

**Notes of the Mantua PTA
March 2, 2005
Mantua Elementary School**

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

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

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Cheryl Thompson, Brian Collins, and Susan Kaplan.*

Board Members: *Pete Brandman, Donna Yudkin, Beth Whitehead, Laura Mead, and Randi Kirkland.*

General Membership: *Melissa Morgan, Monica Sander, and Kathy Phillips.*

Donna Yudkin made a **motion** that the minutes of the February 2, 2005 meeting be approved. Nathan Merrells seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cheryl May distributed the Income Statement for the eight months ending February 28, 2005. She stated that the PTA is in line with the budget (year to date). She noted that the Talent Show made \$1,000 net, and that the Drama Club was spending some funds on new microphones and cables. She said the next big event would be the Carnival.

John Jennison made the following announcements:

- Providence Supervisor Lynda Smith thanked the PTA and MCA for their involvement and funding for the sidewalk project on Lido Place.
- The Talent Show was a great success. However, he would like to see us consider selling only water at these events. Not only is there too much sugar available for purchase, but clean up of sticky spilled soda is a big problem.
- Kena Temple is holding a community yard sale in their parking lot this fall. They have asked the PTA to organize and coordinate the selling of the lots. This could be an early fundraiser for next year and could serve as a source of funding for the new playground.
- There are focus groups being held on information technology.
- Parents need to get involved with the Woodson Renewal project. Although the project has been successfully pushed ahead in the schedule, there continues to be concern about the amount of physical space that is allocated for the buildings (for example, gym space).

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

- She will speak at the school board meeting on March 10 to highlight the TC After School program. She noted that this program continues to grow, especially with the help from former deaf education students.
- She held a Principal's Coffee on the new Italian language program. She also noted that we received a \$500 grant from the Sons of Italy group for the program.
- Three students from the 6th grade are competing in the "It's Academic" competition.
- A "mini" back-to-school night was held with the two new 6th grade teachers.
- She will be representing public schools at a deafness conference.

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

- There is a new assessment for students with disabilities.

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

- Testing for ESOL students and some SOL tests are beginning.
- On April 22, there will be a basketball game between the teachers and the parents from the basketball league.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Basketball: Playoffs are beginning. Cheryl May sent Rob Mead a summary of expenditures and costs. The PTA Executive Committee will cover extra costs.

Carnival: "Medieval Mantua" carnival will be held on March 12. In addition to the booths, baskets, posters, and food, this year there will also be a police demonstration. Laura noted that many committees still need help.

Kids Care Club: On March 13, Jennifer Cooper will be honored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations for her involvement with the Kids Care Club and Woodson Coalition. Cheryl May made a **motion** that we buy two complimentary tickets for Jennifer to use for her family to attend the awards banquet. Beth Whitehead seconded. The motion carried.

On March 15, the Woodson Coalition will host a panel discussion of teenagers discussing what they typically do on a Saturday night. The Raccoon Run will be held on May 14.

Old Business

- **"Mantua From Above":** John said that order form will be modified to reflect both youth and adult sizes for the T-shirts.

New Business

- **PTO vs. PTA:** John reported that a task force will be formed to look into this. He noted that there are advantages and disadvantages to both. He will bring this up again.
- **Volunteerism Survey:** John suggested that a parent survey may be considered to help determine why volunteerism is such a problem in some areas.
- **Fundraising Policy and Procedures:** John would like to set up a task force to study the need for establishing fundraising policy and procedures as well as look into setting up a vetting process for future fundraising requests.
- **School Supplies Fundraiser:** Donna Yudkin studied a program that offers prepackaged school supply kits to parents. A portion of the price goes to the PTA as a fundraiser. She talked to several schools that are using it and determined that they were not making a lot of money from the program. Her conclusion was that it is too much work to get up and running and the payoff was not substantial enough to make worthwhile.
- **Whom We Serve—Gifted and Talented:** Lead GT teacher Susan Kaplan spoke about the program at Mantua. The GT program begins in 3rd grade and pulls students from six surrounding schools. This year there are two GT classes per grade. She noted that the GT academic classes are separate from the base school but that music, gym, lunch, etc. are with the rest of the school. She described a typical “day in the life” of a GT class and highlighted some of their activities.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of February 2, 2005.

A motion carried to approve the funding for two complimentary tickets for Jennifer Cooper to use for her family to attend the Federation of Citizen Associations awards banquet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Nancy Robinson
Secretary