

**FINAL**  
**Notes of the Mantua PTA**  
**April 2, 2008**  
**Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

**Executive Board:** *Bob Greene, Donna McGrath, Terry Murphy, Virginia Fisher*  
**School Representatives:** *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Cheryl Thompson; Tina Tingler; Janet Sottolano*  
**Board Members:** *Trish Williams, Monica Cameron; Mary Jo Kavjian*  
**General Membership:** *Jacqui Heller, Nicole Armstrong*

Minutes were distributed for the March 2008 meeting electronically and in print. Bob Greene made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 2008 PTA meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Doug Denny, MCA President and Congressional candidate, stopped by to introduce himself and talk about the MCA and his congressional candidacy. He is a democrat, military veteran, Mantua resident who feels that he knows our community and would be a good representative.

He noted that the Lido Sidewalk effort has been approved by the county. A sidewalk will be installed down Lido to the school. This effort has been underway for many years and is excellent news.

You can learn more about him on his website – [dougforcongress.com](http://dougforcongress.com)

Bob Greene made the following **Announcement(s)**:

The slate of nominees for next year's Executive Board was announced and approved by the board. The Election is open to any PTA member in good standing and will be held at the June PTA meeting by all present.

- o President: Bob Greene
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Monica Cameron and Trish Williams
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Nicole Armstrong
  - o Treasurer: Julie Lifland
  - o Secretary: Ken Moles
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- Boy Scout Troop 1533 announced that they now have a total of 105 Eagle Scouts who have achieved this status. Congratulations!
  - Jacqui Heller volunteered Tom Heller to pick up the PTA signs and put them out again before the next meeting.

Terry Murphy made the following **Treasurer's Report**:

- Year to date profit through Mar-08 is \$12,951. Cash balance is \$38,912
- The 2008 carnival made \$15,147 about \$500 more than last year. Largest expense item for the carnival was for food - \$2,661.
- Several line items in the budget still need to be finalized so that the amount that the PTA can fund towards the principal's wish list can be determined. These include the encumbered PC's from last year and the ASL funds.
- Two excerpts from the Virginia PTA Fundraising Guidelines were presented that should be considered by the PTA when making fundraising or spending decisions:
  - A PTA or PTSA is not a money making or money raising organization.

- The purpose of the PTA is to promote the welfare of the children.
  - PTAs and PTSA's should provide service, not material things for the school or children
- It was recommended that the board and other interested parties review these fundraising guidelines. The guidelines were provided by e-mail on 4/3/08.
- There was a discussion about accepting cash vs tickets for food items at the carnival. The comments were generally favorable.
- The PTA funding guidelines were discussed. Terry brought in the Virginia PTA by-laws, which state that funding should go toward the students and their needs.
- It was agreed that the PTA would not sponsor or be involved in a fundraiser for the big M thing and that if one is held that the big M thing would be a direct donation to the school.

Donna McGrath made the following **Membership Report**:

- To date 731 people have signed up and paid for membership to the PTA. No new members since the last meeting.

**Principal's Report:**

- Jan-Marie Fernandez noted that Heritage/Literacy Night was a big success and that the school is contemplating separating them out next year in order to maximize the potential of each event.
- Monday, April 5 is a student holiday / teacher workday.
- She attended the Fairfax County school budget meeting. They are contemplating a .03 cent hike in property taxes (per \$100 in assessments) of which .02 might be earmarked for school needs.
- Summer school has been revamped and many programs have been cancelled. Mantua will host the Special Ed summer school this year. 200 children, 22 classrooms and 6 small rooms. It is a 4 week program ½ days.
- Mantua will also host summer school for those Mantua students who are in need of remedial intervention. This is a 3 week program, ½ day. There are 2 teachers slated for this, but Mrs. Fernandez may get that up to 4 teachers, 15 students each.
- Tina Tingler announced that Secretary Appreciation Week is April 21 – 25. The 7 Mantua secretaries will be going to lunch (at a restaurant of their choice) on April 23. Mary Jo Kavjian affirmed that she has organized replacement volunteers for the office staff during their absence.
- May 5 – 9 is Teacher Appreciation Week. May 9 will be the Teacher's luncheon.
- The Parent Workshop titled "Behavioral Strategies for the Home" by Sharon Weiss has been rescheduled for April 17.
- SOLs start on May 12.
- Kindergarten Orientation is May 5.
- The Raccoon Run is scheduled for May 10.
- GT Orientation is May 12
- Spring Band Concert is May 27 at 7:00.

### **Volunteer Coordinator's Report**

- Trish Williams and Monica Cameron reported that Teresa Lemair, the incoming Volunteer Coordinator, will speak the Kindergarten Orientation about volunteering at the school.
- They requested PTA funds for drinks/snacks at the next Parent Workshop. Funds were granted.
- They noted that the Conversational English program is starting on Thursday, April 3 from 9:30 – 10:30 in the cafeteria. The PTA commends Monica and Trish for all their hard work in this regard!
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There were no **Committee** reports.

### **Old Business**

- Mary Jo Kavjian reported great participation in the Virginia Lottery "Super Teacher" Award nomination effort. The Lottery will select 8 winners state wide and they will receive \$2,000. The deadline for nominations is April 11. Go to the Virginia Lottery website for more information.

### **New Business**

- The board voted to establish a **Capital Improvement Funding Committee**. This committee would explore ideas for school improvements and how to fund them. If anyone is interested in chairing this committee or serving on it, please contact Bob Greene. Note: one idea, a new gym floor, is scheduled to be replaced by the county in 2012.
- Trish Williams announced that the FCPS (Fairfax County Public Schools) Department of Communications and Community Outreach has many resources to help schools, parents and PTAs. They had their regional Parent meeting on April 3.
- Missy Greene is a Mary Kay consultant and can put on a party in your home that will also help to raise money for Mantua. Contact her for more information.
- The Sleepy Hollow Preschool is sponsoring a fundraiser at Dogfish Head Ale House on April 8. A percentage of all sales will go to the preschool. Mantua should consider it also.
- Andrea would like to work up a 10 year landscaping plan that will touch all areas of the school. The PTA can consider her suggestions and they can be offered to other volunteer organizations, scouts etc. This might fall under the Capital Improvement Project.
- Andrea Mains also inquired (through Monica Cameron) as to the status of the decorative M being created for the front of the school. It was determined that this will not be a PTA project, but that parents are welcome to raise money and fund this project independently.

### **Motions Carried**

- Adoption of Minutes for March 2008 PTA meeting.
- Presentation of slate of candidates for 2008-09 PTA Executive Board.
- Establishment of a Capital Improvements Funding Committee

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Virginia Fisher and Mary Rollins  
Co-Secretaries