

Notes of the Mantua PTA
November 3, 2004
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, Carole Thomas, and Nancy Robinson.*

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Janet Sottolano, and Cheryl Thompson.*

Board Members: *Laura Mead, Beth Whitehead, Jeannine Davies, Martha Parsons, Peter Brandman, Pam Promisel, and Jeriann Mikesh.*

General Membership: *Donna McGrath, Peri Ulrey, and Jennifer McKenzie.*

Nancy Robinson made a **motion** that the minutes of the October 6, 2004 meeting be approved. Carole Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cheryl May distributed the Income Statement for the four months ending September 30, 2004. She noted that we are where we should be in terms of budget and that we'll see more activity during December through March.

John Jennison presented the **Announcements:**

- There will be a Woodson Coalition meeting on November 4 at the JCC regarding promoting a safe and drug-free community.
- There will be a Cluster III meeting on November 11 at Woodson. Dr. Dale, the new Superintendent, will speak about his vision for FCPS. All PTA officers and school administrators are encouraged to attend.
- The MCA has asked for access to the parent email accounts that the PTA holds. The MCA would like this information to use in contacting parents regarding upcoming community activities. After much discussion, the Board decided to protect the privacy of parents' emails. Instead, something will be put in an Alert News providing a link to the MCA website so that interested parents can sign up for emails if they are interested.

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

- She welcomed Cheryl Thompson back from vacation and noted that Tina Tingler is recovering well from her surgery and should be back to work by mid-November.
- Much staff training has occurred in October.

- Visitors from a government-funded group came to look at Mantua's use of technology. They are looking into thoughtful integration of technology in education.
- The Italian teacher has been found, and they are in the process of hiring her. In addition, a replacement for Ms. Woodburn has also been hired.
- Manny Ayala, the Building Supervisor, has moved to another school.

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

- There is a lot of activity in November including CogAt testing, Drama Club performances, the Thanksgiving luncheons and the Book Fair.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Mantua PTA Newsletter: Martha Parsons reported that the deadline for the first newsletter is November 8. Please email her any submissions.

Auction: Carole Thomas reported that the auction website is live as of November 1. She encouraged everyone to forward the website on to all their family and friends. Carole also noted that donations from the sponsors have helped us already reach half of the projected income target.

Gift Wrap: Jeannine Davies reported that we earned \$16,000 from the gift-wrap program. She noted that this is her last year as chair of this committee. Jeannine made a **motion** that we sign up to do the Sally Foster fundraiser again next year. Laura Mead seconded. The motion carried.

Basketball: Laura Mead reported that 280 kids are signed up and that there will be 36 teams. She noted that evaluations will be held this weekend and practice will begin in December.

Frost Liaison: Laura Mead spoke about two upcoming programs at Frost that are open to parents and students. On November 8, there will be a program on the use of drugs and household products. On November 23, there will be a speaker on making responsible choices.

Kids Care Club: Jennifer Cooper said they need more volunteers to help with leaf raking for elderly Mantuans. She also said they are collecting eyeglasses for charity.

Woodson RENEW: John Jennison reported that FCPS is soliciting comments on the proposed plans for the Woodson renovation project.

Old Business

Drama Club: Beth Whitehead reported that everything is coming together for the performances later this month.

Playground Vandalism: Beth Whitehead asked if any information had been received on the vandalism that occurred on the playground in September. John said no one came forward with information.

Jan-Marie noted that they are experiencing an increase in inappropriate behavior around the playground, especially the preschool playground where equipment is frequently found damaged or broken. It was suggested that a “No Trespassing” sign be posted on the fence that surrounds the preschool playground.

Much discussion also ensued regarding the disrespect shown in the bathrooms. Again, Jan-Marie noted that disrespect of public property—both in the bathrooms as well as the cafeteria—has become a huge problem. It was discussed that parents must be made aware of these problems and talk with their children at home about them. John suggested that he and Nathan talk further with Jan-Marie to identify the problems and possible solutions.

New Business

- **Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration Series:** Peri Ulrey spoke about a series of performances that are held on weekends at the Kennedy Center for children and their parents. She asked whether the PTA would be able to pay for buses to take interested families in to see these shows. It was suggested that Peri get some information about this series out to the general membership and see whether people are interested in a program like this.
- **“Whom we serve”:** John Jennison noted that Mantua serves several segments of the school population including ESOL, TC, and GT. He proposed that a short presentation on each of these groups at each monthly meeting would be of educational value to everyone on the PTA. It was agreed to move ahead with this plan.
- **Over enrollment:** Moved to next meeting.
- **International Dinner:** Jennifer Cooper proposed an International Dinner in February to celebrate the various cultures at Mantua. Parents would bring in food to share that represents their cultures. It was agreed that this dinner would be held in conjunction with the February PTA meeting.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of October 6, 2004.

A motion carried sign up for the Sally Foster fundraiser again next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Nancy Robinson
Secretary