

**PTA General Meeting Notes  
January 10, 2014  
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 11:34 A.M.

Present at the meeting were:

**Executive Board:** Jennifer Epley, Meri Farling, Teresa LeMair, Carolyn Stephan, Julie Middleton

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

**General Membership:** Kathy Phillips, Rosie Akechian, Jackie Cranford, Amy Quigley, Jennifer Rade, Karen Cheng

**Vote:** The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and adopted by the membership as amended.

**President's Report (Jennifer Epley):** The Virginia Lottery in partnership with the Virginia PTA and the Supply Room Companies opened nominations for the 7th annual Super Teacher Awards. This program celebrates the heroes of education by recognizing their dedication and commitment to students by consistently going the extra mile to inspire. Eight more Super Teachers will receive a \$2,000 cash prize from the Virginia Lottery and a \$2,000 classroom supply credit from The Supply Room Companies. In addition to the wonderful classroom supplies and cash prizes, this year one lucky Virginia Lottery Super Teacher will also win a vacation valued at \$5,000. Please send a copy of your nomination to Ms. Alley. Mrs. Fernandez will announce any nominations at the teacher appreciation luncheon. This is a great opportunity for teachers to get positive feedback from parents that is recognized by the school. In addition, the Citizenship Essay Contest for 6<sup>th</sup> graders is currently accepting essays. Essays are due to Julie Middleton by January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer's Report (Carolyn Stephan):** The Book Fair made over \$6000 for the Mantua Library. The Chat & Chew program is net positive, as is Drama Club and Spirit Wear. Most expenses for these programs are accounted for. In addition, the Directory made \$800. There are still expenses left for Basketball, but we are on track for meeting our budget.

**Principals' Report (Mrs. Fernandez)** This has been a crazy week. These days off and late openings are not good for staff or kids. They really ruin the rhythm of the week.

Upcoming Events-

[ January 12<sup>th</sup>- Woodson Choral Concert- 3 pm start time; kids arrive at 1:15 pm

- [ January 14<sup>th</sup>- preview for parents for the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Human Growth and Development program.
- [ January 15<sup>th</sup>- Band Concert
- [ January 15<sup>th</sup>- Restaurant Night at Chipotle
- [ January 20<sup>th</sup>- Holiday
- [ January 25<sup>th</sup>- Talent Show- 5:30-9 p.m.; doors open at 5 p.m.
- [ January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>- Teacher Work Days
- [ Feb 4<sup>th</sup>- 1:30-2:30p.m.- We will have an assembly for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades. A “Fifty Nifty” science presenter will be coming to the school. He is an engineer from George Mason University. We are hoping to have a reception with him before the assembly and he will answer questions afterwards. There is a STEM Festival in April.

### Past Events

- [ The Drama Production was fabulous in November
- [ Math Recovery Parent Meeting- many parents attended
- [ Human Growth and Development curriculum was presented prior to Winter Break
- [ Author Visit- Grades K-2- had a presentation from the author of the “Gingerbread Man Goes to School”
- [ Winter Sing-a-long was fun as usual
- [ Angel Fund- came during the Thanksgiving Luncheons to talk to people; started after Thanksgiving break; kids are getting bands and have started handing them off to other kids; Fairfax Times wrote a blurb about the program and mentioned that Mantua is participating.

Activate K-2 Program: Dr. Wexler had planned to come meet here at Mantua and see the kids participating in the program, but the weather and school cancellations has disrupted the schedule. We are the largest pilot school doing this program. Matt Fitzpatrick is the computer expert with the software side of things and we have met with him. The purpose of the program is to teach strategies to aid in Executive Functioning. We recently learned that teachers can actually help the kids with the computer program. We originally thought that teachers had to be hands off, but, in fact, they can provide assistance to the children. Some kids are doing really well and can help other kids, their peers. Information is going to be sent home soon in the Tuesday Folder on how to do games at home.

Dr. Garza’s Budget- The funding situation for FCPS is going to be very tight over the next few years. There are a lot of cuts in the budget and even though the budget assumes an increased transfer of 5.7% from the County. This increased transfer is unlikely, so there will likely be even bigger cuts in the final budget. In my opinion, everything is “earth shattering”. Previous cuts have focused on the central office, but there is nothing more to cut at that level. It’s likely that there will be big cuts at the school-level including fewer Assistant Principals, as well as custodial, clerical and front office staff. Class sizes will increase and Instructional Assistants (IA).

I think it is important that the PTA think strategically about how to spend it's money. Budgets these last 2 years have been tightest we have ever had. It's likely that we will need money for very basic needs. You can't pay for staff, but you can buy paper. In addition, we are likely to need more volunteers in classrooms, especially if Instructional Assistants are let go.

Here are some important dates regarding the budget:

April 29<sup>th</sup>- County Board of Supervisors approves the transfer to the schools

May 22<sup>nd</sup>- adoption of budget by school board

Art Program- we have had some challenges replacing Ms. Watkins. We have decided to hire a long-term until the end of the year.

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

ESOL students are taking the WIDA test for ESOL level 1-5 kids. We have about two months to test about 100 kids. This test provides us with an English level of proficiency for reading, writing, speaking English for these students. The IOWA test for Algebra will be given next Tuesday during the students' their regular math time.

The Horizon Test takes place at end of second quarter. It is the reading and math test for the county for grades 3-6. It's a test to see how the kids are doing after the first two quarters. The Cogat (language) and the Naglieri (non-verbal) make-up tests are coming up soon. Scores for those tests taken last fall have not yet arrived yet. A combination of the these two test scores determine whether your kid is in the "pool" for AAP. In addition, parents may also make a referral for their child.

We are already looking ahead to the SOL tests. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing test will be in mid-March. It is a two day test- 1st day is writing and 2<sup>nd</sup> day is multiple choice. The window for all other SOL tests is May 12-June 6<sup>th</sup>-.

**Report of First Vice-President for Programs (Teresa LeMair):** The Talent Show tryouts were this past Monday. New this year- kids can also submit a video. The deadline for video tryouts is next Monday, January 13th. The Talent Show will take place January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Using DramaWorks for the school's drama production was fantastic. Everything went smoothly. We have tentatively scheduled with DramaWorks for next year.

Basketball hoops are still not fixed. Mrs. Fernandez is going to check with the maintenance people about this.

Our next Family Fun Night is January 24<sup>th</sup>. The discounted price is \$5.50 for entry and \$3 for skate rentals.

We are working hard to put together our next Enrichment Program. It will combine the Winter and Spring session and will be 10 weeks long. Registration is planned to start January 29<sup>th</sup> and will be through Member Planet. If anyone has a problem with registration, email Paige Rushing immediately. Registration will be open for 1 week this time and the programs start February 24<sup>th</sup>.

We need more volunteers for class yearbook representative- currently looking for more photos for the yearbook.

A parent asked about the Reflections Program- What is the schedule for announcing the winners? Lori Prendergast is coordinating that program for Mantua. Teresa will ask her the status of the program

### **Report of Second Vice-President for Fundraising & Membership (Meri Farling):**

Our next Restaurant Night is next week at Chipotle. They will be giving us 50% of the proceeds.

Yearbooks- the price to purchase yearbooks will go up from \$25 starting February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Carnival- No one has volunteered to coordinate the Carnival, so the PTA Board is moving ahead with a new concept called a "Spring Fling." There will be a Mantua Made Market in the gym. Those who wish to participate will be charged a booth fee. There will be a Silent Auction for teacher's activities.

Five Below fundraiser- we are still waiting to hear how much we made on this fundraiser.

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.