

**Notes of the Mantua PTA
December 1, 2004
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: *John Jennison, Nathan Merrells, Cheryl May, Carole Thomas, and Nancy Robinson.*

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

Board Members: *Laura Mead, Beth Whitehead, Jennifer Cooper, Faye Henris, Linda Halstead, Martha Parsons, Peter Brandman, Laura Samotshozo, Patti Pratuch, and Randi Kirkland.*

General Membership: *Donna McGrath, Melinda Burroughs, Monica Cameron, and Rene Pana-Cryan.*

The minutes of the November 3 meeting were changed to reflect the following two Board Members who were omitted from the attendance list: Randi Kirkland and Jennifer Cooper. Nancy Robinson made a **motion** that the minutes of the November 3, 2004 meeting be approved. Monica Cameron seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cheryl May distributed the Income Statement for the five months ending November 30, 2004. She noted that we should soon be seeing the income earned from the auction and the book fair.

John pointed out that Cheryl will reconvene the Budget Committee in January to look at the budget for the remainder of the year after the income from the auction is in. In the meanwhile, we do have the ability to fund some “Principal Wish List” items currently. He passed out a list of four categories of items from Jan-Marie totaling \$5,000. These include: four additional printers, two additional data projectors, a set of Junior Great Books for the fifth grade, and additional Take Home reading books for the primary students. Cheryl May made a **motion** that we fund the Principal’s Wish List (as specified on the hand-out) for \$5,000. Laura Mead seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John Jennison presented the **Announcements:**

- Proposed the following schedule for the “Whom We Serve” presentations for the remaining PTA meetings: January—Preschool; February—International Dinner and ESOL; March—Total Communications; April—Gifted and Talented; May—Special Education and Learning Disabled; June—Specialists (Art, Music, PE, and Instructional Technology).

- Passed around a copy of a “Kid Stuff” coupon savings book to see if there was interest in selling these books next year as a fundraiser.

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

- She welcomed Tina Tingler back from her surgery.
- Announced that over 1,500 turkey lunches were served during the two days of Thanksgiving lunches for students and families.
- Commended the students and parents on the excellent job done with the Drama Club plays.
- Announced some sixth graders participated in the United Nations Conference.
- Monthly Boyer meetings continue for staff.

Ms. Tingler made the following **Announcements**:

- She’s glad to be back at school.
- A survey for parents with children in Special Education programs was sent home.
- Mrs. Woon has been hired as the Parent Liaison.

Ms. Thompson made the following **Announcements**:

- On December 16 at 2 pm the Medi-Vac helicopter from the Fairfax INOVA hospital will fly over and take an aerial picture of the students as they are assembled into the letters spelling “MANTUA”. This picture will be used as the cover of the yearbook. In addition, the helicopter will land and students will be given a presentation about the helicopter.
- The sixth grade Night Out will be held on Friday, December 3 from 6-9pm in the gym. They will watch a movie, play board games, have music and eat pizza, popcorn and candy.
- A “Homework Club” has been formed for kids struggling in academics and who don’t have homework support at home. Currently, nine students meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Auction: Faye Henris reported that the second round of auction items closes this evening. She said as of now, over \$23,000 has been earned from the auction, including \$7,500 just from our sponsorships. She would like to have children from the school write thank-you notes to the sponsors for the things we have gotten with the money earned from the auction.

Basketball: Laura Mead reported that practice has begun and games will start next week. This year, Fairfax County is charging a \$5 fee per child for using the school facilities to play. The total fee assessed our kids is \$1,650 and will be covered by the registration fees.

Carnival: Laura Mead also spoke about the upcoming Mantua PTA Carnival to be held on March 12. Start-up meetings will be held soon.

Kids Care Club: Jennifer Cooper said they had a successful leaf raking for elderly Mantua residents. They also collected 102 eyeglasses for charity. In addition, they are collecting holiday gifts for three needy families (two families are from Mantua Elementary). Finally, they are collecting items for Bailey School's annual bizarre.

Talent Show: Jennifer also reported that information will be coming out about the upcoming Talent Show. The date of the Talent Show has been switched to February 12. The proceeds of the show will benefit the Community Care Fund.

Woodson Coalition: Jennifer also reported that they are having several programs promoting safe and drug-free awareness. Last week's program was a success and another will be held on December 7 at 10 am at the JCC.

Drama Club: Beth Whitehead reported that she was pleased with how the plays went. She is looking for feedback on the plays as well as ideas for next year.

Reflections: Jan-Marie reported that the winners from Mantua received their medals and awards.

Newsletter: Martha Parsons reported that the first quarter PTA Newsletter went out successfully. She noted that she was having trouble opening past files of the Newsletter because she did not have the current version of Publisher software. Cheryl May made a **motion** that we purchase the latest version of Publisher software to use for the PTA Newsletter. Faye Henris seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business

- **International Dinner:** John reported that Bridget Jennison will be in charge of organizing the International Dinner to be held in conjunction with the February 2 PTA meeting.
- **Bathrooms:** Jan-Marie reported that they spoke with each grade level about the disrespect shown in the bathrooms. John noted that he is working on a one or two page version of the Student Responsibility and Rights booklet to deal specifically with Respect of Property. This will then be given to each student.
- **Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration Series:** John asked if anyone knew whether there was any response to Peri Ulrey's request for parental interest in this program. No one knew if any response had been received.

New Business

- **Parent Involvement:** Beth Whitehead spoke about how to get more parents involved in PTA. She suggested that perhaps short "testimonials" from active PTA parents should be printed in the weekly Alert News. Linda Halstead also suggested that each PTA member who attends a meeting bring along a "new face"

with them. Another suggestion was for the meetings to be announced on the Morning News so that kids can remind their parents of upcoming meetings.

Special Guest—School Board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner

- A presentation was made by School Board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner who spoke about the desire of Fairfax County Public Schools to consolidate their many administrative facilities that are currently spread throughout the county.
- He reported that a study was done by FCPS (and verified by Fairfax County) that significant cost savings would occur if a central administration building was purchased and existing administrative buildings were either reused for school purposes or sold.
- Currently the School Board has approved this plan, and a vote by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was set for next week.
- Much concern was expressed by some Mantua parents present that this building purchase would negatively impact the FCPS Capital Improvement Plan and consequently the Woodson renewal project. Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner assured the parents that the two projects are unrelated and that the Woodson project should go ahead as planned. He invited interested parents to meet with him at a later time to go over the project in more detail.

Motions Carried

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

A motion carried to fund the Principal's Wish List for \$5,000.

A motion carried to purchase the latest version of Publisher software to use for the PTA Newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Nancy Robinson
Secretary