

PTA Board Meeting Notes

May 4, 2011

Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Nicole Armstrong, Lori Recher, Sandy Spector, Lori Prendergast, Teresa LeMair

School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Cheryl Thompson, Janet Sottolano

General Membership: Shannon Murphy, Christine Clifford, Monica Cameron, Kati Hesford

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and approved.

President's Report: Nicole reported that we are in the middle of Teacher Appreciation Week. The luncheon will be on Friday, and this year will be a half hour longer. The secretaries went out to lunch today.

Treasurer's Report: We just received another check from Box Tops, for \$560. The Carnival finances are still open (we may be missing some gift baskets funds). Net is almost 17K. All expenses are in, there is some income that is outstanding. Sandy gave a reminder to get all expenses in by the end of the year. The form is online. Chic-Fil-A receipts are still not in.

Principals' Report: The Strings concert is May 12, Chorus is the 23rd, Band is the 31st. All will be held in the gym at 7pm. Last Saturday was the All County Chorus for 6th graders. The students practiced on Friday and then sang on Saturday (April 30). The Gettysburg trip was at the same time as the practice for the Choral concert. Our students had to miss the trip in order to make practice. Jan-Marie will be writing letters to the students to commend them on making the choice. Everyone is looking forward to the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. The end of the school year gets very hectic. A lot of testing is coming up. Children in grades 3rd through 6th are in practice tests to get ready for the online tests. Younger grades are getting tested on reading. Field Days are June 7-9. We always need a lot of parent support for Field Days. Electronic letters are going out (backpack letter), to conserve our paper supply. There is an update regarding the Annandale Boundary Study, which is now officially a study. The committee is now going through the options and making some decisions. Mantua is not listed as an effected school. Frost and Woodson are.

For the Fairhill/Mantua discussion, no decision has been made as of yet. They have just put out the answers to the question that came up at that meeting. Most questions are specific to a Fairhill perspective. We are hoping to have the decision soon, as staffing numbers depend on that.

There will no longer be K-1 multi-age classes. It was becoming more and more difficult to do multi-age because of the assessment requirements. For the teachers doing it, it's a lot of work to cover the

requirements of the county. We Were starting to see stress from the kindergarteners in the K-1s. The children felt they needed to know what was required of the 1st graders. Concerns are for best practices for the younger children. No decision has been made regarding the 1-2 multi-age classes.

Cheryl reported that we are the pilot program for the online testing. There has been a problem trying to schedule the kids for practicing the tests . There a lot of special groups that need to be tested. All kids will have an opportunity to go to the computer lab. They get tech. assist (tools to take the test) as well as practice tests. Some kids will be doing extra sessions as needed. Each grade level has a testing team. We start testing on May 16 through June 3. Every day is a testing day. There is one more week of practice sessions. Online testing gets the results immediately to the office. Parents will get letters in July. Next year's teachers will already have the results for planning for Sept. This will hopefully give the teachers an opportunity to contact families to set up summer support if needed.

The Friday before Memorial Day there is 2 hour early release.

There are bell changes for next year - Monday dismissal - 1:15 pm. Tuesday - Friday dismissal - 3:45 pm. Start time is 9:05 am. Earlier Monday time is due to bus schedule conflicts from Woodson. The principals have no control over the bell times. We will publish the new times in the Alert News.

6th grade graduation is on Monday June 20th, from 9:30 - 11:30. The children will go back to class from 11:30 - 12:30, and have a chance to get their yearbooks. From 12:30-12:45 they will go back to the gym and have their party. The party is scheduled from 1-4 pm. We will have to get permission slips for the children since it's a Monday (short day). The Office will try to help get rides home if needed, and will handle the permission slips.

We are still trying to schedule the staff basketball game, since there are conflicts with Woodson. Trying for June 3 or 10.

Report of First Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach: Jackie DeScisciolo will be chairing the Art Reflections program for next year, and has reported that the theme for 2011/2012 is "Diversity Means...". The Raccoon Run is this Saturday at 8:00 am. The Kids Care Club is also doing the Lost & Found clean up.

Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising: Teresa reported that we're going back to Sally Foster next year. In addition, if there are any suggestions, Teresa will pass them along to next year's VP.

Report of the Volunteer Coordinator: Almost all classes are covered for the Teacher's luncheon. They have started working on Field Day. We still need an Auction chairperson for next year.

Old Business: From the Nominating Committee: There are very few committee chairs left to be filled. The

PTA Board is slated as:

President - Teresa LeMair

VP of Community Outreach - Lori Prendergast is returning.

Co VPs of Membership & Fundraising - Shannon Murphy and Jennifer Epley.

Treasurer - Sandy Spector is returning.

Secretary - Lori Recher is returning.

Volunteer Coordinator - Teresa Le Mair is returning.

Shannon Murphy will be doing the directory. We will accept any additional nominations from the floor on the night of the next PTA meeting. The election will follow. All nominees have to accept their nomination, so they must be present at the meeting. Many thanks to the nominating committee.

New Business: Kids Care needs a new chairperson next year. Katie Hesford reported that she met with a couple of teachers about doing some gardening, and was looking to see if there is parent support. We will get something in the Alert News to get the plots ready and available before the end of the school year. Christine Clifford will take over the gardens from Katie, who is moving. It was noted that produce from the gardens can't go through the cafeteria, but could be brought in as a snack, etc. The kids will be starting with the courtyard garden and potentially doing more. SACC gardens are growing strawberries. TC programs have planted the ones outside the cafeteria.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 .