

MINUTES – FINAL, Approved 3/3/17

General PTA Membership Meeting

February 9, 2017, 7pm

Mantua Elementary School

I. The meeting was called to order by Sam Leiber at 7:07pm

Executive Board and Membership Attendees: Sam Leiber, Dawn Keene, Nicole Willis, Kristina Clarke, Kathy Phillips, Althea Bryson, Terri Radziewski, Kathleen Cashin, Sharon Toda, Ryad Daoussi

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

II. Adoption of January 2017 Minutes – No objections; minutes approved as written

III. Reports

-President's Report

Sam Leiber

- First meeting of the green school committee will be held on Thursday, February 16 at 6:30pm in the library
- Information about creating a pantry at the school to help students in need – Sam visited Oakton HS with 12 other schools to see the program that they have developed; they publish the needed items via KIT that are then donated and collected in the front office. Students sort items and run the store. At Thanksgiving, a sign up was used to collect items for specific families, specific needs for holidays too. Food, toiletry items, even sports goods are available in the store; time is made available for students/families to “shop.” Social workers and counselors are involved to help match the needs. Slightly less than 10% of our student population at Mantua is on Free and Reduced Lunch. Parent Liaison, Luis Uribe, does many services for families already including collections for Food for Others, puts bags of food together for families of in our own community, pay for field trips, scholastic books, etc.
- Enrichment scholarships – discussed making a button available on the registration page to let parents donate money toward enrichment scholarships for Mantua students vs for any Enrichment Matters student. Enrichment Matters sets tuition and schedules; discussion around what Enrichment Matters does and the pros and cons of paying the extra cost including liability and diversity of classes offered.
- Drama Works, who runs the popular Drama Club program is interested in hosting a summer camp, were told that it can't be held at Mantua because it won't be open to community use this summer but possibly could be held at another location (increased cost for off site location)

-Treasurer's Report

Nicole Willis

Fundraisers

- Received the check from Box Tops for March 2016 thru November 2016 for \$1276.20
- New donations received is \$56.76
- \$41.01 from Amazon Smile
- Restaurant Nights – Flippin' Pizza \$423.80 and Cava \$56.00
- We paid Fun Events for the Spring Fling/Carnival amusements and supplies \$1693.12

Programs & Events

- I created a new account for a Spring Break Art Camp that we recently helped Ms. Shirley and Mr. Lorenzi apply for Community Use as a PTA sponsored program. We have received 6 student registrations so far totaling \$672.00
- Raccoon Runners received \$185.00
- We paid \$1309.00 to the county for the basketball Winter gym fees/permit
- We paid Baker & Taylor \$363.41 for Chat 'n' Chew books
- \$300 was paid for Drama Club to pay for the rights to show Charlie & The Chocolate Factory
- \$128.15 was paid for Reflections reimbursements for their party (Pizza/Snacks)

Supplies

- \$67.32 was spent on purchasing flowers for Rosie and refill ink for our check stamps

Wish Fund

- We have paid Mantua Elementary School \$9,239.46
 - \$443.12 Grice/Early Literacy Intervention supplies
 - \$3550.00 Grice/Reading Room Technology
 - \$374.39 Bruining/Speed Stackers Cups Sets
 - \$745.00 DelValle/Dehumidifiers
 - \$1760.00 DelValle/Smart Board Rails
 - \$1014.95 Hinton/Chairs & Caddy
 - \$1352.00 Chiffons/Numbers Worlds – Math Intervention Curriculum

-Principals' Report

Jan-Marie Fernandez

Events That Took Place:

- 4th grade HGD, FLE
- Choral workshop with 5th and 6th grade boys
- Woodson Pyramid Choral Concert
- 5th and 6th Grade Strings Concert
- MCA meeting held regarding the Horner Court opening; it was a lively meeting with strong feelings on both sides of the issue. Dalia Palchik, our school board member had previously met with community members. MCA, PTA and Mantua school administration representatives have created a task force to further discuss the issue.
- Frost Parent Orientation
- Family Fun Night; Ice Skating
- Public Budget Meeting
- Preview for Social and Emotional Health Lessons
- 6th graders met with Frost MS counselors
- American Art Museum Field Trips for 6th Grade
- 2nd Quarter ended

Upcoming Events:

- Feb 10th Family Fun Valentines Dance
- Administration Appreciation – next week
- Progress Reports will go home on 2/14
- Feb 20th No School; Presidents Day
- Feb 27th K-3rd Assembly with Virginia Opera, The Three Little Pigs, during school 2-3pm
- Feb 28th Colonial Day Parent Presentation/Planning, 6-7 pm
- March 3rd PTA Meeting: New Date!
- March 3rd Lego Night

Other news:

- Rosie visited; she is recovering well
- FCPS Budget – looking at many cuts, compensation should not be cut as it is significant issue with hiring because our salaries lag behind surrounding counties, salary has not changed in 12 years. Exit surveys reveal that teachers leave FCPS because of low salaries, can't afford to live in the area and pay expenses on their salaries, many work multiple jobs to make ends meet. Surrounding counties pay more, teachers with 7-9 years of experience leave to make more money while receiving credit for their experience
- Staffing – Feb 11th will be attending a job fair to find new candidates; participants from around the country to be interviewed for jobs. National crisis with few new teachers entering the field. We do have projected openings for next year including existing positions and one possible new position. Crystal Lynn Hill has agreed to come back 3 days a week and is working as a special education teacher.
- Feb 14th – County Executive will be briefing the County Board of Supervisors, PTA counsels representatives plan to be there at 11:30am

-Assistant Principal

Amy Alley

Testing news:

- 80% completed with WIDA testing: K done, 1st and 3rd almost done; 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades will finish by the end of February
- 6th grade IOWA for AAP students and advanced math students has been completed; option to take Algebra in 7th grade if course is completed, 91% on IOWA and pass advance end of year SOL
- Naglieri and CogAT tests being administered for select kids
- March 1st - March 10th, 1st graders take the Naglieri, a 1 day test for nonverbal abilities
- March and April – reading and math assessments: all grades, eCarts, MRA and DRA
- Art and music assessment for 6th grade during the 3rd and 4th quarters

-1st Vice President for Programs

Dawn Keene

- Book Drive – Used book drive, starting on Valentine's Day, collection bin in the library, Feb 14-28
- Althea Bryson – Director of the Talent Show to be held on March 11th; 20 acts signed up so far, hoping to encourage more acts by extending the deadline, making a commercial for GMM and involving whole classes (Ms. Loveday's class did this last year, for example). Lighting and sound done by Ted Donat, we will pay, advertisements, printing, volunteers are needed, parents of participants required to volunteer, concession stand
- Kathy Phillips for Parent Education – Lars McCarter, a Mantua parent, will present "Safe and Secure Online" on Tuesday, March 7th at 7pm and Wednesday, March 8th at 9:30am in the library
- School Psychologist and Social worker to do a parent coffee on Executive Functioning, 4/28 at 9:30am

- Registration for Raccoon Runners currently not working

-2nd Vice President for Fundraising/Membership

Chanda McCarthy, given by Nicole Willis

- Spring Fling, to be held on April 22nd, 11am-3pm, Planning committees forming, contact her at fundraising@mantuapta.org if interested

IV. Old Business

Youth Mental First Aid training to be offered again. Ask Sam for details.

V. New Business

- Althea Bryson – received an email from room parent about lice; how is this typically communicated? The teacher should be notified; then a process begins, the clinic is informed to check the class and then inform/educate parents. On a similar note, please share details regarding illnesses when your child is sick in order to help staff understand disease spreading in the school.

VI. Announcements

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

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm