

**Final**  
**Notes of the Mantua PTA**  
**October 3, 2007**  
**Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

**Executive Board:** *Bob Greene, Donna McGrath, Erin Spilman, Terry Murphy, Mary Rollins*

**School Representatives:** *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Cheryl Thompson, and Tina Tingler; Janet Sottolano; Meghan Ryan-Harrington*

**Board Members:** *Donna McGrath, DeeAnn Jeremiah, Monica Cameron, Kathy Phillips*

**General Membership:** *Jason Gloege, Loan Pham, Shavouna Farmerie, Jacque Heller,, Deirdre Mayes, Maggie Weddell, Filiz Unal, Andrea Mains, Suzanne Wayman, Lora McLain, Hilary Strasser, Rene Pana-Cryan*

Minutes were distributed for the September 2007 meeting electronically. Bob Greene made a motion to adopt the minutes from the September 2007 PTA meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Suggestion was made to send monthly minutes to all school representatives for their review before the next meeting. All agreed.

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

- Net loss thru 30-Sep-07 is \$11,034.56. Large expense items for this point in the year include the teacher's fund, principal's fund, field trip and staff development.
- Cash balance at 30-Sep-07 is \$14,300.00
- Proceeds of the ice cream social - \$820.00
- There are items on the financial statement for Yearbook expense, Hands on Science income and Artworks Project income that are from checks/invoices for last fiscal year that weren't received until after 30-June-2007

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

- To date (October 3) 550 people had signed up and paid for membership to the PTA. This number includes 107 teacher members.
- Donna noted that paying for a PTA membership using PayPal is not ideal, as the electronic form does not currently allow designate student names.

- A recommendation was made to coordinate with whoever manages the school PayPal account, to see if we could add a field to the PTA membership form designating student names.

Mrs. Jan-Marie Fernandez made the **Principal's Report:**

- She thanked everyone for a successful Ice Cream Social. The social had a great turnout, with net proceeds of \$820.
- The school hosted two well-attended Back to School Nights. There was a bit of discussion over how to encourage parents to limit the time they interact with the teachers to within the allotted time frame. All are encouraged to send further thoughts to the administration for consideration.

Ms. Cheryl Thompson made the following announcements:

- The 4-6 grades completed BART testing, which allows teachers to gauge student abilities and accurately group them.
- COGAT and Naglieri testing for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders takes place Oct. 17-19, and Oct. 24-26. Tests are administered to all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and to 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade students who request the test.
- On October 4, the staff reviewed a crisis safety security plan.
- The school will have a safety drill on Wednesday, Oct. 24, which will include a tornado drill, a fire drill, an all-school evacuation, and a review of lock down procedures.
- The annual Spirit Parade takes place Wednesday, October 31. Students in each grade level participate. Students will wear costumes, masks, etc. relating to a particular theme.
- Ms. Thompson noted her desire to have some kind of structure built near the hill by the playground. The permanent shelter, which would have seating for approximately 30 students/teachers, would provide shelter from the sun. Maggie Weddell agreed to look into costs for a cement pad, walls and roof, and will present these costs at a future meeting.

Mrs. Tina Tingler made the following announcements:

- The school will host a parent support group for parents of hearing impaired students. The group will meet in the fall and spring this year.
- Tina also mentioned a new behavior modification program implemented in the cafeteria this year. Kids are encouraged to use appropriate behavior in the cafeteria: sit down, raise their hands if they need assistance, keep their voices down. Kids get cards which they then turn in to their classroom teachers. Teachers are using the cards to positively reinforce good behaviors.

The following committee announcements were made:

**Parenting Classes:**

- Erin Spilman reported that parenting classes have been scheduled for October and November. They will take place on Friday evenings starting October 26, with

child care and refreshments provided. Fliers have been distributed to parents and signs are posted in the school lobby.

- Erin announced that Sharon Weiss, noted child behavior specialist and author, will be speaking at Mantua in March or April next week. Details and firm date to follow.

### **Sally Foster**

- Kathy Phillips reported that Sally Foster final orders were due on October 4<sup>th</sup> this year. Orders will be delivered on Nov 1, distributed to the classrooms on Nov 5 and Nov 6.
- Kathy will share the final sales numbers at the November meeting.

### **Community Spirit:**

- Andrea Mains and Monica Cameron discussed the possibility of hosting a “Movie Under the Stars” night at Mantua.
- All agreed that the event should be considered for next Fall. The goal would be to get the date secured in the Spring, and announce the date at student orientation and communication early in the school year.
- Ms. Thompson shared her safety and security concerns for the evening event. More discussion is needed before the event is scheduled.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Mantua Food Drive**

- Janet Sottolano announced plans to initiate a fall food drive again this year, with the aggressive goal of collecting 4,000 pounds of food for Food for Others. This goal is 500 pounds more than was collected last year.
- There will be a contest for students to make a promotional flier about the food drive. Details to come.

#### **Special Thanks**

- The PTA sent a note of thanks to **Shavouna Farmerie**, who supplied a delicious assortment of sandwiches and snacks for the meeting. Thank for your generosity!

### **Motions Carried**

- Adoption of Minutes for September 2007 PTA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Mary Rollins and Virginia Fisher  
Co-Secretaries