

**Notes of the Mantua PTA  
September 10, 2008  
Mantua Elementary School**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:05 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, Mrs.Katie Grapp

**General Membership:** Liz Varley, Kathy Phillips, Teresa Willebeek-Lemair, Ceecee Young, Brenda Moss, Diane Schenk, Maureen Pass, Jae Bok, Mio Lee, Raisha Vaidya, Catherine Foley, Deirdre Mayes, Lauren Terry, Jeri Gloege, Jason Gloege, Karen Hasson, James Kim, Maliha Eckert, Jackie DeScisciolo, Bonhee Ku, Carole Thomas

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

**President's Report** - Bob Greene introduced the new Executive board, who then introduced themselves. The PTA structure will change slightly. Communications will "roll up" or occur between Committee chairs and Vice Presidents. This should facilitate communications. Emails with the structure have been sent to each Committee chair.

The Website Manager Jason Gloege was introduced. The website is currently undergoing revision. There will be a new design and structure. The work is still in progress. Jason asked for questions to be addressed to him.

**Introduction of MCA President** – Roger Cryan was introduced as the new MCA president. The MCA supports cooperation and communication between the PTA and themselves in order to compliment one another.

Question was asked – how to get more volunteers for PTA? Suggestion was made to use the email "Blast" system from MCA as long as information is cleared by Mrs. Jan-Marie Fernandez.

Trish Williams was introduced as the liason between the PTA and MCA.

Next MCA General mtg. will be 7:30p.m., October 15, 2008 open to membership.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Projected Budget for 2008-2009 was presented. A paper copy was present for all to review. Of note the budget is "Regrouped" for clarity. A motion was made to adopt the proposed budget. This was seconded and the budget was adopted. Three forms were presented by the Treasurer, Julie Lifland. The forms are available on the PTA website: 1.2 letters that authorize our tax exempt status and provide the necessary numbers. 2.Cash Receipt Report 3.Request for Reimbursement for PTA Expenses.

Credit card payment for PTA functions was discussed. It was noted that Paypal presented some administrative difficulties. Julie Lifland presented other options that she had researched. This matter was tabled for discussion by the Executive Board.

Julie Lifland noted that the PTA is currently applying for tax exempt status again as it expires 10/08.

Jason Gloege noted that online PTA dues aren't currently available.

Monica Cameron explained the auditor's report. This is done annually by a third party volunteer. The PTA records from last year were found to be accurate and in good order. Thanks was given to Terry Murphy for all his efforts in this matter.

**Principal's Report** – Mrs. Fernandez reported that there is a larger number of students than expected attending Mantua this year. The usual number of students is around 825 to start and 850 by the end of a school year. This year there are 881 students starting. Mrs. Fernandez reviewed the additions and changes that have occurred to the teaching and assistant staff.

Mrs. Fernandez reviewed the changes that have occurred to the facilities staff including the librarian and custodial staff.

Back To School Nights were announced.

Mrs. Fernandez expressed gratitude for the PTA support allowing attendance at Brain and Learning Conferences. This type research is being reviewed and applied by Mantua teachers. She would eventually like a meeting to discuss this with parents.

Mrs. Fernandez noted a visit to the school by an autism expert for the purpose of sharing ideas and information. Visits from other world experts are planned for this year.

Ms. Thompson related that letters have been sent to parents explaining the changes in the order of testing for students.

Ms. Thompson noted a pilot program involving movement activity prior to learning activities. This is based on brain research. This will be discussed at BTS Nights.

Mrs. Tingler was introduced. She supports the Special Education Programs.

Question was made regarding the source of new students to Mantua Elementary? Mrs. Fernandez noted the source as families newly moved into the area and transfers from private schools.

Teacher Liaisons Janet Sottolano and Katie Graap were introduced and appreciation expressed for their participation.

**Report of First Co-Vice President for Community Outreach –**

Trish Williams noted that she is currently placing great efforts in the direction of Multi-cultural Programs. She is attending FFX CO PTA Council meetings monthly and working with FFX CO Family Services to implement new ideas.

She noted that Mr. Swoboda is the first person to go through security clearance in order to return for the Chess Club and that a teacher rep. is needed. Mrs. Fernandez related that she would discuss this with the teachers.

Mrs. Fernandez clarified that security clearance is only needed for those who are not parents or legal guardians of a student at Mantua Elementary.

Trish noted that the Spirit-Wear clothing will likely change to different clothing items than the T-shirts and sweat shirts of last year. Jackie Heller is the contact person.

Deirdre Mayes introduced some changes to the FLEX Program: 1. Online sign-up

2. Requirement now to be on an "Approved List" to teach 3. No kindergarteners.

It was noted that parents could not be students but other classes are available for parents.

Deirdre is looking for teachers.

Maureen Pass was introduced as in charge of Yearbook. A new publisher, Josten's is being utilized (same as Frost). Parents can and should order on-line. There should be a computer at BTS night for ordering. Maureen will contact PTA for any assistance needed for data entry this year for orders that have been placed by check.

Jeri Gloege was introduced as Drama Club chair. Packets have been sent to oldest child.

A past concern for favoritism was noted. This year a third party music expert has been asked to attend to help address this concern. Frost and Woodson kids are needed and Community service is awarded.

Teresa Lemair was introduced as Volunteer Coordinator. Contact her if volunteers needed. Packets have been sent and the Volunteer Coffee is tomorrow.

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

Nicole Armstrong provided a summary of committee accomplishments under her guidance.

Membership – Chair Shannon Murphy – 198 memberships (31% of possible families)

Sally Foster – Chair Kathy Phillips – More advertising this year. A Wii to be raffled off among our top sellers. Orders due 9/26.

Directory – Chairs – Mary Townley and Debra Hunter – We need the list of local merchants for contact and need to update family information.

Dogfish Head Alehouse Fundraiser Event – chairs – Teresa Lemair and Nicole

Armstrong – Oct 14 all day. 15% of entire day's revenue plus proceeds from a raffle and silent auction to be raised. Band "Second Wind" to be playing. Will start advertising in 2 weeks.

Spirit Wear – Chair – Jacqui Heller- Will bring new design and cost info to the Oct. PTA mtg.

Book Fair – Chair – Claire Fritzinger and Carrie Clawson – 11/14 – 11/21. Setup 11/13.

Auction – Chair – Susie Kaiser – Online 2/1-2/15. Later timing to avoid holiday spending conflict. Merchants to be contacted by mail next week. Consider live event for next year.

Carnival – Chair – Missy Greene – 3/28. Looking for donated food to minimize costs.

Box Tops, etc. – Chairs – Elizabeth McPhilomy and Nicole Armstrong – will advertise in Tue folders in Sept. also in Alert News. Request made for Treasurer to notify Elizabeth when checks are received from Box Tops. Considering a table at BTSN for "Sign-up service".

Parent Handbook – Chair – Nicole Armstrong – At printer. Cost lower than expected. Saved ~ \$600.

Frost Student Helpers – James Oberndorf is a Frost teacher who can be contacted for volunteers ( James.Oberndorf@fcps.edu). Trying to contact Lisa Murphy ( Frost Liaison) to streamline requests for volunteers.

**Old Business** – It was noted that the Ice Cream Social went well.\$17,151 cash balance. Bob Greene noted that the Open House went well.

**New Business** – Bonhee Ku was introduced to speak regarding issues of the Multicultural Parent Programs.

She noted a big demographic change in the student body. There is a feeling of lack of integration. Mantua Elementary is unique in the area for attempts at addressing this issue according to Bob Greene.

The Alert News is now translated into Korean.

The Program is trying to encourage participation for all communities.

“English for Mantua Multicultural Parents” will continue. Volunteers are needed.

English speaking parents are needed to engage Multicultural parents in conversation. A two-way process is needed.

Translation services are available for communications to parents in regard to programs.

Amy Ivey attended the recent Cluster III meeting involving administration office consolidation. The meeting revealed that this is a self-funded initiative. Money will not be taken from funding for schools/kids.

It was noted that FFX CO school system quoted a \$160 million projected budget deficit for 2009 – 2010.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled.

#### **Motions Carried**

2008-2009 Proposed Budget adopted

Adoption of Minutes for June 4,2008 meeting approved

**Adjournment** – 8:50p.m.

Ken Moles  
Secretary