

PTA Board Meeting Notes
April 7, 2010
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Nicole Armstrong, Lori Prendergast, Amy Ivey, Julie Lifland, Teresa Willebeek-LeMair, Monica Cameron

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

General Membership: Shannon Murphy, Malia Eckert

The minutes from the January and March meetings were reviewed and approved.

Presidents Report: The national PTA board has received the updated by-laws and we will know at the end of the month if they are approved. Nicole has been talking with a representative from Patty Reed's office and it doesn't appear that dates/times will work in the spring and has requested she speak in the fall. Nicole also mentioned to Patty Reed's office that there are several community events that Mantua would welcome her attendance. Each grade level teacher will work on a letter to each respective rising grade outlining what to expect in the coming year and in hopes to prepare them better. The current plan is to have the letters be included in the "First Day" packets at Open House.

Treasurer's Report: The auction was under-budget. The carnival was also under-budget but so were expenses which allowed the school to meet budget expectations. Other items such as DVD sales, online Sally Foster etc. have brought in extra funds as well.

Principals Report: Mantua is not as old as originally thought! The actual opening of the school was 1961 verses 1960 so Mrs. Fernandez is looking at spring of 2011 for a celebration. Mantua received the 2010 Governor's Excellence in Education award and there is a banner hanging at the entrance to Mantua Elementary. Monday, April 12 is a make-up day as well as a full day of school. April 21 there will be a Special Education event. The week of May 3 is Teacher Appreciation Week. Kindergarten orientation is May 3. Spring Strings concert is May 12. Cluster III's Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Cecy Krill, is retiring so they are starting the search process for a replacement. Tina Tingler has made arrangements to order materials for parents in the deaf program. Thanks were given for the basket that was given for Administrator's Appreciation Week. Mrs. Fernandez is a finalist for Virginia's National Distinguished Principal (NDP) Award. Mrs. Fernandez added that if you win you are awarded by the President of the United States at the White House and represent Virginia for a year. Mrs. Thompson said thank you for the gifts celebrating Administrator's Appreciation Week. Bailey's elementary has invited Mantua to participate in a faculty basket-ball game. The game will be June 4 at 7:00PM at Jeb Stuart High School. More details are forth-coming. Someone asked if there had been any update regarding the school budget. Mrs. Fernandez responded that she met with Dr. Dale and currently all the programs the school is concerned about will remain in place (full-day K, band and strings, FLES, etc). Further, they are not anticipating increasing class sizes. The concern is the following year because the state did two things: the state gave less money to each county and also lessened the amount each county has to pay into teacher retirement accounts. The concern is that the money will have to be paid into that account at some point. Currently they are looking at a budget surplus but will have to hold that money to put into the retirement account which puts all the saved programs in danger again. Some programs and fees did remain in the budget (i.e. Fifth grade trip to Wolf Trap, increases in sports fees, cutting summer school). Mrs. Fernandez is hopeful that when she starts on staffing on April 23 there will not be cuts. Additionally, the school board gives schools 85% of their administrative budget at the beginning of the year with the remaining 15% released toward the end of the school. Next year they will no longer do that essentially cutting the budget.

Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach: Deirdre Mayes is looking for Spanish Teachers for next year's FLEX program. The last Family Fun Night is April 23 and one more Restaurant night in May. The board is looking for someone to take over running the Mentor Works program.

Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising: The Carnival was wonderful. Teresa is beginning to work on re-vamping the volunteer sign-up sheets. Mrs. Thompson asked attendees to have their children write a thank-you to Mrs. Babb, the cafeteria mom. A volunteer social to thank all the volunteers is in the works. Mrs. Fernandez is looking into software that would automatically calculate volunteers instead of doing it by hand. Mrs. Fernandez noted an upgraded security system has been installed at the school. It's a bell you have to ring in order to be let in. As school buses are arriving, the doors will be open/unlocked and when school is in session they will be locked.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm