

PTA Board Meeting Notes  
March 3, 2010  
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:06 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, Ms. Cheryl Thompson, Tina Tingler, Janet Sottolano

**General Membership:** Shannon Murphy, Jeri Gloege, Jason Gloege, Soyung Kwon, Terry Murphy, Katherine Phillips, Lesley Kowalski, Christie Choi, Bob Greene, Lisa Strandberg, Karl Strandberg, Brett Lieberman, Debra Lieberman, Kathleen DeCarlo, Duncan Cameron, Melissa Morgan

Minutes from the January 6, 2010 meeting were not available and it was decided they will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

**Presidents Report:** Patty Reed, the new Providence District School Board Member, will be invited to an upcoming PTA meeting to present, with the understanding that she may not be available. The last pre-meeting 'mini' presentation will hopefully be held in June and the topic will be summer reading programs and reading lists presented by Amy Sheridan. Nicole noted that that the PTA would be interested in putting together a 'snow contingency group' of volunteers to help out if the school gets heavy snow again. The Principals agreed this would be a good idea, but would want any volunteers to keep in touch with Ms. Thompson to coordinate efforts. There is a new link to the carnival on the PTA web site homw page. GOTR enrollment has been extended to this coming Friday with the link available on the website. In the parent resource section of the website, a link will be posted to the VDOE's released SOL tests for parent use. Nicole attended the Parent Advisory Council meeting in February held by Superintendent Jack Dale. She noted that a decision will be made tomorrow regarding snow days. Additionally the LCI (Local Composite Index) was discussed, which affects the amount the state will fund to schools. It was recently unfrozen by the state legislature which was a good sign, but recent adjustments by the state have compromised that potential funding. The County Treasurer just released his budget which gives a 1% decrease to schools over last year's FCPS budget, which is significantly less than the newly-requested budget from FCPS. There is now a big push to email the Board of Supervisors to request they increase the "advertised" tax rate (as the source of income to fund the County's budget) as they go through their own budget process, because once they publicize a possible tax rate, it can be lowered to a final rate but not increased. The concern is that if the rate starts out very low, there will be no chance of the schools being fully funded by the end of the process. Shannon Murphy noted that Patty Reed will have open forum meetings at Oakton HS on March 10 and 15.

**Treasurer's Report:** Julie Lifland noted that money has begun to come in from the auction which came in slightly under budget. Online proceeds from Sally Foster amounted to \$1800. Proceeds from the book fair were given to the library which amounted to \$5,866.

**Principals Report:** In April Mrs. Fernandez must start the staffing process for the next school year based on the current budget regardless of whether or not the budget is approved. April 30 is the deadline for Principals to give notice to any teachers who are to be released. Dr. Dale will present snow day recommendations tomorrow evening with April 12 (a teacher work day) as a regular school day and extending three days past the regular end date in June. He will then request a waiver from the state so we can end school on the regular schedule. Mantua Elementary has a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up in September, 2010 and a committee is needed to determine how to celebrate it. There is a new plan for the annual volunteer thank-you which is to fund/provide additional resources for the parent library instead of hosting a tea. Teachers are currently making lists and Mrs. Fernandez noted that parent suggestions would be welcome

as well. The after-school deaf program will start mid-March and the PTA will provide snacks. DVDs will be shown to help parents of deaf children learn sign. Heritage and Literacy Night is March 25. The next Special Ed parent meeting is March 17 and a woman will be coming to talk about the parent resource center. 5<sup>th</sup> grade SOL was completed today and everyone seemed to do very well but test scores won't be available until July. Field day will be backed up one week but it may be change with the snow day decision. Mrs. Fernandez gave thanks to the Korean parents group who provided a wonderful lunch last Friday.

**Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach:** March 13 is the school Talent Show at 6pm. Ann Dolan will be speaking March 4 at 7pm with child care provided.

**Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising:** Bob Greene voiced a big thank you to the parents who have been helping with the carnival and requested that parents really help out with class baskets. It was further noted that more parents are needed for set-up and break-down. Shannon Murphy asked if the Talent Show or the Carnival would be good places to sell extra directories which will be sold for \$5. It was asked if car magnets could be sold at the events as well. This will be discussed offline. Nicole noted that the nominating committee has been put together and will be working on filling open board and sub-committee positions for the following school year.

**New Business:** The proposed by-laws were reviewed by all present. It was asked how often by-laws are amended and Nicole responded that the PTA is required to update them every five years. If by-laws are not amended and approved it affects our standing with the state PTA. It was asked if proxys can be used for voting and Nicole answered that the PTA bylaws do not permit proxy voting. Nicole further noted that the proposed by-laws include a revision to the number required for a quorum from 20 to 10, which is the number the Virginia PTA reports that most PTAs use. Nicole also pointed out that the by-laws have been proposed to allow the Treasurer to remain in that position for up to four one-year terms. Although they still need to be re-elected each year, this was done to retain continuity in this position once a Treasurer is trained and if they are willing to continue. Concern was raised about someone taking advantage of the position and Nicole noted that any new Treasurer cannot take full office until an independent/outside audit has been completed and presented to the board at the end of each year. It was further noted that the proposed by-laws include the addition of a requirement that the Treasurer cannot hold any other simultaneous position/title on the board since two board signatures are required on every check. It was emphasized that a Treasurer can be re-elected up to four times, but only if they're also willing, so the term change may not come into play. The state PTA considers the annual independent audit a safe-guard but Nicole welcomed additional ideas to safe-guard the budget from abuse. She also stated that she had reviewed the proposed changes at length with the Virginia PTA bylaws chair, and they were comfortable with them, and in addition, the current board will not benefit from the change since the current Treasurer has already indicated she cannot continue for next year. It was noted that the proposed by-laws also give allowance for PTA board elections to occur in May or June to allow for more flexibility with end-of-year business and training, although the new members will still take office in June as always. Kathy Phillips motioned to approve the by-laws as written and the motion was seconded. With 23 verified dues paying/current members in attendance, a hand-count vote was taken with 22 voting to approve the motion and one abstaining.

Monica Cameron passed around a Rocky Raccoon design that a small group of parents would like to privately fund as a portico decoration at the front entrance when seasonal displays are not being used. Mrs. Fernandez approved of the idea. A parent mentioned she has taken over the BoxTop program and is interested in creating some kind of contest to increase BoxTop fundraising. This will be discussed in another forum.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm