

PTA General Meeting

June 12, 2012

Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Present at the meeting were:

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

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

General Membership: Christie Choi, Meri Farling, Liz Schatzman, Julie Middleton, Donna Hoover, Deanna Freemyer, Carolyn Stephan, Monica Cameron, Amber Allman,

The Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and the amended minutes were approved.

President's Report: Our meeting started off with the presentation of the Phoebe Apperson-Hearst Award by Jacque Chevalier, Senior Policy Strategist for the National PTA (and former Mantuan). The award was received by Principal Fernandez, Monica Cameron, and Christie Choi, who were the authors of our grant application. Mantua was selected over thousands of other applications. Christie and Monica will be going to the National PTA Convention next week to accept the official award.

Lesley thanked our outgoing PTA Board members: Lori Prendergast, Sandy Spector, and Lori Recher. We also gave a special thanks to Christie Choi for all of her work with Box Tops and the Family Network, as she and her family are relocating.

We will need someone to take over the website management, as this is John and Nicole's last year. Anyone interested can email Lesley, and can "apprentice" during the 2012-2013 school year.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy did an analysis on what we have left in the funds to give back to the school. Our net income is \$27,000, which includes the PAH award. We estimate \$4600 for incoming expenses. With the held over funds from last year, we have approximately \$34,000 to give back to the school. Christie noted that another \$1000+ is coming from Box Tops (from April). The proposed expenditures require separate votes. Item 1 -Proposed Shade Structure: This Shade Structure is for the playground, to provide shade as well as a spot for teachers to gather and provide supervision on that end of the playground. Plans for location, size, and structure were presented. The PTA will be working with FCPS and their approved vendors. As of yet we have not settled on a particular style. Shannon gave the overall report, and Monica provided the drawings

and specifications. Jan-Marie reminded everyone that we cannot have a lot of poles on the playground. The proposed structure has a single pole. The canopy is (potentially) a canvas top. Meri asked if we were concerned about vandalism, and Monica pointed out that the canopy would probably have to come down for maintenance. Some of the structures are permanent - the actual model has not been decided on yet. A motion was made and approved to put \$4000 aside for the structure.

Item 2 – Remaining Funds: The Administration is interested in purchasing additional Level Literacy Intervention Systems. We currently have 1 copy in grade 2, which has proved very successful. We need to decide which grade to purchase an additional system for, either 2nd or 3rd. Jan-Marie reported that this system is for students struggling with reading in the early years. Grade 3 is a new version that has just come out. We are also interested in purchasing additional Response Systems (clickers).

Shannon made a motion to purchase everything on the list, including both LLI sets, and a sound system. The remaining funds will purchase as many Response Systems as possible. The motion passed. We will report on what was officially purchased at the start of next year.

Principals' Report: Jan-Marie thanked the PTA for the celebrations that happened last week in honor of Cheryl's retirement. At the School Board Meeting, there was an official proclamation naming the gymnasium the Cheryl E. Thompson Gymnasium. Friday the students held a beach themed assembly during school, which was followed by a staff gathering, and culminated in the Bon Voyage BBQ. Today during 4th grade lunch the students sang "Going to Carolina".

SOLs are finished. Reports went out. Online reports also went out. Summer school is in August (13-24). This program will follow new requirement from the school board. This will be right before the teachers start back. Students eligible for the program have already been invited. The focus is on math and reading. The hours are 8:30 - 12:30. Almost every school must run the program. Students may decline.

Our last day of school is the 15th, and it is a full day. The 6th grade Graduation Ceremony is in the morning and the party is in the afternoon. The party ends at 3:30 so that the students can go home on the buses as usual.

August 30th is the open house from 1:30-3:00. Class lists will be posted in the gym, and students may visit their classrooms starting at 2:00. The Folder Stuffing party will be on Wednesday, Aug. 29th.

Interviews for the Assistant Principal position have already taken place, and they have a candidate in mind. It will not be announced until after it has gone through Human Resources. Almost all of the additional positions have been filled, including a k-3 counselor who is fluent in Korean.

Cheryl thanked us all for the past week's celebrations, saying she was so overwhelmed and is going to miss us ☺ Her last report on testing was that she reported to the school board all of the problems with our current testing structure: the lack of creativity, stress placed on the students and the "testing to death".

Report of First Vice-President for Community Outreach: Lori P. thanked her committee chairs, and presented Lesley with flowers for a great year. The Kids Care Club still needs a parent chairperson, as does the Chess

Club.

Report of Second Vice-Presidents for Membership and Fundraising: Jennifer reported that the yearbooks are coming out tomorrow. There are still a few available for purchase. The PTA now has a Facebook page to provide updates. The National PTA is on Facebook for updates as well.

Report of the Volunteer Coordinator: Lesley gave Teresa's report. Thank you to all of our Field Day volunteers, and for the Bon Voyage BBQ volunteers as well.

Old Business: There was no Old business.

New Business:

Election: Slate for the 2012/2013 PTA is:

President: Lesley Kowalski

First Vice President of Community Outreach: Teresa Willebeek-LeMair

Second Co-Vice Presidents for Membership and Fundraising: Shannon Murphy and Jennifer Epley

Treasurer: Carolyn Stephan

Secretary: Julie Middleton

There were no nominations from the floor. The Slate was elected as stands.

The door prize winners were: Christie Choi, Deanna Freemyer, Donna Hoover, and Amber Allman.

Christie reported that some parents have asked to hold events on Sundays. They are willing to help out but cannot on Saturdays.

Fungi Award: This month's Fungi Award winner is Janet Sottolano, who comes to every one of our PTA meetings!

Meeting adjourned at 8:31.