

PTA General Meeting

February 9, 2012

Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. The conference call was started. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Lesley Kowalski, Jennifer Epley, Shannon Murphy, Sandy Spector, Lori Prendergast, Lori Recher

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

General Membership: Christie Choi, Teresa Willebeek-LeMair, Margaret Scheele, Kathleen DeCarlo, Dan Johnson, Jill Johnson, Suparna Breinig

The Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. A typo in the list of attendees names was noted. The verbiage in the Principal's Report regarding the Wellness Award was changed to the following: All Fairfax County Schools that won the FCPS Wellness Golden Award also went on to win Bronze for the National USDA Nutritional Awards.

The amended minutes were approved.

President's Report: Lesley started with several thank yous to some of our volunteers: to Kathleen DeCarlo for our latest Restaurant Night, and to Ted Donat, who did an excellent job with the Talent Show. Thank you to Jan-Marie for helping with the nomination of Mrs. Leonard for the Teacher of the Year Award. To Monica Cameron for her work on our grant submission. We've just gotten word that we are on the short list for the grant. Thank you to Meri Farling, Teresa Willebeek-LeMair and Jennifer Epley for their work on the Auction. To the parents that helped clean out the PTA closet. Thank you to Ms. Siegel and Adele Logan-Galen for their grant submission for the Chat n Chew program.

Super Teacher awards nominations are due by next Tuesday. Copies are needed in the front office for the teachers' files. Fairfax County PTA is working on putting together a committee on technology. Katherine Theil has volunteered, and others are welcome. Our pre-meeting sessions tonight were fun. In March, Mr. Malc will be here to do a talk on the negative effects of over-praising children.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy reported that the \$500 under the Auction is from Judy Wonus as sponsorship money (donation). Mary Clark has donated \$500 as well, but it has not been received yet. A check for \$1220 for Box Tops was deposited. Listed under the Carnival money is another donation from Judy Wonus for the

cinch bags. The Talent Show brought in \$1400 (before costs). We just cut a check for American Sign Language. Sandy has a meeting set up with Meena, and will meet with Jan-Marie as well, to go over where the end-of-year monies are going. Christine Choi raised that there is no functional first aid kit for the basketball program, and asked that we budget for that.

Principals' Report: Jan-Marie reported that we had a wonderful strings concert. The Talent Show was lovely, and she thanked Cheryl for covering as MC. Ms. Thompson is performing at every event this year, on her farewell tour ☺ On February 20 school is closed for Presidents' Day. The teachers and students are enjoying the response tools that were purchased with the 50th Anniversary gift. For the Carnival, the teachers will be sending out invitations to their parent volunteers for Volunteer Appreciation. They are setting up an 'appreciation lounge' at the Carnival, in Mrs. Leonard's room. There will be finger foods and drinks, a half hour before Carnival starts until a half hour after. The teachers will be taking shifts in the lounge.

Mantua is getting a new gym floor this summer. We were awarded a grant for Living Fit, which Ms. Bruining has taken the lead on. One of the benefits to the school as a whole, is funds provided for the purchase of equipment. We will be getting a new software system for teachers to do online progress reports. The 3rd quarter will end a little early, to be completed before the software is installed. This was a scheduling issue that we have no control over. For the 4th quarter, teachers will be doing the old progress reports on the new system - the "new" progress report format begins with Q1 of the 2012-2013 school year.

Cheryl also complimented Ted & Lori Prendergast on the Talent Show. Peter Slate did the sound, which was a tremendous help. Overall, the show was very well organized. On the testing front - we've completed the Iowa test, but do not have the scores yet. We've also completed the WIDA test for the ESOL students. Completed CogAT and Naglieri second round testing. Getting ready for the writing test for the 5th graders. The Writing ESOLs are scheduled for March 6 and 7. Teachers are working with the students (5th grade especially) on writing prompts. SOLs start in May. The Alert News will include the schedule for grades 3-6. March is Family Life Education.

Report of First Vice-President for Community Outreach: Lori reported that Ted put on a very successful show and that he has volunteered for next year as well. He's very well suited for dealing with the children ☺ Thank you to Teresa, Avril, and Jennifer for helping out. Girls on the Run is set for the Spring. We will have 2 programs (up to 24 girls). Lori and Meri Farling will be coaching. The girls will learn how to run a 5k, and the program ends with an *actual* 5k. Practices are Monday & Wednesday after school for an hour. Margaret Scheele is planning a spring Parent Workshop sometime in April. She'll get back to us with the details. There are 2 upcoming Family Fun Nights: Magicians Workshop this Friday, 7-9. And on March 9th, Lego Night in the cafeteria from 7-9.

Christie reported that the Community Building Network is helping to set up Heritage Night - May 3rd. This is also Literacy Night.

Box Tops Contest - Ms Loach's class is in the lead with 562. A total of 3800+ have been collected so far.

Report of Second Vice-Presidents for Membership and Fundraising: Jennifer reported that there is still time to buy yearbooks. Group pictures are on Monday Feb 13th. The children need to wear their uniforms. We still need pictures from the Talent Show. The Auction is now live. There are over 350 donations to bid on, including many from our wonderful faculty. The closing schedule is included on the bottom of tonight's agenda. If you friend the Mantua PTA FaceBook page, you will get announcement regularly. For example, tomorrow is Mismatch day. Baja Fresh night was a great success. Julie and Kerry are a great team as Carnival co-chairs.

Shannon reported that membership seems to be closed out at this point.

Report of the Volunteer Coordinator: Carnival still needs about 9 coordinators (class). Booth coordination is much easier this year due to Sign Up Genius. Valentines parties are coming up.

Old Business: Cheryl reported on the exhibition basketball game. There *will* be a game on April 27th, but details are still to come.

New Business: Ms. Sottolano reported on our "50 community services for the 50th year"- Reading Across America is underway. We are hoping to collect 1000 books. The SCA is going to help stack them, so that students can actually see them. The drive ends on March 2nd. Either March 1 or 2, there will be Family Story Telling Night from 6-8 pm. Admission will be a new or gently used book. We have located an organization that collects books for needy.

The Fungi Award: Christy Choi is the award winner this month for all of her work on the Box Tops contests, and with the Community Building Network. Thank you Christie!

Meeting adjourned at 8:02.