

PTA Board Meeting Notes

November 3, 2010

Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Present at the meeting were:

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

School Representatives: Cheryl Thompson, Tina Tingler

General Membership: Bob Greene, Haydee Cooper, Safia Khan, Monika Brenner, Erroll Butts, Christine Choi, Liz Schatzman, Alli Somasundaram, Jacqueline DeScisciolo, Leslie Kowalski, Margaret Scheele

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved.

President's Report: Nicole was recently approached about having the Mantua PTA write a letter to the Fairfax County School District in opposition to the Woodson Bus Depot being proposed at Little River Turnpike and Pickett Street. There has been a lot of concern about the safety of students, pollution, traffic congestion, and the cost of the exchange. Currently there isn't enough information available. Until we receive more information the PTA is not in a position to comment. In the future, the decision to support or oppose the proposed Bus Depot needs to be decided with a majority membership vote.

Treasurer's Report: Nicole gave Sandy's report. The Fall Raffle was very successful. It was budgeted for \$4500, and we made approximately \$11000.

Anyone that has money that has been collected for the various clubs needs to contact Sandy directly so that it can be deposited.

Principals' Report: The Principal's Report was given by Tina Tingler and Cheryl Thompson. The annual food drive will be starting shortly, and information will be going out in next week's Tuesday folders. Additionally there will be information regarding the Parent Portal, including instructions. It was noted that there were some "issues" with the Parent Portal last year, and it is unknown if those have been addressed. Other schools require their families to use KIT or to have a Parent Portal account. Nicole voiced concern that in the future when her family moves on, there may not be anyone to take over the PTA database. The question was raised if there was a way to marry the Parent Portal/Blackboard/PTA databases? The Blackboard accounts are usually for students in 4th - 6th grades, and the school strongly encourages using it. Blackboard is maintained and mandated by the County.

The cafeteria workers and custodians were honored earlier in the month.

The 4th grade went to the Symphony.

Parent teacher conferences went well.

Mantua has put together some teams to participate in a Walk for Hearing. Additional walkers are welcome, and there will be an opportunity to donate money as well.

The Thanksgiving Luncheons are coming up. On the 17th k-3 will have their luncheons, and on the 18th will be grades 4-6.

The Book Fair is also coming up: November 12-19.

Mantua will have a 2 hour early release on the day before Thanksgiving (24th).

The Spirit Parade was a great success, and Cheryl noted that Meri Farling did an excellent job with the raffle prizes. Meri has expressed interested in doing the Fall Raffle again, but would require additional volunteer help.

A note will be added to the Alert News that Veterans Day is NOT a school holiday.

The drama club is going to be presenting Alice in Wonderland. There will be 2 performances for the kids, as well as 2 performances open to the public. The public performances are scheduled for Friday, Nov. 19th at 7:00 pm, and Saturday, Nov 20th at 2:00.

Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach:

Parent Education is putting on the workshop "Parenting with Purpose". It will be presented by the Director of Training for the Scream Free Institute, Dec. 9 at 7:00 pm in the library. There is a registration form for planning purposes (refreshments will be provided). Margaret is currently working on a spring workshop, but it has not yet been approved.

The Flex program has started Spanish, German and Sign Language classes, and all are going well.

The Cub Scouts will be participating in the annual Boy Scout Food Drive. This Food Drive is independent from the school's, which will be starting soon as well. Their annual Leaf Raking will be on Dec 4th, in conjunction with Kids Care Club. Leaf Raking is free, and open to all elderly, disabled, or families with a military spouse currently serving. Advertising for the Leaf Raking will be done through the MCA newsletter, list serves, and the Alert News.

The Cub Scouts are going to Jamestown this year, and would be willing to open that trip up to the 4th grade class, since the school's field trip to Jamestown has been canceled due to lack of funding. The Cub Scouts would not be alleviating the cost, but rather offering the opportunity. It was noted that the cancellation of field trips is a school wide problem, with transportation being very expensive. Bob Greene asked for a list of the field trips being canceled. The Cub Scouts may be able to coordinate their "go see its" and then open them up to the broader school population. It was recommended that Mrs. Fernandez would be the best person to discuss this with.

As mentioned earlier, the Drama club is putting on their production of Alice in Wonderland. There are about

90 members in the club, and there is a large support system as well.

Reflections entries are due this Friday by 4:00. There will be a box in the front office by the teachers' mailboxes. There seems to be a large amount of interest (judging by the number of e-mails already received). Jackie will be in the office Friday to make sure that the paperwork is done properly for each entry. Lori Prendergast has offered to help judge next week. Nov. 12th is the deadline to submit to the next level of competition.

A letter is currently being crafted for families where English is not their 1st language. This letter will be translated into 4 languages, and will be about the various ways of communication that are available to the families and their child/children. Ken Moles and Community Building Network will be chairing this.

There is interest in robotics, dramarama, and Investigation Station for a spring enrichment. We will be asking our teachers if they want to teach, if not Kids Campus will recruit. Lori P. will follow up with Kids Campus.

Leslie reported that Chat n Chew has about 50 students signed up, and has just enough volunteers to cover the discussion groups. They will be starting in December.

Destination Imagination had a meeting that approximately 20 families attended. The process of creating the teams may be fairly involved. A parent team leader is needed for every team, and this will be a big commitment. We may not have the teams organized for this year - perhaps next year. Leslie is hopeful that we'll have 2 teams for next year, and would like to budget for 2.

Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising:

The Fall Raffle was a huge success, making far more than was budgeted for.

Sally Foster is now available, but only online. So far about \$1000 of goods have been ordered, which makes \$500 for the school.

The Book Fair is looking for additional volunteers, especially during the Thanksgiving luncheons. All money made at the Book Fair goes directly to the library.

Spirit wear will be distributed this week.

The first Restaurant Night is Nov 11, at Noodles & Co. Carry out orders are included in the fundraiser.

DVDs of last year's events are coming soon.

The Auction Committee has mailed out over 900 letters to donors already. Responses have started to trickle in. Requests to parents for donations will go out in the Tuesday folders following the Thanksgiving break.

Over 1650 box tops have been collected so far. There will be another contest in the spring as well. The money raised will be put towards purchasing 1 or more Smart Boards.

Report of the Volunteer Coordinator:

The Volunteer database had a corruption had to be reset. It's a little behind, but flyers went out today regarding open volunteer positions. We still need some room parents. This year every class will have a class yearbook rep. to provide about 15 pictures. We will also be looking for event pictures. A way to upload pictures will be provided soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.