

**Notes of the Mantua PTA  
December 3, 2008  
Mantua Elementary School**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

**Executive Board:** Bob Greene, Trish Williams, Monica Cameron, Nicole Armstrong, Julie Lifland, Ken Moles, Amy Ivey

**School Representatives:** Mrs. Jan-Marie Fernandez, Ms. Cheryl Thompson, Mrs. Tina Tingler, Mrs. Janet Sottolano

**General Membership:** Carol Davis, Maliha Eckert, Debbie Schwartz, Shannon Murphy, Carrie Clawson,

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

**President's Report :** Bob Greene recognized the following PTA members for their outstanding efforts towards the functioning of our various activities:

Jason and Jeri Gloege – Drama club

Carrie Clawson – Book Fair and Alert News

Claire Fritzingler – Book Fair

Margaret Scheele – Parent Education Talk

Trish Williams – Parent Education Talk

Bonhee Ku – Multicultural Exchange

Carol Davis – AXA Foundation Grant

Andrea Mains- Creation of the “M” and Turkey for the front lobby

Rob Luftglass – Mantua Basketball League

John Nicholas – Website Assistance

Nicole Armstrong – Website Assistance

Elizabeth McPhilomy – Reflections Program

Kathy Phillips – Sally Foster

Deborah and Aubrey Hunter – Mantua Directory

Teresa Lemair – Dogfish Head Alehouse Fundraiser

**Treasurer's Report :** Julie Lifland reported the income generated by the Peg Tyre book sales, Election day bake sale, Sally Foster sales, Drama Club production, and Membership dues to date. It was noted that all programs are generating less than budgeted due to the poor economy. It was also noted that all possible households have not paid PTA dues and that the PTA should advertise in the directory.

**Principal's Report :** Mrs. Fernandez reported that the Thanksgiving Luncheons went well. There was a good turn out. She complimented the Book Fair and Parent Education talk. She complimented the decorations in the front lobby and noted that the school will help to fund a few more Winter decorations to help with school environment. Channel 21

televised some of the Brain and Learning research based activities taking place at the school. The Winter Sing-a-long will occur on the last day of school, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the gymnasium at 2 p.m.. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program will present at the next PTA meeting.

She reviewed that budget concerns remain.

Bob Greene noted that volunteerism is still needed and he reviewed the role of the PTA which is to assist with programs that are directed towards improving the educational experience of the children.

Mrs. Tina Tingler reported that the WJLA Weather assembly went well. Deborah Wiles was the Guest Author for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades.

Ms. Cheryl Thompson reported that the recent fire drill went well.

### **Report of First Co-Vice President for Community Outreach :**

Monica Cameron reported that Mary Jo Kavjian is in charge of the annual Principal and Teacher of the Year Award.

Trish Williams reported that The Kid's Care Club is running the Hat and Mitten Drive through 12/16. Donations will go to families in need. All unclaimed Lost and Found items will go to the program.

She reported that the Fall Multicultural Exchange gatherings have been completed. These were evening gatherings and were not well attended. Now there are Multicultural Heads representing different languages and nationalities. There will be monthly Coffees in the homes of these individuals starting with a meeting on 12/12 at Claudia Abrishami-Azar's house from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. These meetings will return to the school in the Spring. There will be a Coffee with the Principal for the Multicultural parents in the school library on Thursday 2/12/09. The AXA Foundation will present a grant award to the Mantua PTA at this gathering.

Carol Davis noted that the PTA should send a Thank You note to AXA Foundation for awarding the grant. She also related that we should document our activities regarding the grant, including sending pictures and thoughts from those who benefit from the grant. This can help establish a relationship with the grant provider. She also provided two websites to research grant offerings including the "Foundation Center" and "Charity Channel."

### **Report of Second Vice President for Membership and Fundraising :**

Nicole Armstrong reported that the directories are expected in 1 – 2 weeks.

Spirit Wear was sold at the Thanksgiving Luncheon.

The PTA Auction is in development. Packets have been sent out in the Tuesday Folders. There is an online link from the PTA website and there will be Alert News Postings.

The Website is functioning and the database is now online.

Interest was expressed regarding continued evolution into a paperless system.

Mrs. Janet Sottolano reported that 4122 pounds of food was donated to families in need through the food drive. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are studying Ancient religions and Hindu, Islam, and Buddhist representatives are still needed. She requested communication through the multicultural activities to assist with this. Volunteers would need to provide 30 minute blocks of time for a few days.

**Old Business :**

The Book Fair had a decrease in profits this year.

The Drama Club was financially successful. The money is to be channeled back into the Drama Club. It was noted that there are needed repairs to electronics for the stage. There were concerns voiced about the cost of tickets. There was also a cost to participate. Many teachers voiced concerns that the cost prohibited them from coming.

The Executive Board of the PTA is to address the ticket and fee structure for next year's event. It was noted that this may also include discussion of concerns for the Talent Show scheduled for 1/31/09.

Cultural Arts has been well funded in the budget. Nothing is currently planned. Ms. Thompson noted that the Cultural Arts Association has events available for purchase. The PTA can evaluate funding for these activities. Mrs. Fernandez noted that virtual field trips may be considered for next year as budget cuts may limit access to County funded trips.

Carol Davis noted that FXVA.com is a website promoting FFXCO as a trip destination.

**New Business :**

The Carnival was discussed and the possibility of recycling bins will be considered.

Heritage and Literacy nights will be a combined event. The Heritage presentations will be in the gymnasium this year. This is scheduled for 3/19/09.

Visiting at the next Mantua PTA meeting will be : The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, and the Boy Scouts.

Discussion of additional Parent Education should occur. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Motions Carried**

Adoption of minutes for November 5, 2008 meeting approved.

**Adjournment:** 8:20 p.m.

**Executive Board Meeting**

An Executive Board meeting was held with Mrs. Fernandez following the General Membership meeting.

Ken Moles  
Secretary