

**Minutes of the Mantua PTA  
January 7, 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, Kandy Barham, Laura Mead, and Rob Luftglass.*

**School Representatives:** *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Cheryl Thompson, Jan Pry, Ann Baum and Michelle Moore.*

**Board Members:** *Jennifer Cooper, Loren Brandman, Randi Kirkland, Jeannine Davies, DeeAnn Jeremiah, Cheryl May, Chris Love, Barb Suidikas and Laura Samotshozo.*

**General Membership:** *Suzanne Summers, Lynda Halkins, Deborah Scott and Debbie Schwartz.*

Barb Suidikas made a **motion** that the minutes of the December 3, 2003 meeting be approved. Pam Promisel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Beth McKeown distributed an income statement for the seven months ending 1/7/04. There is approximately \$20,000 available for the wish list (to be discussed later in the meeting).

Beth made a motion to add funds to the field trip line to allocate up to \$900 for an additional bus for the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Philadelphia. Laura Mead seconded the motion and it carried.

Carole Thomas presented the **Announcements:**

- Upcoming events include a blood drive for Cameron McClain, a Summer Enrichment Camp Fair, a FCCPTA General Membership Meeting, a meeting for middle school age after school care, and the VA General Assembly – 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Ride to Richmond.
- Community Spirit Nights include discounted tickets for both Wizards and Capital games.
- Thanks to Beth Rivelis and Julia Margulies for coordinating the spirit-wear sales. This was a successful program and it also allowed us to provide the cafeteria workers with shirts.
- Thanks to Barbara Mingo for coordinating the Original Arts program which unexpectedly raised \$5,000.
- The Teaching Materials Preparation Center is located off of Wakefield Chapel. It is a multi-media lab staffed with people who are available for advice and assistance. The PTA may use the facilities at the TMPC to produce videos,

multimedia productions, posters, announcements, invitations, bulletin board displays, certificates and program covers. This is a good option to Kinko's or similar businesses.

Michelle Moore made a presentation on the take home math program for the upper grades. This program has been a success for the younger grades and we are extending it to the older grades. The goal is to reintroduce hands-on manipulatives in the upper grades and create critical thinking opportunities for students. This program will get off and running through volunteer parents and the PTA donation.

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

Successful recent events included the Colonial Day for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, the winter sing-along and many parties before the holiday. Ms. Fernandez expressed thanks to all the parent volunteers.

Tina Tingler discussed the after school program for the TC families. The program starts on January 21 and will last for 10 weeks. Ms. Tingler requested that the PTA provide desserts. A sign up form was passed around.

Ms. Tingler announced that a new instructional assistant was recently hired. This new IA speaks fluent Spanish, and among other things, will provide support for ESOL students.

Cheryl Thompson announced that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade party went well. There will be a similar party for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter with bowling. The next three cultural arts assemblies are all set, including the Yo-yo Man (science), Einstein Alive (science), and More Books (literature). Also planned are two performances by Tiger Eye Karate with the Korean Children Demo Team.

**Teacher Representative Report:** Ann Baum announced that a quilt is being made for Cameron McClain. His class made designs on squares, with Ann putting it all together.

Carole discussed the **Wish List**. There is approximately \$20,000 in available funds from the auction and gift-wrap program. The Executive Board recommends spending these funds as follows:

- K-2 Baltimore Aquarium Field Trip – subsidize - \$10/head;
- Mini-PC Lab – 15 desktop PCs;
- Digital Camcorder.

Laura Mead made a motion to purchase fifteen desktop PCs and one digital camcorder, and subsidize the Baltimore Aquarium field trip with \$10/head. Beth seconded the motion.

Loren Brandman asked how many computers are in lab now? The answer is 30-34. Ms. Fernandez indicated that these new computers would allow us to move laptops back to mobile carts. The motion carried.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

**Yearbook:** Laura Samotshozo reported that the preorder drive was very successful, with many more orders than last year. Online orders work better for tracking. It is requested that teachers make a special effort to have their pictures taken since many were not on the first portrait day. Pictures from parents are also requested. Ann Baum suggested that Woodson Photography students be invited to take pictures at the school.

**Carnival:** Pam Promisel reported that the theme is Galaxy Quest (space). We need many booth reps and a chair of setup/cleanup committee. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Laura Mead or Pam. The carnival will be held on March 13 from 11am to 3pm.

**Kids Care Club:** Jennifer Cooper announced that the KCC delivered gift baskets for two families. The Talent Show is planned for February 7 and auditions underway. Website registration worked well, with about twenty submissions via web.

**Woodson Coalition:** Jennifer Cooper announced that a student-panel run show – Saturday Night in Suburbia – is in the planning stages. Also being discussed is an after school program for the middle schools.

This month's topic is **Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)**. Ms. Fernandez discussed how the concept of PLCs goes well with the Basic School philosophy (Boyer). PLCs spell out how to make sure that we are accountable that each student is learning. The school system has taken on the PLC concept for all FCPS schools.

We continue to define how PLCs be implemented within Mantua through the use of a Steering committee. Many of the PLC concepts were already in place at the teacher level – e.g., teacher teams. Every grade level team put together goals for their grade level for both enrichment and remediation.

Next month, Ms. Fernandez will discuss homework.

#### Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2003.

A motion carried to add additional funds to the field trip line to allocate up to \$900 for an additional bus for the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Philadelphia

A motion carried to purchase 15 desktop PCs and one digital camcorder and to subsidize \$10/head for the Baltimore Aquarium field trip.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next meeting will be January 7, 2004.

Robert Luftglass  
Secretary