

PTA Board Meeting Notes  
October 7, 2009  
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM. Present at the meeting were:

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

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

**General Membership:** Shannon Murphy, Melinda Burroughs, Debra Hunter, Debby Davis, Erin Chaveria, Jung Kim, Raisha Vaidya, Daya Kugarajah, Soyoung Kwoon, Eunjung Kim, Youseon Seo, Hyunsook Kim, Diane Schenk, Christie Choi, Joanne Choe, Jacquie Heller, Hey Jung Chin, Dongho "Don" Kang, Laurentia Ruby

At 6:40 PM Mantua ES President Jan-Marie Fernandez gave a presentation about brain research and the impact on children and learning.

Minutes from the October 7, 2009 meeting were distributed electronically and in print. Teresa Willebeek-LeMair made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved. Mrs. Fernandez added that the budget is really not looking good noting that increasing class sizes and cutting full-day kindergarten will save us significant money. The long-term concern is that once we get rid of full-day K, Mantua will be placed back in line to get full-day K back which could take years.

**Presidents Report:** Nicole noted that the by-laws need to be updated prior to being voted on in February and needs people to set up a committee to work on that. Nicole stated that FCPS is currently working on the budget for 2010-2011 with numerous programs under review to be cut. Saturday November 14 at 10 AM at the Kings Park, Sherwood Regional and George Mason libraries is the final opportunity to provide input regarding the proposed cuts. The PTA website will be posting links to advocacy groups fighting certain cuts. The PTA has not endorsed any of these groups but wants to ensure the information is available to everyone. It was asked if a fund could be set up to help pay for extra activities like foreign language and band. It is difficult to do that because those programs are county-wide, and the PTA cannot pay teacher salaries. The PTA has increased its budget for 'supplies' to pitch in with school needs, in order to help the school concentrate on keeping as many teachers & support staff as possible. Any extra money the PTA has at the end of the year goes to help the school. It was asked if the cost of testing ever comes up. Mrs. Fernandez stated that SOL is required by the state. It was asked if parents could be asked to volunteer in classrooms where there are larger

numbers of students. Mrs. Fernandez noted that you need to be careful because of confidentiality issues. The student directory is going to print and will be distributed to PTA member parents. A parent has begun to translate and distribute the Alert News to families speaking Mandarin-Chinese. A Spanish translator is needed for the Alert News and can contact Nicole Armstrong for more information. Feedback is needed from class parents as to who in their classroom is getting the Alert News. Woodson is having a re-dedication this coming Saturday at 10 AM. There was a recent recorded message that went out in the neighborhood that stated she was a PTA member and wanted people to vote for a certain candidate. Nicole noted that this person is not on the PTA Executive Board, and the PTA and the school were not aware, nor approved of the message. Regarding HS re-zoning, they will be looking at Annandale HS and getting over-crowding under control. Nothing has been announced regarding Woodson which is currently under-enrolled. The person who won the Providence District for School Board had stated previously that she would not support Woodson being involved in this boundary study. The FCPS website advertises when the Comprehensive Planning Committee meets, which is open to anyone who wants to attend and get more information. Information on the latest H1H1 vaccinations was passed around to all in attendance.

**Treasurers Report:** Julie Lifland noted that we received the latest tax exempt form which is now available online for use for PTA purchases. Sally Foster did extremely well, bringing in \$2,000 more than projected.

**Principals Report:** Mrs. Fernandez reminded everyone about the Swine Flu. The school is moving into high absences at this time. The school has not been on alert which is good news. If there is an alert a letter will be sent home. Some classes have 5-6 kids out and some staff members have been ill but so far everyone is doing OK. Thanks were given to Cheryl and Brian for the fabulous Spirit Parade last Friday, October 30. Welcome back was given to Tina Tingler who returned from maternity leave. Mrs. Thompson noted e-cart testing will begin this week (math and reading) for grades 3-6. Thanksgiving lunches will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November. The book fair will be held that week as well. November 25<sup>th</sup> will have a 2 hour early closing (1:35). The Thanksgiving luncheon forms are also available online. The Mantua Food For Others food drive will start November 10 and run through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was noted Halloween candy is acceptable. 3,000 lbs of food was donated last year! For winning purposes it's the number of items, not the weight.

**Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach:** Diane Schenk showed off the new Kids Care Club t-shirts which were 100% donated and gave some to Mrs. Fernandez and Mrs. Thompson. The October Kids Care Club meeting was a huge success with the bird feeders. The next big event will be for hospitalized kids and the

collection box will be put out after Thanksgiving. Regarding raking it will be done more toward the second leaf pick-up and information will be available once that date is known. Drama Club is putting together posters and flyers advertising the upcoming play, Peter Pan. Peter Pan will be on November 20 and 21. Interpreters will be at the afternoon show. Basketball is ready to start after Thanksgiving. Chess club enrollment maxed out at 60. Pokemon night was a huge success and the next night out is coming up at Noodles & Co. Parenting workshops are going well with 50 people enrolled. They are working on coordinating a larger event for the spring or next fall. They are open to suggestions/ideas for the workshops, especially the spring.

**Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising:** The book fair is coming up and volunteers are needed. 150 yearbooks have been sold to date before the price goes up in December. The idea of selling them at the Thanksgiving luncheon was discussed. Carnival chairs are needed and a list will be sent out for what positions are needed. Room parents are in every class except one, which is great. The room parents have been asked to touch base with every family to verify they are getting the Alert News. Shannon Murphy noted that 325 members are now part of the PTA. 50 new families also joined last month. We are on target for the numbers from last year. It was discussed the possibility of selling directories at the Thanksgiving luncheon and it will be discussed offline about getting volunteers.

**New Business:** Flyers for the talent show will go out in December. Artistic Concepts came out and they are working on the light board and tweaked the sound board for free.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm