

DRAFT
Notes of the Mantua PTA
May 4, 2005
Mantua Elementary School

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

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

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Cheryl Thompson, Janet Sottolano, and Tim Harazin.*

Board Members: *Lauren Brandman, Patti Prutch, and Martha Parson.*

General Membership: *Melissa Morgan, Melinda Burroughs, Eric Kirkland, Jane Proseri, Kate Marosek, and Donna McGrath.*

Nathan Merrells made a **motion** that the minutes of the April 6, 2005 meeting be approved. Cheryl May seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cheryl May distributed the Income Statement for the ten months ending April 30, 2005. She noted that there will be some additional expenses in June. She also reminded everyone to turn in any items for reimbursement by the end of June as the books will be closed out at that time.

John Jennison made the following announcements:

- We had a great Literacy Night and Heritage Night, with a good show of diversity and heritage.
- The Kena Temple is still looking to the PTA to head up the selling of spots for the September yard sale that will be held on their property. John will float the idea again to see if anyone in PTA is interested in heading this up.

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

- Literacy/Heritage Night was beautiful. The teachers worked hard getting their classrooms ready. She also noted that Heritage Night brought out a lot of parents that normally don't attend school events.
- ESOL testing ended in April and the SOLs start in May. Parents need to help their kids stay in their school routines during testing and with nice weather coming on.
- They are beginning to meet with grade level teams to plan for next year.
- They are working on developing a checklist for parents to fill out regarding the placement of their children with teachers for the next year. This will take the place of the letters that some parents write. More information will be coming home about this.

- She attended the National Association of Elementary School Principals conference recently. She said there were a number of good presentations, particularly by Dr. Edward Hallowell, a renowned expert on ADHD. She will put together a summary of that information for teachers and parents who may need this information. She is also considering doing a presentation or book discussion with parents on some of the books written by Dr. Hallowell.

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

- Regina Lactot is the new parent liaison on staff. She is the point of contact for new families, as well as helps all parents with questions and problems.
- There is a TC play coming up.
- She thanked everyone for their help and support during the time that her husband was recovering from a terrible car accident.

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

- They need someone to head up the yearbook next year, as well as a Cultural Arts representative.
- The Frost area band preformed this past month.
- There was a wonderful turnout and time at the faculty/parent basketball game. However, she was very disappointed with the behavior of some of the children in attendance at the game. She said they will have more adult supervision next year.
- They made \$1,700 at the faculty/parent basketball game. The SCA will use the money to buy a Rocky Raccoon outfit (instead of continually renting one).
- May is SOL month. They are writing letters to the School Board about how much time testing is taking.

Special Presentation

A special presentation on Virginia education funding and testing was made by State Senator Jeannemarie Devolities Davis.

- Noted that 50% of Virginia's budget goes to education. In addition, this year there were several tax increases which led to a budget surplus. Much of that surplus went to under funded education items.
- Discussed the national education initiative, No Child Left Behind. She noted that Virginia already had the SOL program in place and so was lucky in that we didn't need to scramble to qualify for this program.
- Pointed out that if states don't participate in the No Child Left Behind program, they lose their federal education funding. However, because of complexities to comply with this program, the Virginia Assembly has asked the Virginia Board of Education to conduct an analysis to determine how much it costs to comply with the No Child Left Behind program versus how much funding is gotten from the federal government. If it doesn't match, Virginia will drop out of No Child Left Behind. She pointed out that other states have begun to do this.

Principal's Wish List

Cheryl May reported that there is not a lot left to do in the PTA budget year and that we still have a healthy balance. She recommended that we fund some additional items from the Principal's Wish List. This Wish List is a list of needed items that was put together by the administration and teachers in January and voted upon in February by the PTA. These items were not funded by the on-line auction and remain critical to the school. The items needed are four projectors, two smart boards, and five lap tops. Cheryl made a **motion** to fund four projectors (for \$4,000) in May and revisit the other items in June. Melinda Burroughs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Kids Care Club: The Raccoon Run will be held on May 14.

Nominations: Kate Marosek and Jane Prospero announced the slate to be nominated for next year's PTA Board. They include: May Jo Kavjian (President), Donna Yudkin (1st Vice President), Cheryl May (Treasurer), Carole Thomas (2nd Vice President), and Elizabeth Wasserman/Cherie Curry (Co-Secretaries). Nancy Robinson made a **motion** to accept the slate. Martha Parsons seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Newsletter: Martha Parsons said there will be a newsletter coming out the end of May and to get submissions to her accordingly.

New Business

- **Eagle Scout Project**—Daniel Hooks, a Boy Scout from Troop 1533, made a proposal to the PTA regarding his Eagle Scout project. He would like to construct a three-tier staircase on the side of the school by the playground. He would also plant junipers in this area to aid in the stopping of erosion. He said this project, which would cost approximately \$930, would increase the aesthetics, safety, and usage of this area. Lauren Brandman made a **motion** to fund up to \$1,000 toward landscaping and beautification of the playground. Nathan Merrells seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- **PTA Closet Clean Up**—John reported that the PTA closet is getting cluttered again and all committees need to clean their stuff out.
- **Neighborhood Watch/MCA Program**—John reported that there will be a presentation in the school cafeteria on May 5 by the police regarding the recent crimes and vandalism that have occurred in Mantua. In addition, Joe Draper will present an anti-drug program.
- **Whom We Serve**—Distance Learning Lab: Tim Harazin invited everyone down to the Distance Learning Lab following the meeting for a tour.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of April 6, 2005.

A motion carried to fund four projectors (for \$4,000) in May and revisit the other Principal's Wish List items in June.

A motion carried to approve the slate for next year's PTA Board.

A motion carried to fund up to \$1,000 toward landscaping and beautification of the playground.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Nancy Robinson
Secretary