

PTA Board Meeting Notes

April 6, 2011

Mantua Elementary School

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

Executive Board: Nicole Armstrong, Lori Recher, Sandy Spector, Teresa LeMair

School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler

General Membership: Julie Lifland, Shannon Murphy, Leslie Kolwalski, Diane Schenk, Karen Gaughan

The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed and approved.

President's Report: Summer Camp suggestions are being posted in the front lobby. People can e-mail Nicole with items to post. Dr. Dale has issued a proposal on the Fairfax County Disciplinary Process. A possible congressional redistricting of Mantua is being looked into. This would involve splitting Mantua into 2 Congressional Districts. At a recent hearing, the MCA officers were present to voice their objections. This process is probably driven by the census results, so that all of the political parties are trying to keep their majorities. The annual NVA PTA Awards Dinner is coming up. The documentary "Race to Nowhere" is being sponsored by Annandale Coop Preschool April 10th at Cinema Arts, 7:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at RacetoNowhere.com. Tickets will be 10\$ online or 15\$ at door. Jan-Marie noted that the title is a play on the "Race to the Top", which is the Dept. of Education's motto.

Treasurer's Report: The Carnival - income is in at \$22,000. We still need the monies raised from the Jewelry Sale, and the check for the Kettle Corn just arrived, but is not reflected in the Treasurer's report as of yet. Printer cartridges returns have raised \$1000 recently. A flag was raised that this seemed like a lot of money, as it was only budgeted for \$125? Restaurant nights - Chick-Fil-A receipts are not in the report yet. Approx. \$300 was raised. The Talent Show didn't happen this year, and was budgeted at \$1500 income and \$700 expense. Yearbook will get settled near the end of the year. For Carnival expenses, there may be a couple of invoices outstanding. The trophies for basketball have already been paid for.

Principals' Report: March was another busy month. The Hispanic Family Gathering was held March 4th. Approx. 5 families attended. The Pyramid Art Show was held on March 15th. Some of our students showed their work. March 22nd was the Town Hall meeting for boundary discussion, with clusters 2 & 3(Fairhill) and people from Facilities. Both principals attended, as well as some Mantua families and Nicole. There were very strong opinions for both cases (coming here or not). A group of parents had initiated this process, and Patti Reed has taken it on. Jan-Marie is hopeful that the existing families can

chose where they'd like to go. New families would be coming to Mantua. Both schools already go to Frost and Woodson. This redefinition should clean up the split boundary that goes to Fairhill. The decision should be made soon, since staffing happens at the end of April, and this would also effect SAC. Today was the first day of Human Growth and Development for 5th and 6th grade. There was a Parent Meeting last week for parents who wanted to review the tapes. Tomorrow Night is Heritage night (in the gym), and Literacy Night (in the classrooms). Spring break is April 18-22. First week back from break is Secretary's Week. May 2nd is Kindergarten Orientation. The After School Program for the Deaf closed last Thursday, and they had an Amazing Race end of year party/event.

Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach: The Kids Care Club collected approx. 1500 books for their book drive. The MOMs club gave around 150 books. The Raccoon Run is coming up on May 7th (Saturday) 8:00/8:30 times. In June, Kids Care Club will have 2 final activities - a food drive with the Student Council, and a Lost and Found cleanup. The club is looking for a leader for next school year.

Leslie Kowalski reported that some Mantua graduates went to Destination Imagination and received 3rd place. The team is willing to show what it's about for anyone interested in the program for the next school year. Leslie feels she now has a better sense of how to sell it to the students, and asked the PTA to consider monies for the team. The estimated cost is \$200 per team. Chat n Chew was a great success. Having the meetings at lunch time was pretty successful. Leslie suggested having the librarians work on the book lists. Jan Marie suggested that Amy Sheridan is a good resource for putting together a book list.

Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising: Carnival did very well financially. A survey produced the following results: 72% said they preferred getting the prizes at the booths. 87% said wrist bands were an improvement. Feedback was that \$20 was too much for the wristbands. We will need to budget more for prizes next year, as we went through our existing inventory. Julie was happy that the raffle is no longer a part of the carnival. One suggestion was to include the winning cakes from the cake walk as part of the Silent Auction. The Rock Wall was a big success, but it was suggested that we have 2 lines for that. With regards to the 5\$ punch cards - volunteers were forgetting to mark them off, which resulted in some complaints (why bother to buy the \$20 wristband?). We need more prize bags for next year. Phone calls came in from some of the local realtors asking what they could do. They could be potential sponsors for the bags? It was also suggested to have Sharpies at the table for writing names on the bags- there were issues with bags stolen or misplaced. Karen reported that the Jewelry Sale made \$1300, minus expenses. Extra leftover jewelry may be used as a raffle for the teachers (or a door prize), or saved till next year's sale.

There is the possibility of doing Sally Foster in late Sept/Oct. Sally Foster is heading back towards their old format, and selling Entertainment Books as well. Kids get a prize if they sell the book or bring theirs back. The fall raffle may be moved to November.

Report of the Volunteer Coordinator: Secretary Appreciation Week is coming up. Teacher Appreciation is the week after that. Teresa will be sending an e-mail to parents. This year the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon will be extended (12:00 - 1:30). Field Day is coming up as well. Teresa noted

that there were less volunteers for the Carnival, and a trend of less volunteering in general.

New Business: The Alert News inclusion about cyber bullying was mentioned. There was a speaker at Frost on cyber bullying who was quite effective, and the question was raised if the PTA could consider having him come to speak to the 6th grade. He spoke to the parents at Frost, but could speak to the kids as well. Jan-Marie mentioned that they spend a lot of time on this topic, particularly in the 5th & 6th grades. Ms. Dunfee spends a lot of time training them in the computer lab. The training includes inappropriate uses that could happen. This is a possibility for a spring Parent Education, or children's assembly for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16.