

MINUTES - DRAFT

General PTA Membership Meeting

January 6, 2017, 9:30am

Mantua Elementary School

I. The meeting was called to order by Sam Leiber at 9:40am

Executive Board and Membership Attendees: Nicole Willis, Kristina Clarke, Dawn Keene, Sam Leiber, Chanda McCarthy, Kati Hesford, Amy Fields Bharwani, Helen Keil-Losch, Susanne Fitch, Edith MacArthur, Terri Radziewski, Lisa Park

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

II. Adoption of November 2016 Minutes – No objections; minutes approved with one change

III. Reports

-President's Report

Sam Leiber

- There will be an MCA meeting on Wednesday Jan 25th in the school cafeteria at 7:30 pm to discuss opening the Horner Court cul-de-sac for bus traffic. Access would be controlled by a gate open only during am arrival and pm departure of busses. Parking spaces would be affected as well. Please attend the meeting if you are interested in this topic.
- Budget task force in place to work on the proposed budget cuts to our school system. Many proposals are available to view. One proposal is a \$75 million cut scenario that includes reduce substitute pay, add a pupil placement fee, cut language immersion, cut summer school, class size increase for AAP, and many other impacts to elementary schools. Please get involved and speak up for the items that you care about.
- Best wishes to Rosie; discuss more what can we do as the PTA to support her

-Treasurer's Report

Nicole Willis

Fundraisers

- We received at the beginning of December a check from Harris Teeter for \$150 for their Together in Education/Express Lanes program
- Spirit Wear has a net of \$1,407.43
- I am sad to report that we have not been receiving funds from the click through link for Amazon from our website as I found out that the account we had was closed by Amazon due to an issue where the "Children's Online Privacy Protection Act" (COPPA) declaration not being completed. As it turns out, the Amazon account was tied to an email address that no longer was being monitored, so no one was made aware of this issue. Since, I have created a new account and am working with our website team to get new click through links up on our websites so that we can continue to get the wonderful benefits of this partnership with Amazon. More information will be put out once we have everything up and running.

Programs & Events

- Book Fair was successful and we were able to write a check for the library from the proceeds of \$6,510.80
- Drama Club brought in \$3,089.20 between concessions and ticket sales to Peter Pan, Jr. We also reimbursed over \$3,700 for expenses for the show. Current net amount we have for Drama Club is \$3,109.26.
- Additional Garden & Landscaping supplies have been purchased for \$182
- Basketball jerseys were purchased for a little over \$4,400 and new benches and whistles were bought
- Parent Education reimbursements were made for \$288.59 for the food purchased during the seminar
- Raccoon Runners' snacks and the Turkey Trot registration fees to participate were reimbursed and paid for \$458
- Reflections expenses for snacks, posters, flyers, and trophies were reimbursed for a total of \$187.62

Membership Dues

- We paid State, National, and Local PTAs for membership dues for a total of \$1,384. As a result of being a member "in good standing" we received our 501(c)(3) determination letter from the VA PTA yesterday, January 5, 2017. It is due to expire next on December 31, 2017. This letter verifies that we are tax exempt.

Printing Expense

- The directories were printed at a cost of \$1,289.97

Supplies

- We shipped books to Louisiana to a school in need for \$89.77

-Principals' Report

Jan-Marie Fernandez

Events That Took Place:

- Thanksgiving Luncheons and Book Fair. Thank you!
- PTA Drama Productions; fabulous event
- AAP Parent Information Meeting
- 5th grade chorus performed in Fairfax City
- Band Concert
- 6th grade trips to the Woodson Planetarium
- Human Growth and Development lessons completed
- Winter Chorus Concert
- Woodson Math Enrichment for 2nd and 3rd graders; highly attended
- Winter Sing A Long
- Cafeteria Appreciation
- 4th grade HGD Monday Jan 9th at 6pm rescheduled

Upcoming Events:

- Jan 11th, 5th grade boys attending a Chorus workshop at Woodson

- Jan 16th and 20th, School Closed
- Jan 24th, 5th and 6th grade strings concert, 7pm in the gym
- Jan 27th Family Fun Night, Ice Skating at Fairfax Ice Arena
- Jan 31st Parent Preview Night for Emotional Social Health material, a part of the Family Life Education. Curriculum includes making and keeping friends, emotional and social health lessons given to kids in K-6th. Lessons given by teachers in classroom during February
- Feb 3rd Early Release; end of second quarter
- Feb 6th No School; teacher work day
- Feb 8,9 and 10 - 6th grade to Art Museum
- Feb 9th PTA meeting
- Feb 10th Family Fun Valentines Dance

Other news:

- Hiring of teachers is a big issue here in Fairfax County and across the country. Last summer was most stressful in long career, few new teachers coming into the field of teaching and more are retiring, taking extra measures to recruit, attending a Saturday session in hopes that it will help find good candidates
- Woodson pyramid principals were in Vancouver for a conference. It was an international conference, a fabulous event, incredible professional development. Immediately used the information learned at the conference; valuable experience. All are aware of budget struggles but there has to be good professional development and growth

-Assistant Principal

Amy Alley

In house teacher professional development:

- Development areas of focus include Math Talks, Academic Conversations and Writer's Workshops. Provide two hours of professional development for every teacher
- Team collaboration is common in the building but encouraging collaboration across grade level and teams to further learn from each other
- Previous session we used subs to cover classrooms. Money is spent on subs to cover classrooms while the training is provided for free and during school hours; teachers were overwhelmingly happy with the development opportunity
- Next Friday, 1/13 from 9-1 - try to recruit volunteers to help cover classrooms

Testing news:

- CogAT given a few months ago, scores should arrive soon, results will be mailed home
- Friday, January 13th is the deadline for AAP referrals; it is a hard deadline that can't be extended
- Tuesday, January 10th will be the IOWA assessment; 1 hour test given to 6th grade AAP and compacted math students; tests readiness for algebra and helps determine 7th grade math placement
- WETA testing; ESOL students to measure their growth on their English language development; 4 part test, K-6th, reading, writing, listening and speaking. January 9th thru March 2nd, scores arrive in June/early Summer for ESOL placement for next school year

-Assistant Principal

Nick Rousos

- Kids are using pallets and milk crates to gain access to the roof of the building via the walkway roof. Once on the roof they have hit the breakers causing the heating system to shut down and thrown rocks

down the pipes causing vents to be clogged. Costly damage to building; ripped open walls in classrooms to unclog pipes and vents. Suggestions included using the neighborhood watch and public announcements to deter activity and raise awareness.

- Bike rack has been received and installed; Bike to Work program provided the rack; Jessie Greene and Eagle Scouts installed the bike rack as part of their Eagle project. Will hold a dedication ceremony in the spring
- Ongoing drainage issue update: engineers working on eliminating pond behind black top and extending another pond to make up the difference of losing the other. There will be a sunken run off pond, underground near the field; working on the grounds over the summer. Storm water management (Fairfax County Government) for more details

-1st Vice President for Programs

Dawn Keene

- Book Drive in conjunction with the Valentines dance
- Kati Hesford: Get To Green Initiative information on FCPS website; through the National Wildlife Federation schools can apply to be an “Eco School.” Organize one “green team” to oversee all the aspects of an Eco School, many of which we do already but separately, need a committee of teachers and parents to form a group, students also heavily involved. Gauging interest to form a group to formalize the many actions already being taken; coordinate efforts to apply for Eco School status.
- Tulip garden planted, part of a test garden, 3rd graders to track data, yearly plan, landscape the area

-2nd Vice President for Fundraising/Membership

Chanda McCarthy

- Restaurant Night at Cava in the Mosaic District on Wednesday, January 11th from 6-10pm
- Spring Fling, to be held on April 22nd, we will start committee and interest meeting, add a “sign on party” to the auction, expand the auction

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

- Discussed ways to support Rosie as the PTA organization
- From the Oakton HS PTA president – idea to support families during winter break and summer: built up a pantry in the school for families to “shop” from, included goods, gift cards and household/cleaning products. Kids “worked” in the shop for experience
- Eco School – able to use extra food from cafeteria to donate to local food shelters/pantries
- Parent Liaison is also a good source to distribute goods to families directly into our community

VI. Announcements

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

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 10:43am

