business

Carole presented the proposed Nominating Committee. The proposed committee is Donna Yudkin, Kate Marosek and Monica Romig. All Executive Board positions are officially open and the positions of First Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will require replacements due to the two year limit on board positions. John Jennison made a motion to accept this Nominating Committee and Jennifer Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried. One enhancement this year is that we will accept nominations online to encourage greater participation.

We have decided to take a break this year from the annual summer vacation software sale. Anyone who still wants this software and related workbooks can buy it at Borders or online.

Monthly Topic

This month's topic is **RENEW** (Woodson Renovation). John Jennison distributed a history of Woodson renovation efforts. The school has never received the full renovation that it needs. Currently, the plans call for renovation to begin in August 2006 and be completed by summer 2009.

Renovations are governed by the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Different schools had different needs based on age, how they were built, growth, etc. At this point, the plan is to renovate Woodson, not build a new school. Many people have worked for several years to make sure this renovation takes place.

There is currently a new school board. This school board will be looking at the CIP. There are many advocates on the Board of Supervisors and the school board for the Woodson renovation to stay on track, but parents have to keep pushing to make sure that this stays on track. John is working to try to advance construction to the beginning of the summer which, based on weather considerations, could have a significant positive impact on the completion date. We should familiarize new school board members with our community and needs.

Carole Thomas mentioned that we received a request from the new Providence School Board Representative, Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner, to learn more about Mantua. We will be inviting him and other school board members to activities like Basketball, PTA meetings, etc.

Next month's topic will be Frost, presented by Jim Scutt.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2004.

A motion carried for the PTA to support the Korean parent night for expenses up to \$275.

A motion carried for the PTA to name Donna Yudkin, Kate Marosek and Monica Romig to the Nominating Committee for next year's Executive Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next meeting will be April 14, 2004.

Robert Luftglass
Secretary