

## PTA General Meeting Notes

October 13, 2011

Mantua Elementary School

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

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

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

**General Membership:** Christine Clifford, Dan Johnson, Jason Dee, Vanessa Hall, Margaret Scheele, Nicole Armstrong

The Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and approved.

**President's Report:** The PLP ballots are available here at the meeting for members to vote. After tonight the voting will be closed, and Lori R. will send the results to our District Director. We are still hoping that the Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a virtual meeting. We will keep everyone posted through the Alert News. That night is also our first Restaurant night, at Noodles and Co. We are still looking for a grant writer, and anyone interested should contact Lesley. Mantua's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is this Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 - 3:00. The PTA Board dressed in 1961 attire in honor of our big event. The Celebration will start off with the Awards Ceremony at 11:00. Volunteers are set for the event, but we can use help with setup at 9:00 am. Wrist bands are being sold in the morning before school, and in the afternoon from 4:00-6:30. Lesley ended her report with some school trivia.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sandy's report was given by Lesley. The PTA gave out our annual "back to school" checks to the teachers and Custodian staff. (totals of \$8700 and \$400 respectively). The Ice Cream Social made \$200 more than was budgeted for. Expenses for the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration are standing at \$5100 so far. Our books have been audited by Mr. Lemieux, a Mantua parent, and have been found to be in compliance. As required by the PTA bylaws, the audit report was presented to the general membership for adoption. A motion was made to accept the report. The motion passed.

**Principals' Report:** The two Back to School nights went well. Oct 6. was the AAP information night, where 5 families attended. On Sept. 29, approximately 25 superintendents from PA visited. This was a learning

trip to DC to meet with their Congressmen. In addition, they came to visit TJ and Mantua. Cheryl and Jan-Marie met with them, and they seemed impressed with the school and number of staff and support people. Jan-Marie thanked Cheryl and the Planning Committee for all of the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration preparations.

Cheryl reported the setup for the Celebration can begin tomorrow at 4:00, and we will be setting up as much as possible. Tables will be waiting in the gym. The stage will be ready to go for the museum. We currently have 5 tents, but need more. Cheryl is currently helping the SCA students write their speech. Local, federal and state representatives are coming, as are several former principals. Saturday the building will be open at 7:00 am. The balloon arch will be set up starting at 8:00, and the rest of the setup will be at 9:00.

Next week starts the Cogat testing for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Cogat scores are used for possible entry to AAP. Nagliari testing is in November, and is a nonverbal test given to 1<sup>st</sup> grade. It's a puzzle based test, which tends to score on the high side. The Ecart test is coming up as well. Parents will not receive those scores, they are used by the teachers. Scores will be posted on Blackboard, however. The Spirit Parade is Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Teacher work days are the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of November. All parents and guardians should sign up for conferences. The Thanksgiving luncheons are Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Book Fair will be running that week as well.

Tina reported that Picture Make Up Day is November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Cheryl added that she has been successful in getting the NOVA Rescue Medivac to take the school-wide picture. The children will spell out Mantua 50<sup>th</sup> out on the field. The Helicopter will take pictures, then land and speak to the kids. She is still working on the date, possibly Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. Everyone has to wear school colors.

**Report of First Vice-President for Community Outreach:** Lori P. reported that it was a good month for programs. The Flex Spanish and French programs started this morning. Chinese will start soon. German and Sign Language programs will not be happening - there was not enough students signed up.

Girls on the Run has the opposite problem, and actually has a wait list. There is a limit of 21 girls, which is set by Girls on the Run. The girls are working really hard, building muscle and learning how to run a 5k. Robert Silkowitz is looking for a spring session or 2 units to accommodate all that are interested. Self esteem building is covered as well, and the program is open to grades 3 through 5.

Kids Care Club collected 50 lbs. of school supplies for Alternative House. Their next activity is the Leaf Raking for Seniors - Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

New family Welcome - Monica is running ads in the Alert News for sponsors for new families to help with the transition. Family Fun Nights are set. Mentor Works kick-off breakfast was Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Drama Club is well into rehearsals. This year there is a smaller cast & crew, and things seem to be running smoothly. Performances will be on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm, two on Sat. the 19<sup>th</sup>. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30, and Nov.

22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30, both for the kids. Adults are welcome to the daytime performances as well.

Chat n Chew for grades 3 through 6 is gearing up. Applications are due Oct 14<sup>th</sup> (tomorrow). Leaders can contact Kathy Philips.

Box Tops started Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, and runs through the 28<sup>th</sup>. We've already collected 2394. Mrs. Loveday's class is in the lead with 600.

Margaret Scheele reported that there is a speaker scheduled for Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm, in the library for Parent Education. Dr. Katie Hennessy, Director for the Center for Cognitive Therapy will be holding a workshop on Kids with Anxiety.

Christine Clifford gave us an update on the pollinator garden in the courtyard. The hope is to bring the classes outside. Currently the courtyard is a work in progress. A teacher committee is being formed, and there will be an item in the Alert News for parent volunteers.

Lesley noted that there is an Odyssey of the Mind kick-off meeting on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Both parents and students who are interested should come to the meeting.

Jan-Marie noted that they have created a School Plan for Mantua to complete 50 Service Learning activities, in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. All kinds of community service activities will be included. Every grade level will be doing at least 2.

**Report of Second Vice-Presidents for Membership and Fundraising:** Shannon reported on membership - Lesley has set a 100% goal in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. We are doing well. 296 families have currently joined, which is just under half. 225 have the family membership, while 71 have the individual membership. We are also getting many teacher memberships, at the reduced fee of \$3.50. Many are giving 5\$, however 😊. On the directory, families had until today to validate their information. That data is going to be transferred to the person compiling the directory then off to the printer. Monika Brenner is facilitating the compilation. All ad space has sold, ad there was a bidding war for the back cover!

Jennifer reported on fundraising. We are still tallying the Sally Foster sales. The Games to You party is scheduled for Oct 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 - 2:30. Sally Foster is still accepting on-line orders.

The Yearbook is under way. Katherine Thiel is taking over the layout aspect. At the end of the month order forms will go out.

Spirit Wear orders will be delivered Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. We will also have Spirit Wear available at the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

The first Restaurant night is scheduled for Thursday Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00-9:00 at Noodles and Co. This also happens to be the night of the next PTA meeting.

The Book Fair is coming up. The kids were able to special order copies of the next Diary of a Wimpy Kid (deadline is Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>). All proceeds benefit the library.

A committee has been formed to think about the auction, and they are still seeking co-chairs. About 6-7 people are on the committee now.

**Report of the Volunteer Coordinator:** Lori R. gave the report for Teresa. The 50th Anniversary is all set for volunteers! Volunteers will be sent a thank you/reminder tomorrow, also letting them know that no activities will be done (except ticket sales) before 11:30, as the ceremony is 11:00 to 11:30 AM. If anyone knows how to make balloon animals or has a canopy we can borrow, please contact Teresa.

Classroom Volunteers - Teresa has communicated with room parents on creating class rosters and fall parties. Next week's Tuesday Folders will have lists of what jobs are still open in each class to hopefully fill some of the gaps. There are a number of rooms with no room parent - they will be advertised in letters and in the Alert News.

School Wide Volunteers - All Chairs have received the list of volunteers that signed up for their activity.

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

**New Business:** Janet Sottolano reported on the SCA annual food drive. The week of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> the flyer contest will be held. 3 flyer designs will be chosen and made up. The week of the 7<sup>th</sup> the flyers will go home. Collections will be from Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. The goal for the drive is 3000 lbs. of food. SCA has a new committee - Core Virtues Committee. They will be doing things throughout the year - doing skits of GMM, poster contests, etc. The committee covers grades k-6, and meets monthly.

The Veterans Administration would like artwork from the children which will be donated to veterans to decorate their walls. The kids just finished sending letters to soldiers overseas.

Dan Johnson gave us a report on the Cub Scouts. Oct 29<sup>th</sup> there is a George Mason soccer game. Nov 5<sup>th</sup> starts their yearly food drive. The next pack meeting will be Oct 20<sup>th</sup>.

**The Fungi Award:** Christine Clifford is this month's recipient, for her efforts with the pollinator garden. Christine said that she will share the honor with Katie Hesford, who is currently in Serbia.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.