

PTA Board Meeting Notes

October 6, 2010

Mantua Elementary School

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

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

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

General Membership: Donna Hoover, Diane Schenk, Monica Cameron, Jennifer Lucas, Tyler Smith, Wayne Hudders, Margaret Falardeau, Christine Choi, Bob Greene, Monika Brenner, Shannon Murphy, Sandra Spectz,

Annandale Boundary Discussion - Providence District School Board Rep. Patty Reed attended the meeting to give us a status report on the Regional Planning Study, which is focused on the overcrowding of Annandale HS/Poe MS, and the new Lacey ES. Patty states she is our advocate for the process, and at this time she is primarily focused on making the process transparent, and encouraging everyone to remain active. She's also advocating that the pyramid concept and community spirit need to be protected. Regional meetings are being held once a month. Currently School Board members have no role in the study since this portion of the process is for community representatives on the Study committee to research the situation and come up with recommended solutions to FCPS. Then FCPS will evaluate and make formal recommendations to the School Board. Mantua ES is not part of the study right now and therefore we do not have a seat on the Study committee. Frost MS and Woodson HS are included, however. Every few years enrollment is evaluated, and there is no way to avoid this process. This study covers school boundaries and is not neighborhood bound. If Mantua becomes part of the evaluation, Mantua PTA will be the voice for all of Mantua Elementary. There are provisions for grandfathering for children that are already enrolled. Grandfathering does not apply to the entire pyramid. Recommendations from the study will be made in January '11.

Woodson Bus Depot - The corner of Little River Turnpike and Pickett is under consideration as a bus depot for Woodson HS. The County needs to find a place to house approximately 50 school buses. There will be a meeting in Dec.

The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. Cafeteria Hostess Rosalin Akechian's name was incorrect in the list of new hires. This also needs to be corrected on the Mantua Elementary web site. The amended minutes were approved.

President's Report: Nicole reported that the Chess Club had originally advertised that it would be open to 3rd graders. It will, regretfully, only be open to grades 4-6. Any 3rd graders that had signed up will be contacted.

Treasurer's Report:

There is an adjustment to the budget for Chat n Chew. This adjustment is for \$200. Sandy also pointed out that the Basketball expense of \$1500 was from the last school year, but was not paid until this year.

Principals' Report: Jan Marie Fernandez reported that September was a very busy month. The Back to School nights went well. The school is now looking forward to the Spirit Parade (Oct. 29th), and the Thanksgiving Luncheons (Nov. 17 & 18). The entire school system is "gung ho" about the mini- assessments for children having difficulties. This will be a big focus for this year. Everyone is also excited about the movement-focus being introduced this year. Every 17 minutes the kids are doing something to get them moving. Movement can be very brief; it's designed to keep them engaged. Mr. Martinelli is heading up this program, and is creating videos with Rocky Raccoon. Teachers can use these videos, as well as demonstrate the movements themselves. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for the beginning of Nov.

On Oct 20th, at 7 pm in the school library, there will be an information meeting on the Advanced Academics program.

Tina Tingler relayed the staff's appreciation for the Welcome Back Breakfast. Regarding the redesign of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing program, community input is currently being collected. FCPS is looking to consolidate the DHH programs from three nearby schools into one school. Tina will also be looking into reports of technical problems with Parent Portal/Blackboard.

Cheryl Thompson reported that testing is currently underway at the school. The Naglieri test was administered this week to 1st and 2nd graders. The CogAT test will be given to grades 2-6 next week.

Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach: Lori's report was given by Nicole. Mentor Works had it's first meeting and it was well attended. Parent Education will be presenting "Parent with a Purpose" on Dec 9th at 7 pm. Neil McNerney will discuss "scream-free" parenting style. Destination Imagination will be having an information meeting with the local rep. on Oct. 25th at 7 pm. Chat n Chew's registration deadline is Oct. 29th, and adult volunteers are needed to lead discussions. The Cub Scouts currently have 91 scouts enrolled, and are still accepting applications. The next Scout meeting is Oct 21st. They are looking for opportunities for the boys to volunteer their time. Kids Care Club made 40 bird feeders that are out in back of the school. Their next activity will be in Dec. and they are looking into decorating a Senior center. In early Dec. they will also be doing their Leaf Raking for Seniors project and will be joined by the Cub Scouts. The first Family Fun Night (Pokemon Cards) is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 15th.

Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising: The Fall Box Tops contest will be starting next week and running until Nov 19th. Membership reported that [currently] 372 families have joined the PTA. This number is more than last year. The online registration is not yet activated, and may bring additional registrations. The Fall Raffle ends this week, and has exceeded it's projected revenue. The Raffle Drawing will be held at the Spirit Parade. We will still be offering Sally Foster (online only), probably beginning in Nov. The purchase of yearbooks will be done differently this year. Flyers will be sent home with the students. This will be the only opportunity to buy yearbooks, and is being handled by Josten's directly. The Book Fair will be coordinated by Sally Meyer, Arielle Zabihi, and Nancy Burns. Grocery Club registration flyers went out yesterday. All Spirit Wear orders are due by the 8th.

Report of the Volunteer Coordinator: The Volunteer database is not quite up yet. We will be sending out flyers in Tuesday folders for open positions. There are several classes that currently do not have a volunteer for Room Parent. Additionally there will be a class yearbook rep for each class, to take pictures of the class throughout the year. AAGT resource center volunteers are needed. And we are looking for K/K1 Art Room volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08