

Notes of the Mantua PTA
May 2, 2007
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: *Mary Jo Kavjian, Terry Murphy, Elizabeth Wasserman, Maggie Weddell*

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

Board Members: *Donna McGrath, DeeAnn Jeremiah, Loan Pham, Jacqui Heller*

General Membership: *Jennifer McKenzie*

Minutes were distributed for the April 2007 meeting electronically. Terry made a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 2007 PTA meeting. Elizabeth Wasserman seconded. The motion carried.

Terry Murphy delivered the Treasurer's Report. He said the PTA had a \$51,000 cash balance as of April 30. He said the PTA would be able to fund \$15,000 this year from the Principal's Wish List.

Terry Murphy made a motion to unencumber two budget items from the previous year, a \$191 difference between what was budgeted and what was spent on a new fax machine and printer and a \$400 difference between what was budgeted and what was actually spend on a video relay system. Donna McGrath seconded. The motion was approved.

Terry Murphy said that the Magnet Art program raise almost \$3,000 for the PTA. He recommended that \$1,200 be allocated for a smart board for the art department. Donna McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

MaryJo Kavjian made the PTA **President's Report:**

- MaryJo Kavjian thanked the school administration for nominated her to Fairfax County for her work on behalf of Mantua Elementary.

Mrs. Jan-Marie Fernandez made the **Principal's Report:**

- Mrs. Fernandez said she and some other staff had recently returned from a conference at Harvard University's School of Education into brain research that was very interesting.
- Kindergarten Orientation was a success.
- The Secretaries at Mantua appreciated their recent luncheon in honor of Secretaries Appreciation Week. The Teacher Appreciation Lunch is scheduled for May 11.

- On May 7, there will be a dedication of a tree in memory of the late student Cameron McClain.

Ms. Cheryl Thompson made the following announcements:

- Sixth grade night will be held May 4, from 6-9 p.m. this year. Not only will there be a movie, but games and other activities.
- SOLs start this week.
- Field days are coming up in June and volunteers are needed.

Mrs. Tina Tingler made the following announcements:

- The after school program for TC students was a success this year, as 50 people signed up for, including seven staff members.

The following committee announcements were made:

Kids Care Club

- Donna McGrath said the Raccoon Run is scheduled for May 12. So far 200 people have signed up. Kids are still getting pledges.

Parenting Seminars

- Maggie Wedell said the PTA parenting seminars were a success. The lowest number of attendees at any one class was 18. Girl Scouts helped watch children while their parents attended.

Hands on Science

- Maggie Weddell said the Hands on Science program is going out of business. This is unfortunate because Mantua averaged about 120 students per session in a variety of before and after school classes. She said Elizabeth Johnson, who has been in charge of Mantua's program, had received information from another program, Mad Science, which we could possibly start in the fall. The Mad Science classes are more expensive -- \$104 per student/per session instead of \$60. The number of children in each class would be between 17 and 20, as opposed to 11 for Hands on Science. Maggie Weddell asked whether the PTA could supplement the cost.
- It was decided that we should revisit this topic at the next PTA meeting.

Nominating Committee

- DeeAnn Jeremiah, one of three members on the PTA nominating committee, said that we have several people in line for PTA positions next year and she should hear back whether they would accept nomination in the next week.

Old Business

Mrs. Fernandez asked that the PTA fund three items from her 2006-07 Wish List:

- A software program based on the Renzulli Learning system, which deploys strategies and helps identify age-appropriate websites to make students passionate about study areas. The cost is \$3,000 for a one year (plus bonus two months) subscription and \$1,000 for training.
- \$5,000 for staff development over the summer. Mrs. Fernandez wants to add paid teaching days this summer for K-2 teachers to help them focus on developing a systematic approach to identifying and teaching dyslexic students and 3rd grade teachers to put together an educational video from their trip to Rome last year. She is asking the PTA to fund payment for those days.
- Priority list for technology projects, including new desktop PCs for K-2 classes. \$6,000.

Terry Murphy moved to approve the Principal's Wish List items. Jennifer McKenzie seconded. The motion was approved.

New Business

Jennifer McKenzie, of the Help for the Homeless Walk for Pathway Homes, thanked Mantua for sponsoring the program last year. She asked that the school also sponsor the program this coming year. MaryJo Kavjian said she needed to check with the PE staff to determine whether this is something that they want to do.

MaryJo Kavjian moved that the next PTA meeting – her last as President – be moved to Tuesday, June 12 because she will be out of town the first week in June. Terry Murphy seconded. The motion was approved.

Motions Carried

Adoption of Minutes for April 2007 PTA meeting.
 Unencumbering of \$191 and \$400 from the budget.
 Allocation of \$1,200 from Magnet Art fundraiser for smart board for art department.
 Allocation of \$15,000 for the Principal's Wish List initiatives.
 Rescheduling of next PTA meeting to Tuesday, June 12.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Cherie Curry and Elizabeth Wasserman
 Co-Secretaries