

PTA Board Meeting Notes
September 9, 2009
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Present at the meeting were:

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

School Representatives: Mrs. Jan-Marie Fernandez, Ms. Cheryl Thompson, Mrs. Laura Shibles, Janet Sottolano

General Membership: Kathy Phillips, Shannon Murphy, Laurentin Preby, Amy Halstead, Margarita Cocker, Janet Sottolano, Raisha Vaidya, Thomas Du, Diane Schenk, Kathleen DeCarlo, Isran Karim, Deanna Freemyer, Jacque Heller, Karan Gaughan, Geoffrey Jones, Margaret Scheele, Deirdre Mayes, Mari Anh Ngvyer, Joanne Choe, Kristina Clarke, Debby Davis, Suzanne Sowder

Minutes from the June, 2009 meeting were distributed electronically and in print. Deirdre Mayes made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Announcements: Lori Prendergast passed around thank you notes along with a thank you from Life With Cancer for the donation from the 2009 Raccoon Run.

Treasurers Report: Julie Lifland presented the proposed 2009-2010 PTA School Budget, which was approved as proposed unanimously. Amy Ivey presented the financial review which stated that we are in good standing in accordance with accounting regulations. The members accepted/approved the report as stated.

New Business: President Nicole Armstrong presented Amy Ivey as candidate for Co-First Vice President and was unanimously elected.

Principals Report: Mrs. Fernandez noted that school opened with 902 students. She also provided details on her professional back-ground as well as that of Assistant Principal Cheryl Thompson. Laura Shibles was introduced as Assistant Principal. She is stepping in for Cheryl Tingler who is on maternity leave. New staff have joined Mantua Elementary School. SOL scores were outstanding with significant progress for sub groups. It was noted that staff will be reviewing updated health codes with students the following week, including washing hands and how to cough in an ongoing effort to help prevent the spread of the flu. President Obama's speech will be aired to all students Monday, September 15. Ms. Thompson reminded parents about the importance of reading and signing the school handbook. The ice cream social is Friday, September 11. There will be a moment of silence in memory of 9/11 at some point during the event. October 7 is

picture day. Nearly 100 buses were dropped due to budget cuts which is affecting Mantua ES. Buses are running late, especially in the afternoon. Ms. Thompson thanked all parents for their patience. It was noted that it is improving and the school and transportation are continuing to work in the issues.

Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach: Kathleen DeCarlo is heading community spirit activities and noted there will be three family fun nights October 16, January 15, and April 23 from 7-9pm with a theme. The idea is that it is not a fundraiser, but to come out, have fun and make friends. First theme will be a Pokemon trading night, the second one will be a Lego night and the final night will be a board game or game swap night. They are also looking into Restaurant nights. Deidre Mayes is heading FLEX, a Fairfax County run program offering language classes before and/or after school. The current plan to offer Italian, Sign, French, Chinese and Spanish for grades 2-6. Spanish and sign will be offered in the spring for K-1. It was asked if other languages could be offered, such as German. Deirdre will look into offering German and Korean as well. New family folders were passed out at the open house for new families and are also available in the office as well as online. October 30 is the deadline to submit applications for the Reflections Program. The theme is 'Beauty Is' and awards will be given to the top three places.: 10/30 is the deadline (art awards program) to submit applications. The take-home reading program will begin shortly after back-to-school nights. It was further noted that volunteers are needed for the program. Ken Moles is heading the Multi-Cultural Exchange program who is working on a name change for the outreach program for families with language barriers to get them more involved in the community. It was noted that the play for Drama Club has been chosen and information will be passed out on September 15 along with rules to participate. Forms to join drama club are also available online. September 23 is the kick-off meeting for the Kids Care Club. The first project is a recycled bird feeder and November will have leaf-raking for seniors. The group is also looking into doing things on the school property. To join Kids Care Club a participation form must be signed by a parent and can be down-loaded from the PTA website. Registration for the Girls on the Run program will now be done online beginning September 14. It was noted that PTA information is available at the PTA table.

Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising: Teachers put out volunteer sign-up sheets at the Open House which will be updated for back-to-school night. Volunteer sign-up is also available online. A volunteer orientation meeting will be held September 15 at 9:15 am and 7pm. PTA membership sign-up with over 100 families have signed up out of approximately 600 families. It was noted that the email forwarding on the site is not working properly which may be affecting online registration. Shannon Murphy will attend both back-to-school nights to register members. The designs for Spirit Wear will remain the same from last year. Along with PJ

pants, t-shirts and sweat shirts, sweat pants and rayon boys' shorts will also be available. Samples will be available at both back-to-school nights. Oval car magnets have been ordered and will be sold at back-to-school night and all year long. It was also noted that clothing will be a one-time order. Orders will be due one week after back-to-school night. If samples are brought to school, they can be posted in the cafeteria for kids to see before back-to-school night. Reminder about the ice cream social Friday September 11. Sally Foster folders will go out in Tuesday folders the week of September 15. Entertainment books will be sold at back-to-school night as well as at the ice cream social. Enrolment for Safeway cards will occur at back-to-school night. It was noted you have to enroll every year.

New Business: Electronic back-pack is a new way to be more green and limit the amount of paper going home. It was noted that Alert News will have all forms available for parents.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15