

**Notes of the Mantua PTA
October 6, 2004
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, Carole Thomas, and Nancy Robinson.*

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez.*

Board Members: *Laura Mead, Mary Rustick, Randi Kirkland, Beth Whitehead, Lynn Richmond, Linda Halstead, Donna Yudkin, Allen Clark, Chris Love, Leanne Stynchula, Pam Promisel, Jeriann Mikesh, and Laura Samotshozo.*

General Membership: *Melinda Burroughs, Lynn Swanson, Patti Pratuch, Alice Durek, Peri Ulrey, Elana Plotnick, Hilary Strasser, and Jennifer McKenzie.*

Nathan Merrells made a **motion** that the agenda of the meeting be suspended to allow two special guests to speak first. Laura Mead seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The following **Special Guests** spoke:

- Dr. Cecy Krill, the Cluster III Coordinator, spoke about her role as a supervisor and advocate for all schools that fall under Cluster III. She thanked the Mantua parents and PTA for all their support and help at our school.
- Fairfax County Police Officer P. G. Dittmar spoke about the vandalism and hate crime that occurred on the school playground sometime over the weekend preceding Monday, September 28. Officer Dittmar reported that a police department detective is looking into the offenses and investigating any leads. Jan-Marie Fernandez said the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Security is also looking into the situation and may recommend that additional lighting (as well as lights that remain on longer) be installed on and around the playground.

Resumption of agenda:

Nathan Merrells made a **motion** that the minutes of the September 8, 2004 meeting be approved. Donna Yudkin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cheryl May distributed the Income Statement for the three months ending September 30, 2004. She noted that we made some money on the ice cream social. She also reported that the 2004-2005 Budget was adopted at the Back-to-School Nights. However, since that time several modifications are needed to the budget. Cheryl May made a **motion** that

\$6,500 be added for staff development costs, \$135 added for the Odyssey of the Mind program, and \$2,500 be included for the Author's Conference. Chris Love seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John Jennison presented the **Announcements**:

- More thank you notes were received from teachers for the Teacher Breakfast and the checks for teachers to use in setting up their classrooms.
- John made a speech at the School Board meeting in support of the proposed sale of public school land. His speech is posted on the PTA website. Nathan Merrells made a **motion** that John makes a speech at the upcoming meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors also in favor of the proposed land sale. Nancy Robinson seconded. The motion carried.

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

- She reported that Cheryl Thompson will be on vacation for several weeks and that Tina Tingler will be out for up to six weeks for some surgery.
- The practice lock down and evacuation went extremely well.
- Back-to-School nights were successful, as was the first Principal's Coffee.
- Principals from New Zealand, who are interested in our GT program, visited.
- Teachers from various grades attended in-service training.
- The sixth-grade United Nations Conference is underway. This year, parental permission was needed, as the topic was HIV-AIDS and its impact on children and their education.
- She addressed a question from the floor regarding if a real lock-down situation occurred how parents would be notified. She said the most efficient method was email (both local as well as FCPS) as well as phone calls. She said the county is looking into a contact system.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Membership: Carole Thomas reported that only 50 percent of the families had joined the PTA this year. Personal invitations to join will be sent to the remaining families. She also said a draft of the directory to review will be coming soon.

Auction: Carole Thomas reported that this year's auction would be an "E-Bay" type auction with everything done on-line. She said the biggest challenge will be to get people to visit the website often. She listed several strategies for keeping the excitement level up throughout the entire auction.

Principal's Coffee: The next Principal's coffee is rescheduled to October 19 at 2:00 pm. The focus of this coffee will be on the foreign language programs.

Gift Wrap: Lynn Richmond reported that this was a great year but a little off from earnings of past years. The sale officially ends October 8. Our school's "Partner Points"

earnings with Sally Foster earned us a free DVD player, which she presented to Jan-Marie Fernandez.

Basketball: Laura Mead reported that registration is underway for the basketball league. She noted that more grades 3 and 4 girls are needed.

Kids Care Club: Jennifer McKenzie spoke about the Fannie Mae “Help the Homeless” mini-walk and fundraiser that includes a physical activity and educational component for participating school-age children. The mini-walk would benefit Pathway House, a local center for the homeless and mentally ill. Jennifer made a **motion** that she will explore the feasibility of Mantua participating in this event. Allen Clark seconded. The motion carried.

Woodson Coalition: Leanne Stynchula reported on the safety, drug, and alcohol programs that are offered by this group for students and parents.

Old Business

- **PTA Bylaws:** Nathan Merrells made a **motion** that the Bylaws be adopted as presented at the last meeting. Laura Mead seconded. The motion carried. Nathan made another **motion** that the wording regarding the two-year limitation on the committee chairpersons be deleted. Laura Mead seconded.
- **Lido Sidewalk:** John reported that Providence District supervisor Lynda Smith would hold a meeting with concerned neighbors to discuss the issues surrounding a proposed sidewalk leading from Lido to Horner Court.

New Business

- **Vandalism Reward:** John stated that the Mantua Community Association was offering a \$250 reward for information on the playground vandalism. He said he would like the PTA to consider making a matching reward. Leanne Stynchula made a **motion** that the PTA offers a \$250 matching reward for information on the playground vandalism. Chris Love seconded. The motion carried.
- **“Whom we serve”:** Moved to next meeting.
- **Over enrollment:** Moved to next meeting.
- **First-Year Administrator Award:** John reported that an award would be given to outstanding first-year school administrators. Laura Mead made a **motion** that a committee be formed to look into nominating a Mantua administrator for the first-year administrator award. Chris Love seconded. The motion carried.

Motions Carried

A motion carried that the agenda of the meeting be suspended to allow two special guests to speak first.

A motion carried to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2004.

A motion carried that \$6,500 be added to the PTA Budget for staff development costs, \$135 added for the Odyssey of the Mind program, and \$2,500 be included for the Author's Conference.

A motion carried for the Mantua PTA President to speak at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting in support of accelerating the Woodson renovation project by one year.

A motion carried to explore the feasibility of Mantua participating in the Fannie Mae "Help the Homeless" mini-walk.

A motion carried that the Bylaws be adopted as presented at the last meeting.

A motion carried that the wording in the Bylaws regarding the two-year limitation on the committee chairpersons be deleted.

A motion carried that the PTA offers a \$250 matching reward for information on the playground vandalism.

A motion carried that a committee be formed to look into nominating a Mantua administrator for the first-year administrator award.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Nancy Robinson
Secretary