

**Notes of the Mantua PTA  
November 5, 2008  
Mantua Elementary School**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:02 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:** Jacqueline Heller, Melissa Morgan, Terry Murphy, Diane Schenk, Raisha Vaidya, Shoeib Shaikh, Kathy Phillips

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

**President's Report :** Bob Greene reported that the website should be in good standing order within a few days. He opened the floor to comments.

Terry Murphy noted that the Basketball League needs the website. Games begin in December. A link is needed for the referees and coaches.

Jacqueline Heller noted that the Alert News is missed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Julie Lifland reported that income over expenses so far for the year is \$9,738.45.

Sally Foster and Dogfish Head Alehouse proceeds were reported.

The Federal Tax Exempt forms have been received. Will apply for VA tax exempt status as well.

**Principal's Report:** Mrs Fernandez reports that the Spirit Parade went well.

She reported on the Brain/Learning research with which the school has been involved.

The staff is very excited about learning to apply what they are learning.

Channel 21 is coming this Tuesday, November 11, to report on the school's application of this research.

The Cluster III Principals are coming to Mantua on Friday, November 14 for a presentation on this subject as well.

Mrs. Fernandez related that 10% of the students at Mantua now qualify for free and reduced lunch. The staff is watching expenses for families.

She noted the overall FFXCO budget deficit as well. The schools are surveying items that will be cut. There are projections of a 10% cut in office staffing and a 5% cut in school staffing. This will most likely result in an increased ratio of students:teachers.

The FLEX program will attempt to remain constant without additional staffing.

There is a need for Front Office support from the volunteer pool.

A donation of computers from a government office was made by the Brenner family.

More donations and volunteerism of this sort is needed. Corporate partnership was mentioned as a means of contending with the projected financial shortfall.

There will be a Robotics information mtg. at Marshall H.S. Wed. Nov. 12 in Michael Hall at 5 p.m.

A general member mentioned free software regarding ergonomic training that is available. She will provide this info to the school technical specialist.

Cheryl Thompson reported that the “Lock down drill” went well.

The different types of emergency drills was discussed.

In event of disaster all of the volunteers would follow direction of the staff.

WJLA TV Weather is coming to Mantua Nov.14 for an assembly with the 4-6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Drama Club productions will begin Nov.21.

Thanksgiving luncheons will be held Nov.19 for the pre – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and Nov.20 for the 4 – 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

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

Monica Cameron reported that the bake sale on Election day raised \$376.00.

The FLEX registration forms were sent out in the Tue. folders.

Trish Williams reported that leaf raking is the next event for the Kids Care Club.

Scheduled Nov.15. Help is needed as the number of houses requesting raking went up to 4 times the number in the past. Bring supplies if helping.

The Parent Ed. talk by Peg Tyre is on Wed. Nov.12. Books are to be sold. The PTA will get a percentage of the profits.

The multicultural exchange events are ongoing.

The PTA is applying for a grant from AXA Foundation. The grant request describes our multicultural exchange activities that will culminate in 2 events during Take Your Family to School Week Feb.8-14. The exact timing of these events is to be determined. Any grant money will go towards furthering the efforts of multicultural exchange.

Jacqueline Heller reported that Spirit Wear is changing vendors this year. There is an expected decrease in revenue. Colors of items was discussed. Expansion of the items offered was discussed.

Terry Murphy reported that Mantua Basketball is up and running. Coach and Referee meetings are starting.

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

Kathy Phillips reported that Sally Foster netted \$12,000, down 15% from last year. The number of student sellers decreased. Mrs Kaplan’s class won the contest and had the top student seller.

Membership income is lower than last year, this may improve when the directory comes out. Delay on production of the directory is due to database delays.

Book Fair requests for Volunteers have been distributed.

Teacher Representative Mrs. Janet Sottolano reported that a flyer for the food drive is coming out and discussed the importance and impact on students that this activity has.

The food (non-perishable items) is donated to “Food for Others.” This provides food for some of our own families.

### **Old Business:**

The Kiss and Ride improvements have been successful under the brilliant guidance of Ms. Thompson. Parent volunteers are beginning to help after instruction from Ms. Thompson.

Greeting/Get Well cards have been sent from the PTA. This will continue under the guidance of Ms. Thompson.

Margaret Scheele was recognized for her assistance in securing Peg Tyre who will be the upcoming parent ed teacher.

**New Business:**

The idea of a paperless system will need continued discussion, support, and a functioning website. This will continue to be on the agenda.

The Book Fair and Drama Club events were announced.

**Motions Carried**

Adoption of minutes for October 1, 2008 meeting approved.

**Adjournment:** 8:15 p.m.

**Executive Board Meeting**

An Executive Board meeting was announced by Bob Greene at 8:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the website and delays in it's functionality. This has had an impact on multiple PTA functions to date.

Discussion included the Executive Board, Melissa Morgan, and Jeri Gloege.

The decision was made to involve Thomas Morgan and Nicole Armstrong in the process of designing and maintaining the website.

The decision was also made to provide Jeri and Jason Gloege more volunteer support in their management of the Drama Club.

Ken Moles  
Secretary