

## PTA General Meeting Notes

November 10, 2011

Mantua Elementary School

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

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

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

**General Membership:** Christine Choi, Teresa LeMair, Dan Johnson, Jason Dee, Marlet Bazemore, Eric Fleming, Kathy Phillips, Peggy DiScipio, Yonas Asrat, Surekha Vathyam, Ilana Harris, Kerrie Garlepp

The Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved.

**President's Report:** Lesley noted that we will try for a virtual meeting in December. Restaurant Night at Noodles & Company went well. Thank you to the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Event Planning Committee. Lesley presented the flag that the PTA had flown over the Capitol in honor of Mantua's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Jan-Marie. The 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration actually made money. The \$10,000 encumbered was not needed. We now have the 10k that we would like to gift to the school for technology items: Approx. 5 document cameras, Response Tools for each grade level (2<sup>nd</sup> grade on). A motion was made to gift the 10k in honor of the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - the motion passed. Lesley presented Jan-Marie with a "check" for the \$10,000. Lesley thanked Nicole Armstrong for her work as the former PTA President in earning the money.

We are still in need of a grant writer. A former Mantua parent is willing to coach someone to be the grant writer. Kathy Phillips met this evening with the Chat n Chew leaders. In January at 6:30 [before the regular PTA meeting] there will be "Face time with Fernandez".

**Treasurer's Report:** Sandy reported that Spirit Wear made \$6700 in revenue (this included the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration sales). Expenses remained about the same - on track with the budget. The Book Fair money of \$975 is for the Diary of a Wimpy Kid presales. Drama Club \$2400 is the checks from the students to participate. The 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration minus Lori R's receipts is about \$200. Sally Foster made approximately \$10,000 -we will find out next month when the online sales are tallied.

**Principals' Report:** Jan-Marie thanked Cheryl and the Planning Committee for the wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The Spirit Parade was lovely, with plenty of cute costumes. The Administration Team plus the Crisis Team had

a “table top” exercise. Officials from Safety and Security, along with a police officer from Fairfax county came in to go through exercises for different emergencies. It was somewhat stressful, but good practice. We will be doing a lock down and evacuation of the building in the near future. The school will let the parents know when this is happening.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders went to the Corn Maze for a field trip. Fun was had by all ☺ On Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, the Chamber Chorus is singing at the School Board Meeting. Next Wednesday & Thursday are the Thanksgiving luncheons. There was an error in the flyer sent home, and a correction has gone out. Wednesday’s luncheon is for grades k-3. On Wed. therefore, grades 4-6 bring a bagged lunch. Thursday is the reverse.

Dec. 6 is the Parent Workshop on Helping Children with Anxiety. It’s on a Tuesday and will be in the library. This is a really important topic, as the administration is seeing a significant increase in the number of children dealing with anxiety issues.

The school just finished Parent-Teacher conferences. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade is starting trips to the Planetarium. There is a 2 hour early dismissal on Wednesday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, for Thanksgiving. The Book Fair starts tomorrow and will continue through the Thanksgiving luncheons.

Cheryl had two items to discuss. The Helicopter Event is set for Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00. She has been working with the Inova Health Center Medivac units. The children will spell out “Mantua 50<sup>th</sup>” on the back fields. Then the helicopter will land and the pilots will speak to the kids. They’ll get the opportunity to walk around and look in. None of the current students were here when this happened before. There are field trips to Gunston Hall that day, but they’ll be back by 2:00. We can make the picture into gifts for potential fundraisers.

The second item is in regards to hosting a basketball event. The team is the Washington Greenhawks, a semi professional team, (similar to the Harlem Globetrotters). The Greenhawks will send players to the school to do an assembly to talk about living healthy, as well as play at the game. We would not be looking at this as a fundraiser. The team’s fee is \$2500. One issue is that a large gym is required for the event. Cheryl will try to get Woodson’s gym, but there will be High School basketball and volleyball going on. Fairfax HS is a possibility as well, and is a bigger venue. The game can be done on a Friday night, with the assembly earlier in the day. The Greenhawks suggest that the tickets be sold for \$15 but they don’t get the proceeds from ticket sales - it’s a flat appearance fee. We can sell concessions, etc. The Greenhawks will sell their t-shirts. The team’s schedule is booking up quickly, so we would need to start organizing immediately. A motion was made to allocate \$3000 for the basketball game and any additional costs. The motion passed. Cheryl will look into possible dates.

**Report of First Vice-President for Community Outreach:** Lesley gave Lori’s report. The Drama Club will be presenting several performances of “The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Silly Tales”. Public performances are Friday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, and Saturday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Performances for the kids (though open to parents as well) are Monday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am, and Tuesday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 pm.

Leaf Raking for Seniors will be Dec. 3rd. Our first Family Fun Night (Pokemon trading cards) went well. The

next is the magician workshop in January. Christy Choi noted that we need translators for the upcoming Parent Workshop. Jan-Marie will send an e-mail to check.

Chat n Chew has over 100 kids enrolled with the expansion to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and has very good parent support. They will start meeting in December. The goal is to read 5 books through April. This is a break even program, but the books are ordered through Scholastic, who gave us 120 free books for placing the initial order.

Destination Imagination already had one meeting, and a second is scheduled for Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 pm. These meetings are like a meet and greet to see if we can get teams to form. It is not too late - everyone is welcome to come.

Christie went over the Box Tops process, as there was some confusion. The box tops should be put in a bag, with the teacher's name and the grade included. The bag should then be placed in the Box Tops box, which is located in the school lobby. There was a suggestion that the box needs to be bigger - Christie is already looking into this. Janet suggested going on Good Morning Mantua to talk about the competition, as the kids get very competitive. This past contest had a very good turnout. Ms. Loveday's class won again. In total, we collected over 10493 labels. Christie is expecting about \$1200 for the December check. There will be another contest starting January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The contest officially starts that day, but we can send labels in now and they will count towards that competition.

Janet reported on the students' community building activities, and reminded us that the annual Food Drive has started. There will be an announcement on GMM to encourage the students. The winning class gets lunch. Various teachers met for the King Flour Event. Some students will bake loaves of bread for charity. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are writing letters for veterans, which will go out next week. Some students from Frost (former Mantua students) are coming to Mantua to tell stories to the kids.

**Report of Second Vice-Presidents for Membership and Fundraising:** Jennifer noted that the Book Fair is being setup across the hall, as we speak. There is a new scanning system for check out, that will hopefully streamline the process. There is a \$10 minimum on credit cards. Teachers will get a discount to buy supplies for their classrooms. All proceeds will go to the library. The goal is to buy a document reader.

The first Yearbook mailing went out. There will be two more mailings. We went with the regular cover just like last year's. The Yearbook is always looking for photographers at different events. Please feel free to share photos. It was noted that we need to include Chat n Chew as a club.

Spirit wear was distributed yesterday. There was an issue with pajama pant orders. They should be coming before Thanksgiving. There is a surplus of certain items, so Kathleen will be selling these at the Thanksgiving luncheons.

Restaurant Night was a success. The next one is Dec. 22, at Chuck E. Cheese (this is the first night of Winter

Break).

An Auction Committee has been formed, headed by Jennifer, Teresa, Meri Farling, and Adele Galen. It will be a community effort this year. Kids usually get really excited about the Staff items, so we will be focusing on that.

Shannon reported that membership dues are still coming in. We are hopeful that there will be another bump up, when directories come out. There will be an email coming out beginning of next week, to people who have not yet joined. Monika Brenner is handling the printing of the directories, and is currently waiting for the proof to come back from the printer.

A reminder was given that committee chairs are required to be PTA members. This is a VAPTA regulation. There are only 50 grocery bags left for people joining at the family level.

**Report of the Volunteer Coordinator:** Teresa sent out a letter to each class to indicate what jobs are left in their class. There are still two Room Parent positions to be filled. We also need a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Party Chair and T-shirt Chair. An item will be going in the Alert News asking for volunteers. The next item for classroom volunteers is to coordinate the holiday parties. The Take Home Reading program has some classes that do not have a lot of volunteers, and there are some without a Coordinator. It was noted that the Take Home Reading training was held too early this year.

**Old Business:** There was no Old Business.

**The Fungi Award:** This month's recipient is Jackie DeScisciolo, for her work with the Art Reflections Program. Unfortunately Jackie was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Art Reflections winners have been picked, and will be notified shortly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21.