

PTA General Meeting Notes
September 7, 2012
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Lesley Kowalski, Carolyn Stephen, Jennifer Epley, Shannon Murphy, Teresa LeMair, Julie Middleton

School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Amy Alley

General Membership: Lori Recher, Melodie Mendoza, Dawn Thomas, Becky Fishn, Melissa Nelson, Tre Krupnick, Tamara Gordon, Abraham McAllister, Fisseha Beyene, Kathy Phillips, Amy Quigley, Tracy Stickley, Lisa Aytes, Megan Burski Wells, Rebecca Kiessling, Amy Miller, P. Scott Miller, Ilana Harris, Cindy Delaney, Liz Schatzman, Margaret Scheele, Monica Cameron, Trish Salspelc, Amy Lockwood, Joanne Kim, Shannon Anderson, Jackie DeScisciolo, Kathleen DeCarlo, Karen Cheng

President's Report: Lesley introduced the 2012-2013 PTA Board and wished Teresa LeMair a happy 40th birthday. Our monthly meetings will alternate morning and evening meetings. The meetings will be on the second Friday of the month at 9:30 A.M. or the Second Thursday of the month at 7 P.M. Night meetings will be in October, January, March, and May. Morning meetings will be November, February, April, and June.

Leslie asked whether any parent would be interested in babysitting services during the PTA meetings, but no one responded affirmatively. Ice Cream social is scheduled for tonight, Friday, September 7th at 5:30 P.M. Woodson Drama Club is offering babysitting services on September 28th. She mentioned that the Mantua PTA website has a lot of information on it. Check out www.mantuapta.org.

The Virginia PTA has 3 proposals to be voted on. We will be putting the descriptions of the proposals on the website, along with a link to vote. Ballots will also be available at the October meeting. One issue that is controversial is whether home-schooled children should be allowed to play on public school sports' teams.

Back to School Night for grades K-3 is September 13th at 6:30 p.m. Back to School night for grades 4-6 will September 20th at 6:30 P.M.

Vote: The Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed and voted on by the membership, passing by unanimous consent.

The Audit- Lesley and Carolyn discussed the audit and the membership voted to accept the audit by unanimous consent. One member suggested that the letter from the auditor be

posted on the PTA website.

Treasurer's Report(Carolyn Stephen): The 2012-2013 budget was presented by Carolyn. She discussed the final profit and loss from the 2011-12 school year which showed a significant income over budget. The additional income was allocated to three capital expenses for this year, a shade structure for the playground, a new sound system and the required expense for the Pheobe Hearst award, and the balance went toward technology spending for the school. She discussed the new budget was derived largely from actuals from 2011-12 except we are not doing Sally Foster. Because we showed a profit close to the amount budgeted for Sally Foster for 2011-12 the budget for this year is expected to net even. She went on to mention some of the purchases the school made with the \$34,000 provided by the PTA (Jan-Marie Fernandez discussed in more detail during her report).

The 2012-2013 Budget was voted on and approved.

Principals' Report: Jan-Marie Fernandez gave the principal's report. She welcomed everyone to the new school year. Enrollment at Mantua is 955 students. There are many new teachers this year and a new Assistant Principal- Amy Alley . Ms. Alley was most recently a School Based Technology Specialist at Belvedere Elementary.

She mentioned how the first day of school was a little rough for some because Bus #4 never showed up to take children home. Everything with that bus has been fine since that day. The bus situation made it obvious that we need to have multiple ways to communicate with families in the school. The Keep in Touch system and the Alert News are ways the school hopes to communicate directly with families.

She mentioned the upcoming Back to School nights for K-3 and 4-6 grades. These events are for Parents only. Parents can find out about the PTA and other school activities. The Principal's presentation is at 7 p.m. and the sessions in the classroom will start at 7:30 p.m.

This year Fairfax County is rolling out for all elementary schools a new report card which will be a standards based progress report for K-6th. There will no longer be letter grades on report cards. Using this report card will be easier for teachers because it is online. The purpose of the new system is to gauge how well students are meeting educational standards. The grading scale will go from 1 (child does not understand concept) to 4 (demonstrates a thorough understanding of concepts). There will be no averaging of grades. The goal is to have all students receive 3 and 4 ratings by the end of the year. Mrs. Fernandez reiterated the fact that elementary school grades do not impact the whether a student gets into honors classes in middle and high school nor whether they will get into Thomas Jefferson HS.

Mrs. Fernandez thanked the PTA for the \$30,000 that the school used to buy items on their "wish list." These include the following:

- 5 LCD projects (\$2,000)
- 5 Smartboards (\$5,000)

- 3 Document Cameras (\$,1500)
- 5 Digital Cameras (\$450)
- 30 Computer monitors (\$3,750)
- Leveled Literacy Intervention Systems
 - Grade 3 (\$4,500)
 - Grade 2 (\$2835)
- Response system (Clickers) (\$10,000)

Mrs. Fernandez discussed the new Epipen Legislation that was passed in Virginia. It requires a certain number of people on staff in a school to be trained to recognize if a child is having an allergic reaction. This “crisis team” is also allowed to administer the epipen on a child who previously hadn’t shown an allergy or an allergic reaction. The law is complicated and confusing. The law does not allow the crisis team to administer the epipen to an adult who may be having a reaction on school grounds, or to a child with a known allergy as they should have instructions and medicine on file in the clinic.

Assistant Vice President, Tina Tingler, thanked the PTA for the teacher’s breakfast that happened the week before school started. She said it was nice to have the breakfast before school started so that teachers could relax and enjoy it.

Report of First Vice-President for Community Outreach(Teresa LeMair): Teresa provided an overview of all of the programs the PTA offers at the school including the Teacher’s Breakfast, Basketball League for 3rd-6th grade; Chat and Chew Book Club; Drama Club (production of Treasure Island this Fall); Talent show for K-6th grades; 3-4 Family Fun Nights per year; FLEX foreign language education classes; and Academic Competitions such as Destination Imagination. She mentioned that the PTA is still looking for volunteers for two important positions- Kids Care Club and Community Building Network.

Following this PTA membership meeting , Teresa is holding a meeting to discuss all of the volunteer opportunities for parents in the classroom and school-wide.

Report of Second Vice-President for Fundraising (Jennifer Epley): Jennifer reported on Fundraising. The Ice Cream Social is the first big fund raiser of the year and is tonight by the playground. Pizza and Ice Cream will be served, starting at 5:30 P.M. Another big fundraiser for the PTA is the Auction which has been moved to November from February. The hope is that people will shop at the Auction for their holiday gifts.

In addition, Mantua participates in Escipts, a grocery rewards program, where a percentage of your bill from Giant, Safeway and Harris Teeter goes to Mantua. The fall Box Tops contest will run 9/17 to 10/19 with a goal of raising \$1500.

We are trying a couple of new things this year. There is an Amazon link on the Mantua PTA website. If you shop through that portal a percentage of your purchase will go to Mantua. We also have local "Business Partners". Check the Tuesday folder for a list of businesses in our

community who will give a percentage back if you say you are from Mantua.

We are also trying one more vehicle for communications- the Mantua Facebook page. "Like" it to keep up with events.

Report of Second Vice-Presidents for Membership (Shannon Murphy)- Shannon gave the report on Membership. She provided statistics comparing previous years' membership totals with the current year.

Open House

95 families joined at open house
(Last year: 81 families)
(2010: 43 families)
(2009: 45 families)

Envelopes as of 9/7/12

70 Family memberships
(As of 9/13/11: 76 families)
(As of 9/15/10: 66 families)

Total memberships as of 9/7/12: 165 families
Total memberships as of 9/13/11: 158 families
Total memberships as of 9/15/10: 167 families

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Fungi Award- This month's Fungi Award winner is Amy Halstead, the Alert News contact.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 A.M.