

**Minutes of the Mantua PTA  
September 10, 2003  
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

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

**School Representatives:** *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Cheryl Thompson, Janet Sottolano, Ann Baum, Jan Pry, and Andrew Bawden.*

**Board Members:** *Allen Clark, Cheryl May, DeeAnn Jeremiah, Jennifer Cooper, Loren Brandman, Randi Kirkland, Deirdre Mayes, Barb Suidikas, Beth Whitehead, Linda Halstead, Jeannine Davies, Mary Townley, Faye Henris, and Nathan Merrells.*

**General Membership:** *Martha Parsons, Marla Baldanelli, Ann Ames, Byrd MacGowan, Lisa Strandberg, Debbie Schwartz, Phyllis Payne, Kirsti Shuto, Lois Urbanik, Sabrina Pagkalinawan, Maryann Birjandi, Marish Khera, and Traci Fisher.*

Carole Thomas distributed the board PTA information folders. She welcomed everyone to the meeting of the year and asked everyone to introduce him or herself, which everyone did.

Chris Love made a **motion** that the minutes of the June 4, 2003 meeting be approved. Allen Clarke seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Beth McKeown presented the **Treasurer's Report**. The audit was completed over the summer and our financials received a clean opinion. She provided the Income Statement for the three months ending September 30, 2003.

Loren Brandman asked about the Teacher's Fund. Beth explained that includes what we provide the teachers and explained that the expense came early this year because we were able to provide these payments earlier than usual since we had the funds available. She also explained that five dollars is provided towards PTA dues from this budget and the administrative staff (e.g., Principals) will also be providing two dollars towards teachers' memberships.

Loren also asked if there are any major changes from last year. Beth mentioned that \$2,500 has been allocated towards band and strings.

Carole Thomas mentioned that this year we plan on prioritizing the school wish list as the year goes on. We will spend money throughout the year as opposed to waiting until the end of the school year so the children will benefit quickly.

Carole Thomas presented the **Announcements**:

- Carole reviewed the folders. They include many forms – financial documents, policies, objectives of PTA, tax-exempt form, event accounting form, board and staff lists, and motion rules.
- We continue our goal of cutting down on paper. We will try to use the Alert News instead of flyers. The preferred method is email distribution. The website is also available to publicize information.
- The Alert News will be distributed via email and when necessary, Tuesday Folder, on a weekly basis.
- The Newsletter will be distributed on a monthly basis. If members have input to the Tuesday Folder, it does not have to be formatted and is best sent via email.
- There are several board positions open, including TC Liaison, County Council and School Board liaisons. Co-chairs are also encouraged – many positions could use help.
- Thanks to everyone for all the work already and throughout the year.

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

We have fewer students than we started out with last year - currently 894 students are enrolled in Mantua. In preparation for expected overcrowding, several enhancements were made to the school, including double sidewalk for buses, two cafeteria lines, new cafeteria tables, revised lunch schedule, two trailers removed and quad installed.

Many additional facilities improvements were made during the summer, including painting, fixed tiles and cork stripping in the hallways.

Many new staff were hired throughout the school to replace those that have left. Cheryl Thompson has been named Assistant Principal.

Upcoming events include Back to School Nights (September 17 and 18) and a visit from representatives of the Egypt Ministry of Education (September 11 and 21). A luncheon with representatives from the Plateau School was held on September 8.

Mrs. Fernandez emphasized that the goal of the school is to educate all the children; that we need to make sure that everyone learns at least the critical information needed. We need to address the needs of those children who need to learn the basics as well as those who have already learned it. . We have implemented new processes to check this at all levels and for all students.

On behalf of the staff, Ms. Tingler thanked the PTA for the monetary gifts and breakfast. She also mentioned that transportation is improving and thanked the parents for cooperation with Kiss and Ride.

Ms. Thompson mentioned that this is one of the best school openings from a traffic perspective. Ms. Thompson announced that the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders now have individual schedules, including an enrichment period. The goal of this new schedule is to ensure no

children are out of their academic class during specials. Enrichment and Specials are held in the afternoon. Enrichment assignments will be reassessed every quarter. She also mentioned that the cafeteria schedule is by grades and that we are experimenting with open seating for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Teacher Representative Report:** Janet Sottolano thanked the PTA for the early gift. We have re-started the warm/fuzzy program. Ms. Sottolano will be talking at staff meeting about the auction. We are hoping for many teacher attendees. She also mentioned that while we have many parent volunteers, we need more, especially at the younger levels.

Ann Baum expressed thanks for the PTA's contribution towards the Read Naturally program. This program is working very well.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

**Kids Care Club:** Jennifer Cooper described the club and its many activities, including service projects/charitable contributions, the talent show, leaf raking and the Raccoon Run.

**Fall Fundraiser (Sally Foster):** Jeannine Davies indicated that the Sally Foster fundraiser is underway and that we have already started to receive orders. Also, there will be a gift basket for the staff – a raffle based on the number of items ordered will determine the winner.

**Reflections:** Carole Thomas, for Deanna Woo, announced that the school is participating in this nationwide program again. This year's theme is "I'm really happy when...". Last year, the school had several winners, with students advancing to both the council and district level. The deadline to enter is November 7.

**Parent Education:** Pam Promisel described the program, indicated that we expect to hold two to three seminars this year on children related topics. If anyone has specific ideas for topics, they should let her know.

**Principal's Coffees:** Barb Suidikas announced that the first coffee will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> at her house. It will begin at 9:30 am and the topic will be "being good news ambassadors in community."

**Community Spirit (Disney On Ice):** Rob Luftglass for Julia Margulies announced that a special offer will be forthcoming from the MCI Center/Patriot Center ticket office for discounted tickets to Disney on Ice in late October.

**Hospitality:** DeeAnn Jeremiah distributed a signup form for refreshments for PTA meetings. She also thanked everyone for the help with the Teachers' Breakfast.

**Auction/Basketball:** Laura Mead announced that Basketball applications will be distributed to all students in grades 3-6 in upcoming Tuesday Folders. Assessments will be held on November 8-9.

For the Auction, invitations should have been received. The theme is masquerade and there will be many restaurants represented through Taste of the Town. Please see [www.mantuaptauction.org](http://www.mantuaptauction.org), for more information. There are still many volunteer opportunities. Much of the proceeds (projected 2/3) will go toward the prioritized Wish List, primarily the Mobile PC Lab.

**Drama Club:** Beth Whitehead announced that this year, the Drama Club will be presenting an all Shakespeare lineup. The Drama Club is looking for volunteers. Shows are scheduled for the Friday and Saturday before Thanksgiving, then Monday and Tuesday assemblies for the students.

### **New Business**

A discussion was held regarding publishing PTA documents (e.g., Alert News, Newsletter) in Other Languages. This is a possible opportunity to use the recently hired Liaisons. Further discussion is recommended at the next PTA Meeting.

Byrd MacGowan asked about the late lunches/minimal recess for students in the all day kindergarten and the use of taking away recess as a punishment for not doing homework. Mrs. Fernandez indicated that both topics represent a balancing act –in terms of scheduling and the ability to tie consequences to punishment. There was general agreement that taking away recess is not the best punishment, but there is no perfect solution. Team discussions are needed to come up with other possibilities for consequences. Mrs. Thompson is working on the recess schedule with the goal of increasing recess time for all students.

### **Motions Carried**

A motion carried to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm. The next meeting will be October 1, 2003.

Robert Luftglass  
Secretary