

**Notes of the Mantua PTA
January 1, 2009
Mantua Elementary School**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Bob Greene, Trish Williams, Nicole Armstrong, Julie Lifland, Ken Moles, Amy Ivey

School Representatives: Mrs. Jan-Marie Fernandez, Ms. Cheryl Thompson, Mrs. Tina Tingler, Mrs. Janet Sottolano

General Membership: Martha Berlowitz, Diane Peterson, Mark Randall, Matthew Randall, Ron Hunter, MaryJo Kavjian, CeeCee Young, Jacqui Heller,

Minutes were distributed for the December 2008 meeting electronically and in print. Bob Greene made a motion to adopt the minutes from the December 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved.

President's Report : Bob Greene announced that the Boy Scouts and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program were going to provide presentations.

Boy Scouts' Presentation : Mark Randall and his 7th grade son Matthew Randall presented a slide show of the many scouting activities that have recently taken place. Mark related that this is the 42nd year of Troup 1533 which was chartered through the Mantua PTA in 1967. A great variety of activities are now offered. Many services are now provided by the Scouts including land scaping, cleanup projects, food pantry work, and the recent placement of coat hooks in the school.

He related that the Scouts would like to maintain their support from the community. He was asked to provide Eagle Scouts for project volunteerism.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program Presentation: Martha Berlowitz presented a slide show of the children in the program. She thanked the PTA for helping to sponsor the after school program which was started in 2002. The program allows signing students to mingle in various ways including tutoring for homework, field trips, and other activities. This year's focus is exercise. Plans have been made for the focus of future years.

Diane Peterson noted that there is a need for support and that all the manpower for this program is volunteer.

Mrs. Fernandez announced that there has been an anonymous donation of \$1500.00 for this program.

It was noted that Sign Language has been taught for parents and siblings as well. Time constraints are a major hurdle preventing this. Mrs. Fernandez noted plans for the possible use of video phone technology to facilitate this process.

Bob Greene noted that the PTA was unable to submit information in time to meet the deadline for the State Teacher Recognition Award.

Fairgrade is being discussed tomorrow at Luther Jackson Middle School.

In the current bad economy, additional fundraisers are being sought and continued. Bingo was suggested as a possibility.

Treasurer's Report: Julie Lifland noted that Spirit Wear met budget. The Paypal account has been set up. The Weddell family donated 4 bookcases to the PTA. The activities sponsored by the PTA are on average 7% under budget currently.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Fernandez congratulated Mrs. Tingler who is expecting. She noted that the Fire Marshall required removal of the front lobby Winter Holiday decorations due to multiple violations. The staff is currently developing ideas to allow next year's decorations to occur.

The Winter Sing-along went well.

Every public school in the state has been mandated to have a functioning Human Relations Committee. Mantua had a Parent representative this year. The first meeting is 1/15/09. It will consist of volunteers and meet once monthly. The purpose is to address cultural and group sensitivities and to allow a conduit for expression of wishes. The expectation is to be better regarding these issues.

Ms. Thompson noted several dates: Winter Choral concert – 1/12/09 at 7p.m.

Winter Strings concert – 2/3/09 at 7p.m.

Winter Band concert – 2/11/09 at 7p.m.

She also noted that IOWA Testing for 6th graders is 1/29/09. Most test takers will come from the GT program. Permission letters are to be sent out.

Mrs. Tingler noted several dates: School closed 1/26 -27

Colonial day 2/19

Report of First Co-Vice President for Community Outreach :

Trish Williams expressed appreciation to Jacqui Heller for Spirit Wear sales. Jacqui noted that the vendor was changed this year.

Parent Education has not been scheduled yet.

The Talent show plans are moving forward. 2 meetings are planned with Jeri Gloege.

FLEX is adding classes. 2 Spanish classes and 1 Sign class.

The Carnival theme is "Going Green". Missy Greene is chairing.

Report of Second Vice President for Membership and Fundraising :

Nicole Armstrong noted 25 more memberships due to the directory being available.

Susie Kaiser is unable to chair the PTA Auction due to health reasons. Nicole is taking lead on this. It will be online only and run 2/1- 2/15/09. Considering advertising in newspapers and other communications. It was suggested that we place a tear out card in the directory for next year to help with the auction.

New Business :

A Virginia flag was mailed to the PTA by Chap Peterson for the auction. The flag has been flown over Richmond.

Talent show information was presented: Auditions next Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Mon/Tue in the Upper Pod, Wed in the Cafeteria.

Call backs will occur the following week.

Dress Rehearsal for Act I on 1/29 in Gym, for Act II 1/30 in Gym.

Talent show will occur 1/31. Setup at 3:30. Starts at 6 p.m. Food will be sold.

Paperless System – Considering only online Alert News for next year. Will have few hard copies available.

Amy Ivey reviewed “Enough is Enough”, an internet safety workbook received by the PTA. This facilitators workbook is designed to make parents more savvy and children more aware. An instructor would be needed if we are to use as an instructional tool. Mrs Fernandez noted that all staff go through I-Safe program and portions of this are already shown to the 6th graders. She noted that we should place a copy of the workbook in the Parent Resource Section of the library. It was noted that we should create a person/committee for this purpose at the next meeting. Mrs. McConnel was felt to be a good point person for this project.

Amy Ivey attended and reported on the Elementary Progress Report Risk Analysis Group. She provided a handout. Change of Report Cards is being discussed. She will attend 1 more focus group. Mrs. Fernandez noted that streamlining the report cards has been in discussion for many years and that elementary teachers spend a large amount of time manually producing reports.

Ms. Thompson represented Mantua at the teachers focus group on this topic. It was noted that media coverage of the 2/12/09 Coffee with the Principal should be discussed at the 2/4/09 PTA meeting.

Motions Carried

Adoptions of minutes for December 3, 2008 meeting approved.

Adjournment: 8:45 p.m.

Ken Moles
Secretary