

**Notes of the Mantua PTA
September 8, 2004
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, Carole Thomas, and Nancy Robinson.*

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

Board Members: *Laura Mead, Peter Brandman, Mary Rustick, Randi Kirkland, Beth Whitehead, Mary Townley, Jeannine Davies, Linda Halstead, DeeAnn Jeremiah, Chris Purcell, Jennifer Cooper, Pam Promisel, Martha Parsons, Rob Luftglass, Jeriann Mikesch, and Laura Samotshozo.*

General Membership: *Loren Brandman, Melinda Burroughs, Lynn Swanson, Patti Taheri, Monica Cameron, Traci Fisher, Llundup Dorjee, Jane Prospero, Jim Trump, Chris Willard, Margarita Brown, and Rocio Rosas.*

Nancy Robinson made a **motion** that the minutes of the June 2, 2004 meeting be approved. Beth Whitehead seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cheryl May reported that the Audit Committee completed its annual review of the PTA financial records for the period of July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 and found them to be correct. The committee consisted of Jeanne Baker, Mary Rollins and Sarah Schneider. The committee did make a few recommendations, including requiring that all funds accepted by the Treasurer be accompanied by a signed Cash Receipts Report.

Cheryl reported that the proposed 2004/2005 budget will be voted upon at Back-to-School nights. She also said she had issued checks to the teachers this week for their use in setting up their classrooms. Several thank-you notes from the teachers were passed around.

John Jennison presented the **Announcements:**

- Teacher and Principal of the Year Award nominations will be accepted soon. Volunteers are needed to prepare these applications.
- Several fundraising opportunities have come up with the following businesses: Verizon, UPS, Pizza Hut and Campbell Soup Labels. Again, volunteers are needed to manage these programs.
- Additional PTA committee chairs are still needed, particularly for Cultural Arts, Field Day and Yearbook.

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

- She welcomed everyone back and said the first several days of school have gone quite well. This year we have approximately 900 students in attendance.
- Mantua was honored on the first day of school to welcome special visitors! Dr. Jack Dale, Superintendent, Mrs. Kathy Smith, School Board Chairperson, and Mrs. Janet Oleszek, School Board Member at Large, toured Mantua. Dr. Dale greeted fourth graders in the cafeteria, observed a videoconference between a 1/2 classroom here at Mantua and a second grade class at Canterbury Woods, observed students dancing in music classes, and interacted with a number of sixth grade classrooms. Dr. Dale's visit attracted numerous news stations and newspaper reporters who joined us on the tour of Mantua.
- There was many new staff hired over the summer, including for school-based technology, art, and music.
- On August 30th, Mantua staff attended an all-day retreat at the Springfield Country Club. Staff members were engaged in games and activities that worked on team building and wellness. The retreat was paid for by a private donation.
- The Italian Embassy is funding an Italian FLEX study program for third graders. These students will learn Italian as well as Latin root words with a focus on better understanding of our language. There will also be some exposure for fourth through sixth graders.

Tina Tingler and Cheryl Thompson discussed their areas of responsibility.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Hospitality: DeeAnn Jeremiah said items were still needed for the Teachers' Breakfast that Friday. She also passed around sign-up sheets for PTA meeting snacks and drinks.

Community Spirit: Everyone was reminded of Friday night's Ice Cream Social. Volunteers are still needed to help with that event.

Principal's Coffee: The first Principal's coffee will be held at two times on September 14 at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm. The focus of this coffee will be on new families.

Gift Wrap: Jeannine Davies reported that packets went home with the Back-to-School folders. New this year is that checks only are accepted as payment.

Kids Care Club: Jennifer Cooper spoke about the Kids Care Club. She said she would like to train someone to take over the club for next year, as this is her last year at Mantua.

Woodson Renew: John Jennison reported that it appears that the Woodson renovation project may be moved ahead one year. At this point in the meeting, John turned the meeting over to Nathan Merrells. John Jennison made a **motion** that the Mantua PTA President makes a speech (along with the other pyramid PTAs) at the September School Board meeting in support of Fairfax County selling some excess land and using the

proceeds to accelerate the Woodson renovation by one year. Peter Brandman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Drama: Beth Whitehead said that there will be three plays and one mini-musical, all related to Mark Twain. Beth said there would be a lottery system for picking participants.

Old Business

PTA Bylaws: Several questions were raised regarding the current Bylaws that are under revision. These included:

- Wording that seemed to indicate that among the many proposes of the PTA was to promote the welfare of children and youth in their places of worship and to promote their spiritual education. John Jennison stated that this wording was “boilerplate” information from the Virginia PTA and could not be changed. He did say that he did not believe this wording meant the PTA was involved in any way with spiritual education or places of worship; instead, that the PTA recognizes that the children of their school may attend events at those places.
- Concern that the current Bylaws only allow the Nominating Committee to make one nomination per office. Loren Brandman made a **motion** to amend the Bylaws to say that the Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one and up to two eligible persons for each office of the Executive Committee. Laura Mead seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Clarification is needed as to which committees are considered “Standing Committees” and whether the two-year limitation on the committee chairperson applies to any of our existing committees. This issue was tabled until further research could be done.
- An unspecified amount of money is listed in the Bylaws regarding how much the Executive Committee can spend without membership approval. Laura Mead made a **motion** that \$200 be the dollar limit the Executive Committee can spend without membership approval. Nathan Merrells seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Newsletter Sponsorship: The idea of accepting sponsorships from the professional community to be published in the newsletter was proposed. The advantage is that the money raised would cover the costs of printing and could balance other budget shortfalls. However, much discussion centered on possible problems such as how sponsors would be picked (fairness issues) and what type of sponsors might respond (including some who may not be appropriate or desirable). The idea was dropped.

New Business

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2004.

A motion carried for the Mantua PTA President to speak at the September School Board meeting in support of accelerating the Woodson renovation project by one year.

A motion carried to amend the Bylaws to allow the Nominating Committee to nominate at least one and up to two eligible persons for each office of the Executive Committee.

A motion carried to specify \$200 as the dollar limit the Executive Committee can spend without membership approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Nancy Robinson
Secretary