

PTA Board Meeting Notes
June 2, 2010
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Nicole Armstrong, Lori Prendergast, Amy Ivey, Julie Lifland, Teresa Willebeek-LeMair, Monica Cameron

School Representatives: Mrs. Jan-Marie Fernandez, Mrs. Tina Tingler, Janet Sottolano

General Membership: Lori Recher, Christie Choi, Margaret Scheele, Lesley Kowalski, Shannon Murphy, Dan Lemieux, Amy Halstead, Sandy Spector, Debra Hunter

The minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and approved.

Presidents Report: Nicole presented Teresa with the Fairfax Volunteer of the Year award along with the Congressional Record. Her nomination now moves on to the State level for consideration.

Treasurer's Report: Julie noted that the PTA has \$10,000 for the school wish list. The 2010-2011 budget was reviewed and it was voted and approved to encumber funds for ASL and Community Emergency Assistance (CEA). They were encumbered because the funds were not used this year so they will be transferred for use to next year. Someone asked what Community Emergency Assistance is which is a fund set up by the PTA for families in crisis (i.e. in case of a fire, drastic surgery, etc). It was further noted that fundraising went beyond what was budgeted, which is great news. Nicole noted that when extra funds are made, those monies are used to help the school purchase items such as Smart Boards, digital cameras, etc. It was further noted by that funds for books and supplies will be cut even further which is why fundraising is so important in helping the school. Mrs. Fernandez noted that there are monies for instructional materials but they ideally would like to use that to fund instructional teaching help. Mrs. Fernandez added that funding for instructional materials are usually held back by 15% by the school board then released when the school really needs them. However, next year they will not do that, essentially cutting 15% of the budget. The PTA cannot give funds directly to the school/staff so it was decided the PTA could help by buying paper and other school supplies so Mrs. Fernandez could focus on using money to help with staffing needs.

Principals Report: June will be very busy with various activities (pep rally, basket-ball game, concerts, field day, etc). Mrs. Fernandez noted the basket-ball game will be held at JEB Stuart HS this Friday, June 4 at 7PM. In regards to the Fairfax County School budget, schools with level 4 Advanced Academics programs in their school have regained bus service, which was originally taken out of the school budget. The volunteer appreciation luncheon went very well and was very much appreciated. There was a nice turn-out at the dinner for Teacher of the Year for which Kathy McCabe was nominated. Staffing issues are in great shape as there will be no loss of staff. Mrs. Fernandez added that cuts are not finished and special education may lose some people. Mrs. Fernandez further noted that Italian testing is complete and online social studies testing will be piloted this week for sixth graders. The school will be staffed for two full-time Italian teachers next year for grades first through sixth. Mrs. Fernandez noted that testing in Italian has no bearing on students but more for statistical purposes and understanding retention.

Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach: FLEX has been running very well and is hoping to offer Spanish in the fall in addition to Sign and French. The search is continuing for someone to run Drama Club. It was added that the PTA is still looking for people to run the Talent Show, the Reflections program, Auction and Yearbook. An attendee at the meeting who is new to Mantua is interested in taking over Odyssey of the Mind. Lesley Kowalski noted that this program is very similar to Destination Imagination, which she was very familiar with at her child's previous school. This program seems more performance based vs. focused on making things like Odyssey of the Mind. Lesley offered to try Destination Imagination vs. Odyssey of the Mind and offered to help manage it and put teams together. Mrs. Fernandez stated she had no problem with trying something different and added that the school has always done well in those competitions/activities. Lesley will do some more research regarding the program. Margaret Scheele is looking into having Curt Martin, who specializes in anger management among children, speak at the school. He is expensive so she is looking into sharing expenses with other schools. A parent also noted that someone from Fairfax County Schools spoke at another school about bullying and if there was interest she would get his contact information.

Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising: Box tops contest ends this Friday and to date \$845 in funds have been gathered. The basket-ball game is in need of volunteers to help set up for the game. Teresa noted that if there is any interest in helping with Yearbook next year to contact her for more information.

New Business: Margaret Scheele wanted to know if a book club could be started at Mantua for 5th and 6th grade classes, meeting about once a month. Mrs. Fernandez noted that there are book clubs that meet during lunch that is run through the library which is based on the Virginia Reader books. However, she added that she is open to another club being run after school. Margaret will follow up with the Mantua Librarian and discuss further. Lesley Kowalski noted that at her previous school their schools' reading club was called 'Chat and Chew' and met for three months during lunch/recess in the fall/winter and encouraged kids to meet kids in other classes/grades.

Nicole thanked the current PTA Board and gave thanks to the members whose service to the PTA ended. The Nominating Chair, Monica Cameron, listed the committee's nominees for the 2010-2011 PTA Board. Nicole called for any nominations from the floor--there were none. Nicole ran through the slate of nominees and, separately, all were unanimously approved with no "nay" votes.

The Board for 2010-2011 are:

President: Nicole Armstrong

1st Vice-President (Programs): Lori Prendergast

2nd Vice-President (Membership & Fundraising): Teresa Willebeek-LeMair

Treasurer: Sandy Spector

Secretary: Lori Recher

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm