

**PTA General Meeting Notes
November 1, 2013
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 9:40 A.M.

Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Jennifer Epley, Meri Farling, Carolyn Stephan, Julie Middleton

School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler and Amy Alley

General Membership: Shannon Murphy, Deanna Freemyer, Kathy Phillips, and Rosie

Vote: The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and adopted by the membership as amended.

President's Report (Jennifer Epley): Alert News is coming electronically for most families. Email alertnews@mantuapta.org if you aren't getting it electronically.

Treasurer's Report (Carolyn Stephan): The Run for Rocky resulted in a net of \$3000. That is a pretty good outcome for the first year for this fundraiser. Income and expenses seem to be on target for the basketball program, Raccoon Runners, and the Fall Enrichment Program.

Principals' Report: We are exhausted after yesterday's activity- the Fall Spirit Parade. It's hard being a bee all day, especially having to direct traffic in our bee costumes. During the week of October 15th, some teachers had their second round of Math Recovery training. This session followed up on the spring training those same teachers had. The teachers are sharing the exciting hands-on activities they learned with other teachers in the school. For example, using shoelaces with beads for counting. Kids will learn to take manipulatives apart and put them back together. These activities and others are great strategies for teaching math concepts to students.

On October 24th, our school counselors hosted a Parent Coffee that focused on the prevention of bullying. The philosophy discussed at the coffee by social workers and psychologists is exciting. Much more on this topic will come in the future.

This week was also our Red Ribbon Week. Today is "Too Bright for Drugs" day so we are wearing Neon colors. Teacher workdays are next Monday and Tuesday and there will be no school. Many parents will be coming to meet with their children's teachers.

Other Important Dates:

[Picture Makeup day is Wednesday November 6th

- [5th Grade Trip to Camp Highroad- November 7th and 8th; Ms. Alley and Mrs. Fernandez will be attending the field trip (November 8th is also Mrs. Fernandez' birthday!)
- [November 13th- Librarian and Principals dinner
- [Book Fair- November 14th-22nd
- [Thanksgiving Luncheons- November 20th & 21st
- [Drama Club Performance- November 22nd& 23rd; School performance will be on the 25th
- [2-hour early dismissal- November 27th
- [Thanksgiving break-November 28th & 29th

Mrs. McCabe had an informational meeting about the Foundations program that is used in grades K-2.

We attended the Run for Rocky. Meri Farling did a great job coordinating this fundraising. We know that we didn't make a lot of money this first time, but it was fun.

Enrichment Program- Shannon, Jennifer and Teresa have worked very hard with Barb Hinton to deal with issues that arose during this fall session. We think we have good strategies in place to make things run smoother in the future.

Mrs. Lorenzi our new school librarian will be making two presentations this month- once as an author and once as a librarian.

K-2 Activate Program has started. The computer portion of the program started on October 15th and the physical fitness part has been ongoing. Mantua is leading the way. We have 323 kids working on the program. Soon we will have actual data to share on how kids are doing. There will also be a home component to the program.

Actively Caring- Mrs. Warren and Ms. Kim have been working with the people from the Angel Fund and Virginia Tech to get this program started at Mantua. They have a plan in place to start in November.

Ms. Alley discussed the current testing schedule. Students finished taking the Cogat 3-day test. Scores will be released around winter break. First graders will soon be taking the Naglieri- non-verbal test. It is a 1-day test. MRA (Math Reasoning Assessment) is also being given to 1st and 2nd graders right now. Student testing will stop

IOWA testing- the Algebra readiness test is given in January. Sixth graders in the advance math class will take this test. If a child tests into Algebra in 7th grade, he/she will be in Algebra Honors at Frost.

Report of First Vice-President for Programs (Teresa LeMair given by Jennifer Epley):

Kathy Phillips gave a report on Chat and Chew. All registrations are in and the first books will be given out in the next Tuesday folder. The first meeting will be in December. Over 80 kids registered. Fourth graders will be reading Mrs. Lorenzi's book.

Basketball Program: Coaches are in the process of forming teams. The new backboards are in and they look great. First games will be Dec. 7th and 8th

The Pokeman Family Fun night was well attended. The next Family Fun night will be on Friday Jan 24th at Fairfax Ice Arena. More details will be coming on that event.

Meri Farling mentioned that the Raccoon Runners would be participating in a 5k Race in the City of Fairfax this Sunday, November 3rd. The race proceeds will benefit the local fire department. Race organizers seem genuinely thrilled to have Mantua participate.

We are happy to announce that Sally Meyer has agreed to be our Parent Education Liaison. All classes now have room parents to help coordinate events throughout the year. Christine Clifford still looking for help with the school's garden. The art teachers are looking for a helper to come 1 time per week.

Shannon and Teresa are working on survey enrichment programs that should go out before the Thanksgiving holidays.

Report of Second Vice-President for Fundraising & Membership (Meri Farling):

According to Meri, Monica Brenner reports raising \$1500 in advertisements for the Mantua Directory. We are getting ready to host the Book Fair before the Thanksgiving holiday. All money earned from the Book Fair is given to the library to buy new books. Spirit Wear should be in by November 8th. We had a fundraising night at the Noodles and Company. Kathleen DeCarlo was not happy with money earned this time. She feels that we should return to the Noodles and Company in the city of Fairfax next year. The next restaurant fundraiser in December will be at the Unos in Merrifield. Unos will give Mantua 20% of the sales. To date, families have brought in \$875 in box tops. Mrs. Hansen's class is currently in the lead. The classroom with the most participants in the Run for Rocky was Ms. Morrison's class

Old Business:

New Business: The Food Drive is usually coordinated by Mrs. Sottolano and should be starting next week.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 A.M.