

**Notes of the Mantua PTA
February 2, 2005
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: *John Jennison, Nathan Merrells, Cheryl May, Nancy Robinson, and Carole Thomas.*

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, and Cheryl Thompson.*

Board Members: *Martha Parsons, Pete Brandman, Patti Pratuch, Donna Yudkin, Beth Whitehead, Jeannine Davies, Allen Clark, and Randi Kirkland.*

General Membership: *Melinda Burroughs, Regina Pana-Cryin, Melissa Morgan, and Donna McGrath.*

Nancy Robinson made a **motion** that the minutes of the January 5, 2005 meeting be approved. Nathan Merrells seconded the motion. Nancy noted that Pam Promisel should be omitted from the attendees as listed on those minutes. The motion carried.

Cheryl May distributed the Income Statement for the seven months ending January 31, 2005. She stated that the PTA is ahead in the budget (year to date) by \$11,000. Consequently, the Budget Committee met last week to prioritize the Principal's Wish List items. Cheryl made a **motion** to approve the funding for \$9,400 of Principal Wish Lists items including classroom supplies, projectors, books, phonics kits, strategy games, and a color laser printer. Carole Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John Jennison made the following announcements:

- Everything is moving along—we're already halfway through the school year.
- There was a meeting recently on recruiting and retaining teachers. This is something Jan-Marie and Cheryl work so hard on.

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

- She will speak at the school board meeting regarding more funding needed for the School-Based Information Technology Specialist and Technology Specialist positions. Currently those positions are only partially funded by the school and principals need to make up the rest of the money out of their own budgets.
- They hired two new teachers for the 6th grade team, so we now have a full staff.
- The Italian language program has started with the 3rd grade. They are focusing on the Italian-Latin-English connection in words.
- The February 17 Principal's Coffee program will focus on the Italian program.

- She pointed out the student art work displayed around the building. She praised the new art teacher for tying the art projects to the curriculum.

Ms. Tingler made the following **Announcements**:

- In a recent speech contest sponsored by the Optimist Club one student won a \$100 savings bond. The theme was “Heroes”.
- She is also going to the school board to highlight the TC After School program.

Ms. Thompson made the following **Announcements**:

- She reported that vandalism around the school continues. Recently the problem has been large fireworks lit next to the school and under the learning cottages. She asked parents to keep an eye out around the school when they are there late at night for basketball and other activities.
- Other schools are also experiencing vandalism problems as well as car break-ins and purse thefts (particularly during SACC pick-up time).
- She is still talking with the 4th through 6th graders about respect and responsibility.
- She thanked the PTA for funding the popcorn popper.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Basketball: Days that were missed due to snow days will be made up.

Carnival: Promotional fliers are going out. Some classes still need basket coordinators.

Box Tops: Donna Yudkin reported that Box Tops are coming in strong. She needs to make the final shipment to General Mills by mid-March. We are also looking into other fundraising ideas such as prepackaged school supply kits, pizza orders, and a kid’s coupon book.

Kids Care Club: Posters for the Talent Show are up. The Tsunami wristbands are on sale in February with delivery in March. A video showing the delivery of supplies (gathered by the Cub Scouts) to Afghanistan was shown on the Morning News.

Auction: Carole reported that the auction committee recommends we do an on-line auction again next year. She noted, though, that this doesn’t preclude us from doing some sort of parent social as well. Carole made a **motion** that we hold an on-line auction again next year. Melinda Burroughs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Yearbook: Barbara Borrelli, Cheryl Thompson, and Patty Knight have taken over the production of this year’s yearbook. Because there are so many clubs and groups, pictures will be taken at their meetings instead of during school hours.

PTA Newsletter: Martha Parsons reminded everyone that the deadline for the next newsletter is February 7.

Old Business

- **International “Tasting” Dinner:** The International “Tasting” Dinner will be held in conjunction with Literacy Night in April. Ronnie Hanpeter and Bridget Jennison will coordinate.
- **“Mantua From Above”:** John said that T-shirts, posters, and mouse pads will be made with the “MANTUA” picture from the helicopter fly-over. Flyers will be sent home soon with purchase information.

New Business

- **Lido Place Sidewalks:** John reported that the MCA is working to get the sidewalks put in on Lido Place leading up to the school property. Since there is competition with other county construction projects, the MCA is allocating \$5,000 toward the project and is asking the PTA to make a donation as well. Allen Clark made a **motion** that we allocate \$1,000 of PTA funds to go to this sidewalk project. Melinda Burroughs seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- **Whom We Serve—Total Communication:** Tina Tingler made a presentation describing the TC program at Mantua and showed slides of classrooms in action. Currently 45 students (preschool through 6th grade) are in the TC program and represent a range of hearing loss. She said the goal of the TC program is to give these students a “language” so that they are not separated from other students. She also highlighted the TC After School Program where students stay after school once a week for activities while their parents attend signing classes. This program insures that the parents (as well as other family members) are able to communicate with their children.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of January 5, 2005.

A motion carried to approve the funding for \$9,400 of Principal Wish Lists items including classroom supplies, projectors, books, phonics kits, strategy games, and a color laser printer

A motion carried to have an on-line auction again next year.

A motion carried to allocate \$1,000 of PTA funds to go to the Lido Place sidewalk project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Nancy Robinson
Secretary