

DRAFT
Notes of the Mantua PTA
October 5, 2005
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: *Mary Jo Kavjian, Donna Yudkin, Elizabeth Wasserman, Carol Thomas and Cheryl May.*

School Representatives: *Cheryl Thompson, Tina Tingler and Janet Sottolano.*

Board Members: *Loren Brandman, Carole Thomas, Lynn Richmond, Randi Kirkland, Patti Taheri, Allen Clark, Laura Mead*

General Membership: *Rene Pana-Cryan, Jennifer McKenzie and Maggie Weddell*

Donna Yudkin made a **motion** that the minutes of the Sept. 14, 2005 meeting be approved. Laura Mead seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cheryl May distributed the PTA Income Statement for the three months ending Sept. 30, 2005. She said the loss in September is due to the PTA-sponsored activities associated with the beginning of school and is not unusual.

Mary Jo Kavjian made a few announcements.

- The PTA Ice Cream Social had earned \$746.
- The PTA had nominated Mantua Principal Jan-Marie Fernandez to be Principal of the Year for the Washington Post/Agnes Meyer Award. Decisions are not announced until January.

Ms. Thompson made the **Principal's Report** because Principal Jan-Marie Fernandez was out of town:

- There is concern about children riding bicycles to school, particularly without helmets. The school is in the process of developing a form that parents would have to fill out if they want their children to ride bicycles to school every day in lieu of walking or taking the bus. Parents need to be aware that riding a bicycle without a helmet carries a \$25 fine in Fairfax County.
- The 4th grade will have its first major field trip Oct. 21 to Williamsburg, Va.
- Friday, Oct. 28 has been chosen for Halloween Spirit Day, an event sponsored by the Student Council Association. Each grade will be assigned a theme.
- Starting at the end of October and running through November, several grades will undergo testing. Due to the No Child Left Behind Act, Fairfax County is requiring grades 3-6 undergo Benchmark Assessment Tests in reading and math. The results will be used by teachers to assess student preparation for the SOLs. In addition,

during this same time period, 2nd graders will take the CogATs and Naglieri Cognitive Assessment tests, as they usually do this time of year.

- An Evacuation Drill is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 20. Parents will receive a letter about this drill in the Tuesday folders. Residents of Colesbury Place will also be notified because that is one area to which children are evacuated.

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

- The Kids Care Club, in coordination with the Total Communication Program, will be selling buttons to benefit the Louisiana School for the Deaf, which is helping 70 families impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Buttons will be \$2 each or two for \$2.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Sally Foster - Lynn Richmond stated that this year's campaign wraps up Oct. 7 and orders have already topped \$10,000.

Parent Education – Melissa Hodgman asked the PTA to help support the Active Parenting Today program, which starts Oct. 14 and runs for six weeks. The program is based on a book that will be going out of print. She asked that the PTA order 20 additional copies so that the program may be taught again next year or the year after. She asked the PTA for \$277.95, which will be repaid as parents who sign up for future programs buy the book back from the PTA.

Donna Yudkin made a **motion** to allocate \$300. Carole Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kids Care Club – Patti Taheri announced that the Kids Care Club will be decorating the buttons to support Hurricane Katrina victims. She also said that the group had set a Nov. 12 date for leaf raking for seniors.

Basketball – Rob Mead - Program is starting November – more next month.

Membership – Carole Thomas updated us on the current campaign, we have 640 adults as paid members out of 1,135.

Directory – Carole Thomas stated that the student directory will be printed in mid-October and we need to send out a reminder to parents that they need to be dues-paying members of the PTA to get a copy. Carole said she had been approached by a business person in the community who wanted to subsidize the printing of the directory by buying an ad. The Executive Committee decided to take the person up on the advertisement, but opened up advertising to other business people as well to cover the costs of printing. An announcement will be printed in this year's directory informing businesses how they can advertise next year.

Auction – Carole Thomas said that we still need donations. Parents are encouraged to make donations as well as ask local businesses to help support the auction. The auction officially opens in November.

Basketball – Laura Mead submitted report that registration has already started and will end on Oct. 25. Practices begin in November and games begin in December.

Hands on Science – Randi Kirkland said that we have 15 classes for 154 students – the most we have ever had.

Odyssey of the Mind – Randi Kirkland announced that an information night is scheduled for Nov. 10.

Parent Library – Donna Yudkin said that there is a new sign-out sheet and updated listings for the parent library. A notice will appear in the Alert News notifying parents about the existence of the library and the need for donated books. In addition, a speaker has been arranged to discuss the book “Odd Girl Out” with parents on Nov. 9.

Teacher Representative – Janet Sottolano said teachers were thankful for the recent gifts from the PTA. She announced that the last week of October is Red Ribbon Week to raise awareness of the danger of drugs. This year, the theme for the program will be Mantua Students CAN Stay Away from Drugs – and students will be encouraged to bring in a can of food in order to build a large pyramid to raise awareness. The food will be donated to Food for Others.

New Business

Carole Thomas made a **motion** that the PTA allocate \$250 to sponsor the Ryan McLaughlin Golf Tournament that was held this fall. Cheryl May seconded. The motion carried.

Jennifer McKenzie asked the PTA for support for a Mini-Walk to Help the Homeless. The walk, which was conducted at Mantua last year, is affiliated with a national Help The Homeless Walk held on the Mall in Washington, D.C. She said the dates have been tentatively set for Oct. 24-25. The walk will be held during P.E. All students are participants, but they have the option to register officially for \$15. Proceeds will go to Pathway House, a non-profit that helps to provide housing for people undergoing mental health treatment.

Donna Yudkin made a **motion** for PTA support of the walk. Carole Thomas seconded. The motion carried.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the amended minutes of Sept. 14, 2005.

A motion carried to allocate \$300 to support the Active Parenting Today program.

A motion carried to allocate \$250 to sponsor the Ryan McLaughlin Golf Tournament.

A motion carried to support a Mini-Walk to Help the Homeless during P.E. class.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Cherie Curry and Elizabeth Wasserman
Co-Secretaries