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**PTA General Meeting Notes  
April 3, 2014  
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

Present at the meeting were:

**Executive Board:** Teresa LeMair and Julie Middleton

**School Representatives:** Jan-Marie Fernandez and Amy Alley

**General Membership:** Steve Wick, Amanda Tremolos, Amy Halstead, Kaiyan Alao, Sharon Schechtel, Shannon Murphy

**Vote:** The minutes from the March 2014 meeting were reviewed and adopted by the membership.

**President's Report (Teresa LeMair):** Teresa expressed her thanks to Paige Rushing for keeping the Mantua PTA website up-to-date. The PTA's intention is get meeting minutes up on our website in a timely fashion. She encouraged everyone to read the minutes as there is always great information in there from our principal and assistant principals. There is a lot of great information on our website, as well as our Facebook page. She continued to encourage everyone to keep current on the Fairfax County school budget situation.

She thanked the Relyea family for their generous \$4000 donation to Mantua's Distance Learning Center. These funds will help purchase new equipment for the learning center. Also, she mentioned that at the May meeting we will discuss the "principal's wish list" which is usually what the PTA consults when deciding on any final donations for the school year.

**Treasurer's Report (Carolyn Stephan; report made by Teresa LeMair):** Teresa gave the Treasurer's report, as well. As everyone knows, Mantua just completed it's largest annual fundraiser: the Spring Fling (formally the Spring Carnival). The PTA would like thank Ms. Fernandez and Ms. Alley for working with her and Meri Farling to make sure the Spring Fling could go on despite the weather. There are still expenses to be booked, but the budget reflected anticipated net profit from the Spring Fling of \$10,000. At the May PTA meeting, we should have a better idea of whether we met that fundraising goal.

The PTA has received \$2,600 in general donations this year which is fantastic. Raccoon Runners had higher enrollment than anticipated in the budget. The enrichment programs line item currently reflects primarily registration income because only one invoice has been paid to class providers. The PTA is donating \$2000 to the

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school for the Classroom Language Arts program. Mrs. Fernandez noted that improving the quality of classroom libraries is an important goal for Cluster 3 schools (the county is divided into groupings of schools; Cluster 3 includes W.T. Woodson, Annandale, JEB Stuart and Thomas Jefferson High Schools and all of the schools that feed into them). Title 1 schools have dedicated funds for classroom libraries, but schools like Mantua do not. The PTA is also making a donation of \$2500 this month for the Distance Learning Center upgrade project.

**Principals' Report (Mrs. Fernandez):** Ms. Fernandez expressed disbelief in how fast the school year has gone.

### Activities since last meeting

March 7<sup>th</sup>- Kids had a great time at the annual LEGO night in the cafeteria.  
March 12&13 - Basketball Finals- the Games were fun to watch! All of the games were good matches and had close scores, which makes losing even harder for the kids.  
March 14<sup>th</sup>- Science EXPO coordinated by school science club- only 8 slots left for kids who want to come and participate in the experiments  
March 28<sup>th</sup>- Science Fair XSTEM club to preview the displays of the 8 kids who are going to the Regional Science Fair from Mantua  
March 29<sup>th</sup>- Spring Fling- despite the weather, Mantua held a fantastic indoor Spring Fling. Major thanks go out to Meri Farling and Teresa LeMair for making the day a success.

### Upcoming Activities

April 7<sup>th</sup>- is now a full school day that will follow a "Wednesday" schedule; will not be an early release day  
April 9<sup>th</sup>- Restaurant Night at Elevation Burger- support our school by eating out!  
April 10<sup>th</sup> Heritage/Literacy Night- 6 pm-7pm is Heritage Night; 7-8pm is the Literacy portion of the evening in your children's classrooms. The school's philosophy has always been that literacy permeates all aspects of our curriculum. Kids love Literacy night because they get to showoff their accomplishments to their parents. The specialists will also be available to speak to families.  
April 14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>- Spring Break  
April 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>- Secretary's Week  
April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - Woodson Pyramid Art Show  
April 26<sup>th</sup>- All County Choral Festival for 6th graders at Hayfield Secondary School  
June activities: Field Day dates will remain the same. The 6th Grade awards ceremony and party is being moved to Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Due to the many snow days, the County is still considering extending the school year one more day to Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup>. We should hear in the near future what has been decided.

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Mrs. Fernandez mentioned that the state legislature is considering a bill to reduce the number of SOL tests for Elementary and Middle Schools. She supports such a move by the state.

### **Testing Report (Ms. Alley)**

The State has extended our SOL testing window by one week. The testing window is now Monday May 12th-Friday June 13th. At Mantua, all of the tests will be given in the morning and there will be no tests scheduled for Mondays or the Tuesday after Memorial Day. If a child misses a test, however, they might have to take a make-up test on a Monday.

#### Mantua's SOL Schedule:

May 13<sup>th</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading (part 1)  
May 14<sup>th</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading (part 2)  
May 15<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading  
May 16<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading  
May 20<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science  
May 23<sup>d</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math  
May 28<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math  
May 30<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Social Studies  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Science  
June 4<sup>th</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Virginia History  
June 5<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math  
June 6<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History  
June 10<sup>th</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math

**Report of First Vice-President for Programs (Teresa LeMair):** There are a lot of programs going on right now. Raccoon Runners has started with over 35 girls participating. The Enrichment Classes are in full-swing. Due to snow days, the Monday classes will go into June. Mantua's Odyssey of the Mind and Destination Imaginations teams have been doing great this year. As volunteer coordinator, Teresa will be reminding room parents to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week (the first full week of May)with their classrooms. Field Day is coming up quickly, as well. Teresa will first communicate with those people who signed up to see if they prefer a morning or afternoon shift. Then, more volunteers will be solicited if needed.

#### **Report of Second Vice-President for Fundraising & Membership (Meri Farling; report given by Teresa LeMair):**

Our next Restaurant Night will be at Elevation Burger on April 9th. Thanks to everyone for making Mantua's first Spring Fling a success. Despite the bad weather, we think it turned out well. Thanks to Mr. Collins and Ms. Donnelly for volunteering their time to the event. Almost all of the teachers at Mantua donated items to our Silent Auction which alone raised over \$3000. Thanks to the custodians for their help in cleaning up a lot of silly string! Unexpected snow made us realize the canceling the dunk tank was a

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good idea. We would especially like to thank our event sponsors:

- Anne and Sarah Harrington
- Judy Wonus
- Cathy Pongmalai & Tom Zoukas
- Mary Thyfault Clark

**Old Business:** Shannon Murphy discussed the need for volunteers for the PTA Executive Board. Currently, we do not have a full slate yet. We need to finalize the slate soon in order to advertise it 30 days in advance of the vote. One nominee per position is put forth by the nominating committee. However, anyone may run for a position in addition to the slate put forth by the nominating committee. Our biggest need is for Treasurer since it requires specialized experience. The committee feels confident that we can fill the other 4 positions.

**New Business:** Sharon Schechtel made a brief presentation about a new fundraising idea-- at "Homes Tour" of our neighborhood. There has been a lot of turnover in the neighborhood. There are many renovations going on and many beautiful houses to see. We could seek sponsorship of the event from contractors. Those contractors could also show off their renovations. We could charge \$20-25 per ticket depending on the number of houses. Most of the expenses would be for promotion. For example, each house that is participating could have a yard sign to identify them. More information on this event to come.

Amanda Trimillos wanted everyone to know that April is national Month of the Military Child. April 15<sup>th</sup> is a day that has been designated to celebrate the military child by wearing the color purple. Amanda also mentioned that she is trained to counsel teachers and parents on ways to support military children. Mrs. Fernandez suggested that Amanda coordinate with Susan Kim who is the SCA Sponsor and a school counselor.

Meeting adjourned at 8 P.M.

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