

MINUTES – FINAL, APPROVED JUNE 9, 2016

General PTA Membership Meeting

May 13, 2016, 9:30am

Mantua Elementary School

I. The meeting was called to order at 9:40am by Julie Middleton

Executive Board and Membership Attendees: Julie Middleton, Lisa Libby, Nicole Willis, Kristina Clarke, Chanda McCarthy, Susanne Fitch, Amy Halstead, Jen Ros, Sam Leiber, Kathleen DeCarlo, Megan Burski Wells

Administration and School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Amy Alley, Nick Rousos

II. Adoption of April 2016 Minutes – A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes as written

III. Reports

-President's Report

Julie Middleton

- We had a successful, wonderful teacher luncheon thanks to many volunteers and contributions. This year the luncheon was scheduled to go on throughout the school day. We received many nice thank you notes and feedback from the teachers.
- Kids Care Club is sponsoring an end of year service project. They will organize a school wide food drive to benefit FCPS families that receive support during the school year. Those families will receive food to help them through the summer months.

Dalia Palchik, School Board Representative

Jan-Marie Fernandez introduced Dalia Palchik, our school board representative and Mantua alumni. Ms. Palchik provided a budget update. Thankfully, after fearing a multi-million dollar deficit, with community support FCPS was able to get an improved transfer from Fairfax County. Programs were saved and teacher wages were addressed. The board was able to find funds from other sources to fully fund the budget. They estimate to have some savings for next year. May 19th is the next work session for budget; goals include continue to fund teacher pay increases for 2018, board of supervisors to look at additional restaurant tax to help fund schools and county resources.

-Treasurer's Report

Nicole Willis

Fundraisers

- Box Tops - received a check for \$874.30
- Carnival/Spring Fling – received more checks for the silent auction, sponsorship, and vendor payments as well as \$200 from Dickey's for concessions – a total of \$2772.00
- Spirit Wear - \$25.00 more payments came in for purchases and paid out \$38.12 for paper supplies

Hospitality & Appreciation

- We showed how much we appreciated our office staff, admins and teachers (\$472.49)

Programs & Events

- Basketball – the Parents/Teachers game brought in \$2721.56 in ticket sales and concessions
- Raccoon Runners – We received a couple more registrations and we paid out for snacks, medals and we wrote a check to the Young Hearts Foundation for \$400 (total expenses \$691.89)
- Garden & Landscaping -- \$927.53 was spent on additional courtyard garden supplies
- Community Spirit Activities -- \$55.54 was spent on supplies for the Pokemon, Lego, and Ice Skating nights
- Drama Club – we paid out reimbursements for the concession supplies and for the cast party, as well as thank you gifts
- School Spirit Displays -- \$15.18 for storage purposes
- Sixth Grade Party – Photo Booth reserved for the party for \$249.00

Wish Fund

- We have purchased additional tools and supplies for the wish fund approved garden project in the amount of \$391.36

-Principals' Report

Jan-Marie Fernandez

Events That Took Place:

- Jeffrey Bennet, astronomy and writer from Fifty Nifty, did two presentations; one each for younger and older grades
- Parent and Staff Basketball Game
- Strings Solo and Ensemble Festival
- 5th Grade AAP Watershed experience, checking out birds and stream
- AAP and Kindergarten orientations
- Secretary Appreciation Week
- Luther Jackson 6th graders orientation
- Literacy and Heritage Night
- All County Choral Festival
- Teacher Appreciation Week – thank you for your efforts!
- Family 2 field trip Mount Vernon
- Ms. Zimmerman's class field trip to the White House
- Band Concert
- K-2 Greg Pizzoli author presentation
- Raccoon Run
- Picture Day
- Restaurant Night at Elevation Burger
- Rain- many classes have not been able to get outside because of the rain

Upcoming events:

- 5/15 Homes Tour
- 5/16 Kate Messner author visit
- 1st and 2nd graders to Woodson Planetarium
- SOL Testing
- 5/18 Woodson Pyramid Art Show
- 5/19 5th and 6th grade strings concert

- 5/24 4th grade strings concert
- 5/24 Family One to Woodson Planetarium
- 5/30 No School; Memorial Day
- 5/31 Author visit 3rd and 4th grade
- 6/1 Medieval Man presentation for 5th grade
- Fourth Grade Ted Talks throughout June
- 6/8 Family One Musical
- 6/9 PTA meeting and volunteer reception

Teacher Salary Update – goal is to get FCPS teacher salaries matching the local average pay rates, this budget makes progress; 12-17 years' experience bracket gets the best increase as the board tried to even out where there were the biggest gaps. Pleased with the progress and hope to see it continue

Assistant Principal Nick Rousos commented on the ripple effects of money being transferred around within FCPS, for example there were cuts to cafeteria and food service but school now pays for additional forks and napkins

-Assistant Principal

Amy Alley

- SOL Test Dates:
 - May 17 – 5th Grade Reading SOL
 - May 18 – 4th Grade Reading SOL
 - May 19 – 3rd Grade Reading SOL part 1
 - May 20 – 3rd Grade Reading SOL part 2
 - May 24 – 4th Grade Math SOL
 - May 25 – 5th Grade Math SOL
 - May 27 – 6th Grade Reading SOL
 - May 31 – 5th Grade Science SOL
 - June 1 – 3rd Grade Math SOL
 - June 3 – 6th Grade Math SOL
 - June 7 – 4th Grade VA Studies SOL
- Students who will take a different grade level test, will take their appropriate test on the date listed for their grade level, ie all 5th graders will take their Math SOL on the same day regardless of if they take the 5th or 6th grade test
- Make up tests will be given after 6/7, please notify school of absences; do not send in sick children to take a test
- Letters were sent home regarding electronic device policy: Devices must be off and in a back pack so as not to create any disruptions; county policy states that a child must exit the test if a device is found and it be immediately determined if it's accidental or if cheating is suspected
- Third and sixth grade math tests are CAT (computer adaptive test) meaning the test responds to child's responses; more accurate results with less questions but cannot review answers
- Expedited retake option for students who fail SOLs with scores of 375-399; targeted remediation by teachers done before retake
- Retakes are scheduled based on a variety of factors, cannot be determined ahead of time
- Italian writing and speaking tests – 3rd grade and 6th grade (computer lab speaking with computer, score recordings, basic exposure) begin next week but there are no conflicts with SOLs

-Assistant Principal

Nick Rousos

Through a relationship with Dominion Power, Mantua received a dwarf magnolia tree. Christine Clifford and Katy Hesford, who have been working hard on the courtyard garden helped plan a planting ceremony that was held on 5/10

-1st Vice President for Programs

Lisa Libby

- Thank you to volunteers for your help with administration, secretary and teacher appreciation weeks.
- Volunteer Reception to be held on June 9th at 6:30pm to recognize volunteers
- Three positions are open for next year: Alert News Editor, School Spirit Displays, Yearbook Coordinator (shadow)

2nd Vice President for Fundraising/Membership

Chanda McCarthy

- Homes Tour is coming up on Sunday 5/15, volunteer slots are filling up, wristbands being sold
- Three committee members needed for next year: Box Tops, Restaurant Nights and Passive Fundraising
- Elevation Burger Restaurant Night was a great success, 10% proceeds resulted in a profit of \$265 for PTA

IV. Old Business

6th grade back packs – Complaints that the backpacks are too heavy; possibly due to interactive notebooks, kids’ personal items and student apprehension over needed materials. Discussion regarding possibility of lockers in the hallway for storage; possible space constraints due to fire code

V. New Business

Enrichment gifts – motion made and approved to use a portion of Enrichment proceeds to purchase gift cards for teachers whose classrooms were used for Enrichment classes and Barb Hinton who coordinates building use. None opposed

Susanne Fitch representing the Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates for 2017-18:

- President: Sam Leiber
- Vice President for Programs: Dawn Keene
- Vice President for Fundraising: Chanda McCarthy
- Treasurer: Nicole Willis
- Secretary: Kristina Clarke

Motion made and approved to accept the proposed slate, none opposed

Global / FLEX changes – to be discussed further

VI. Announcements

Check out www.mantuapta.org and the AlertNews for more information on what is happening at Mantua

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45am