

Minutes of the Mantua PTA
April 14, 2004
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

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

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Cheryl Thompson and Tim Harazin.*

Board Members: *Pete Brandman, Beth Whitehead, Kathy Frongello, Randi Kirkland, DeeAnn Jeremiah, Jennifer Cooper, Cheryl May, Barb Suidikas and Laura Samotshozo.*

General Membership: *Lois Urbanek, Chris Purcell, Linda Halkias and Allen Clarke.*

Kathy Frongello made a **motion** that the minutes of the March 3, 2004 meeting be approved. Laura Mead seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Carole Thomas presented the **Announcements**:

- Tonight's Topic is transitioning to Frost, presented by Jim Scutt, the president of the Frost PTA.
- The PTA has received many thank you notes for assemblies, presentations, and Cavalier Cruise. Carole passed around these notes.
- Upcoming Meetings/Events include the WTW Coalition Meeting, Underage drinking truth or consequences, a volunteer tea (instead of the luncheon from previous years), the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, the Raccoon Run, a Cannons baseball game and Secretary's Appreciation Day.
- The Nominating Committee is working hard to finalize the nominations for the Executive Board positions. These will be presented at the next meeting.
- Carole passed around a sign up form for board positions for next year. She will let everyone know what positions are available for next year.
- Volunteers are needed for the traffic committee, updating the bylaws, the Raccoon Run, and help with Math Happenings.

Beth McKeown distributed an income statement through 4/9/04. Band and Strings has purchased two instruments. Our financials are tracking well. We should open next year with approximately \$20,000.

Mrs. Fernandez made the **Principals' Report**:

- A Korean delegation will be visiting on April 29. This delegation will include principals and directors from Seoul.
- April 29 will be Literacy Night.
- On March 31, we held a successful K/2 Boyer celebration on Mexico.

Cheryl Thompson announced that an upcoming assembly is Einstein Live. A school Brownie Troop wants to donate dogwood tree to the garden in recognition of Arbor Day. There will be a tree planting ceremony and other donations of trees would also be accepted and appreciated.

Tina Tingler announced that she hosted some visitors from Pakistan on March 23 and on April 20. Mantua will host a Sudan Monk who runs school for deaf children. The after-school TC program ended on March 31. There were about 50 participants and the support of the PTA was much appreciated. On May 10, there will be a performance of Deaf-erella, a take-off on Cinderella.

Teacher Representative Report: Tim Harazin mentioned his appreciation for the support from the PTA. He did have a request for the Distance Learning Center. They are in need of assistance in making drapes to block light. They are also in need of volunteers for an exhibit at Celebrate Fairfax, any time the weekend of June 11-13, in the Science/Technology tent. He plans to put together a hands-on activity dealing with sound.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Kids Care Club: Jennifer Cooper reported that we are gearing up for the Raccoon Run. Signup can be either online or through the brochures. The KCC is also planning an Animal Shelter project in May, including a collection for a shelter.

Woodson Coalition: Jennifer Cooper reported that on April 20 there will be a mock trial for a teen caught with alcohol. They hope to illustrate the consequences of drinking. The Coalition also held Saturday Night in the Suburbs which was enlightening to those who attended illustrating what unsupervised high school students get involved in. The Coalition is looking for more program ideas.

Hospitality: DeeAnn Jeremiah expressed her thanks for TC after-school dinner volunteers and reminded those in attendance of the upcoming teacher appreciation luncheon on May 7. She is looking for volunteers for this event.

Drama Club: Beth Whitehead is starting to work on next year and is looking at possible themes. One theme under consideration is Mark Twain.

Old Business

PTA Sponsors/Advertising. As a result of the PTA's agreement to accept donations from Respond.com, others have come to the PTA asking to donate to the PTA as a 'sponsor'. For example, several real estate agents have expressed this interest. The board is considering a standard policy for PTA sponsors. A sponsor would be required to donate at least \$500, for which they would receive a certificate of appreciation, two Alert News mentions of sponsorship, one month on the bottom of the PTA home page, including a link to their business, and inclusion on the "Easy Ways to Earn Money for Mantua" page for a calendar year.

Several questions were raised including:

- Would the funds be earmarked for specific programs or put into the general fund?
Answer: The plans are for funds to be put into the general fund, but we are not against earmarking funds for specific areas.
- Couldn't this be considered Commercializing the PTA? Answer: We often do similar activities with restaurants, grocery stores and other ventures; this would be an extension of this program.
- Would we have guidelines? Answer: Yes (to be developed).
- Would these be ads? No: the mention on the homepage will only be a thank you and, if desired, a link to a home page.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that a specific proposal will be put together for next month's meeting, after further research. Carole will coordinate this research/proposal, so any comments/concerns should go to Carole.

Monthly Topic

This month's topic is transitioning to Frost presented by Jim Scutt, the president of the Frost PTA. Jim emphasized the importance of staying involved with our children's education at the intermediate level. Jim characterized Frost as great school with approximately 1,100 students.

Terri Schuckman also attended, representing the Frost PTA Nominating Committee. Because Frost is a two year school, the PTA has a difficult time recruiting volunteers. The PTA, though, does some great things for the school and is much appreciated by the staff. One program that the PTA has recently instituted are massage therapists for the staff. Next year, the Frost PTA President will be Laura Mead. The PTA is still looking for a Treasurer. If there is any interest, Jim or Terri should be contacted at jscutt@ctc.org or bschuckman@cox.net.

Rebecca Scutt, Jim's daughter and a student ambassador from Frost, spoke briefly on student life at Frost, discussing the condition of the school (very good), the lockers (each student has several), after school programs (various clubs, facilitated by late buses two days a week), student dances and the basketball program that is slowly evolving.

Carole thanked Jim, Rebecca and Terri.

Next Month's topic will be the school improvement plan, presented by Mrs. Fernandez.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next meeting will be May 5, 2004.

Robert Luftglass
Secretary