

**Minutes of the Mantua PTA
December 4, 2002
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: *Laura Mead, Carole Thomas, Pam Promisel, Beth McKeown, Rob Luftglass*

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Elaine Wellner, Jan Pry.*

Board Members: *Loren Brandman, Randi Kirkland, Jennifer Cooper, Barbara Suidikas, Laura Samotshozo, Miriam Smolen, Robin Hoffman, Bev Baugham, Cheryl May, Deirdre Mayes, Kristen Lahiff, Leanne Stynchula, Linda Halstead*

General Membership: *Ann Ames, Donna Cipichio, Danilo Torres, Patti Pratch.*

Jennifer Cooper moved that the minutes of the November 6, 2002 meeting be approved. Robin Hoffman seconded. The motion carried.

Beth McKeown presented the **Treasurer's Report**. She provided two reports: an Income Statement for the five months ending November 30, 2002 and an Income statement for the six months ending December 31, 2002. Highlights include the revenue from the Book Fair (approx. \$6,500), basketball revenues (approximately \$2,500 more than expected), and the addition of Math Happenings and Teachers/Instructional Assistants/Interpreter stipends.

Laura Mead presented the **Announcements**. Stipends were provided to classroom teachers and to Instructional Assistants and Interpreters – these stipends were very much appreciated – several thank you cards were distributed from the recipients.

Fairfax County Council of PTAs is putting together a distribution list – we are determining our position on this. We may be asking our members if they want to receive emails directly from FCCPTA or to opt out.

Basketball – the new scoreboard should be installed shortly and the first game is on 12/14. The schedule will be on the www.mantua-school.com web-site once it has been finalized.

Laura conveyed a message from the School Board: A study for a potential boundary change between Fairhill and Mantua has been completed and a meeting presenting study recommendations will be held on January 15 in the Mantua Elementary School cafeteria. All PTA members will receive invitations. This potential change could affect up to 55 students in three separate communities.

Principals' Report: Jan-Marie Fernandez congratulated the PTA on the successful auction and thanked all the volunteers for all the hard work. The Thanksgiving Luncheon was once again successful, with over 1,000 lunches served. Jan-Marie also expressed thanks to all the volunteers for the Drama Club and the Book Fair. The Drama Club presented three “wonderful performances” and the Book Fair was very successful and included many donations to the Plateau School.

This Friday (December 6) a 6-hour videoconference is planned with the United Nations and at least 15 countries. Mrs. Fernandez thinks we may be the youngest participants. Nineteen students will represent all the 6th graders and will, like other schools, make a ten-minute presentation. Each group wrote Mission statement and action plan, which was sent to UN. The project is a year long commitment and will have several follow up activities. This will also be accessible via web-cast.

Mrs. Fernandez also announced that all Administrators and other members of the crisis management team now have pagers.

Tina Tingler thanked the PTA on behalf of the staff for the holiday monetary gift. She also announced that a sign language class for parents is being delayed until January.

Elaine Wellner announced that we hosted special visitors (innovation award winning administrators) from Brazil who were interested in viewing our capabilities regarding special education and technology. These visitors were especially impressed with what they saw at the Book Fair. The literature our children are interested in was very impressive. There is a wide range of resources in their schools – some do not even have running water.

Ms. Wellner discussed upcoming standardized testing. 5th and 8th graders will no longer take paper/pencil technology SOL tests, though instruction will continue. On Dec 11, 2nd graders will be taking the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT). This 30 minute test is fair across gender and race and includes problem solving and reasoning (no verbal skills – all patterns).

Teacher Representative Report: Jan Pry reiterated thanks for stipends – they were very much appreciated – especially by the Instructional Assistants who had historically not received these gifts. A Food Drive is being held through December 18, with a pizza or ice cream party for the class with the most food collected.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Auction: Carole Thomas reminded everyone that it was discussed last year to separate out auction from carnival. There were three objectives – raising money, making this more of a community event, and to separate the auction from carnival. All objectives were met, most significantly, the money raised doubled previous years (over \$30,000). We hope to do it again next year.

Carnival: Pam Promisel announced that the first planning meeting will be held on December 16. At the meeting, we hope to come up with a theme, timeline, and volunteers (chairs/co-chairs). The carnival will be on March 15.

Principal's Coffee: Barb Suidikas announced that the next Coffee will be held on Thursday December 12 and the theme will be bringing up children in today's world.

Kid's Care Club: Jennifer Cooper expressed thanks for all the help with the leaf raking. Over thirty houses requested raking. We do need more participation within school, with scouts (boy, girl, cub) providing almost all of the support. Food and clothing items (including from the Lost and Found) were collected for the Holiday Bazaar. The Club is also putting together items for a holiday basket for needy family, to be delivered on December 18. The Talent Show is scheduled for February 8.

Woodson Coalition: Leanne Stynchula announced that the Coalition is up and running. She recently attended a retreat in which several topics were discussed, including a web-site resource for parents, a list of activities for drug abuse/violence prevention, and parent tips on how to teach children things. They are still looking for a PTA liaison and financial help. This program is community based – not just parents – grandparents, retirees, and others are encouraged to participate.

Spirit Committee: Randi Kirkland reported for Gretchen Martens that things are progressing with the Wizards game for Mantua and that efforts are underway for a similar event for the Capitals. We also expect to have an update on Mantua-label clothing shortly. Gretchen is putting together a fundraising program with Glory Days Grill in which Mantua will receive 10% of charges between Monday and Thursday. Details will come out shortly. She is also working on similar arrangements with other restaurants.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the revised minutes of the November 6, 2002.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next meeting is January 4, 2002.

Robert Luftglass
Secretary