

MINUTES – FINAL, Approved 3/11/16

General PTA Membership Meeting

February 11, 2016, 7pm

Mantua Elementary School

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by Julie Middleton

Executive Board and Membership Attendees: Julie Middleton, Lisa Libby, Chanda McCarthy, Kristina Clarke, Nicole Willis, Samantha Galui, Amy Halstead, Kathy Phillips, Rachel Fleming, Elena Theobald, Meri Farling, Jenn and Eric Ross, Karen Cheng, Edith MacArthur, Sarah Bogardus, Yanhing Lin, Marisa Chartier, Bob Greene, Chrissy Boylan

Administration and School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Amy Alley

II. Adoption of January 2016 Minutes – A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes as written

III. Reports

-President's Report

Julie Middleton

- Thank you for attending the volunteer reception held just before this meeting. It was great to see new faces and have the opportunity to speak with volunteers currently holding positions. We will continue recruiting and communicating our volunteer needs; please refer any questions to a board member or mantuapta.org
- Positions open on the board include Vice President of Programs and President

-Treasurer's Report

Nicole Willis

Fundraisers

- We received \$28.52 from Terracycle for a collection sent to them to recycle – Put this in “Donations” since I didn't have an account suitable. If we need to create a new account, let me know. It is likely that it's left from two students who carried out the program last year
- Flippin' Pizza Restaurant Night was successful and we received a check for \$369.00
- We sent a 50% down payment in the amount of \$1678.12 to Fun Events to lock in our Spring Fling/Carnival rental equipment
- We paid a reimbursement to cover the cost of the pizza party for the fundraising goal winning class

Programs & Events

- MathCounts registration fees were collected in the amount of \$241 and we paid for their T-shirt order in the amount of \$261.60
- Under Basketball Expenses, we paid the FCPS Community Use fees for the upcoming April 15th game at Woodson (PTA basketball game is planned with parent-staff mixed teams) and we paid for this year's trophies
- Chat 'n' Chew and Drama Club each had \$30 deducted as reimbursement for the discount of registering their kids with those clubs as a PTA member (6 total members @ \$10 each)
- Drama Club Ticket Sales were deposited in the amount of \$2528.00 for Annie, Jr.

- Classroom Language Art check for \$2000 was given to Mantua Elementary School
- Under Community Spirit Activities, we are paying Everything Entertainment \$450 to DJ this Friday's Valentine's Dance
- Parent Education Expenses include \$250 as the 50% balance due for the Celebrate Calm seminars that will be rescheduled and \$493.90 for the Active Parenting DVDs that were purchased for the PTA's Parent Resource Library

Supplies

- \$50 was reimbursed to Mrs. Dini as she paid for the Winter Concert's pianist to accompany the performances out of her own pocket. We may need to create a new "Account" for this type of expense moving forward
- Custodial fees for basketball are still being negotiated for our unique program. Previously they have agreed to subsidized fees. Ms. Fernandez agreed to speak on behalf of PTA Basketball. Bob Greene commented about fees charged to community groups for use of school grounds/facilities on evenings and weekends

-Principals' Report

Jan-Marie Fernandez

Events that took place:

- 4th graders to Woodson planetarium
- 6th graders to National Gallery of Art
- 1/14 Band Concert
- 1/20 Strings Concert
- Principals visited partner elementary schools, Lees Corner and Greenbriar West. The three schools are linked together because of similar characteristics. Each school has a unique feature that they shared with the other schools, one to one technology (Lees Corner), project based learning (Greenbriar West) and math strategies (Mantua). Visitors commented that "at Mantua everyone is working on 'kids working on thinking'! They got it!"
- Multiple snow days
- 2/2 4th grade Human Growth and Development preview night held; lessons to be held tomorrow in school
- 2/3 Rising 7th grade orientations at Luther Jackson MS and Frost MS
- 2/4 Second quarter ended, two hour early release
- 2/5 Teacher Work Day
- Current 6th graders visited Frost MS today

Upcoming events:

- 2/12 Valentines Dance, 7pm in the cafeteria
- 2/15 School closed for Presidents Day
- 2/17 4th grade Colonial Day information meeting for parents
- 2/18 Frost Family Festival
- 2/22-26 Administrators Appreciation Week
- 2/23 Chipotle Restaurant Night cancelled
- 2/24 5th graders will hear art presentation by an art restoration artist who works on federal buildings, the artist is a friend of Mrs. Cajati
- 2/25 and 26 Celebrate Calm sessions rescheduled, 7-9pm on 2/25 and 9:30-11:30 am on 2/26 in library
- 2/29 Active Parenting seminars begin

- 3/1 Two hour delayed opening due to primary voting
- 3/4 Lego Night
- 3/10 4th grade Colonial Day
- 3/12 Talent show
- 3/18 PTA Meeting

Other:

- Our head custodian, Odair Morales' last day is tomorrow
- FCPS School Board met and voted not to apply for the waiver to start school early in fall 2016. School start date will not change in 2016 but may change starting in 2017-18. If school starts earlier, school would end earlier in June
- Reminder regarding Kiss and Ride rules: For those of you who use Kiss and Ride at the end of the school day, you may have noticed that dismissal is taking longer than usual. This delay is resulting in students who ride buses getting home significantly later than usual. Please remember that buses are scheduled to be at Mantua by 4:00 p.m. Due to the volume of cars, they are stuck in the Kiss and Ride line and not able to get to the bus loop on time.

For afternoon dismissal, we are asking parents **to not arrive in the Kiss and Ride line UNTIL AFTER 4:05 p.m.** Currently, Kiss and Ride traffic on Kirkwood is already blocking the entrance to Horner Court by 3:45 p.m., and buses are not able to pull in the bus loop to load bus riders.

Our hope is that by having buses arrive a few minutes earlier and delaying the time Kiss and Ride cars block Kirkwood, we can have dismissal completed faster for everyone while maintaining a safe environment for all. This can only be accomplished with your cooperation.

In addition, please remember that **students should not be dropped off at Mantua before 9:00 a.m.**

Thank you in advance for your help!

-Assistant Principal

Amy Alley

- Naglieri – first graders and select 2nd-6th graders will receive a letter about the upcoming test
- IOWA – 6th graders took recently, scores will be returned in March, helps determine algebra placement in 7th grade
- WIDA assessment – test of our limited English speakers year over year, determines continuation of ESOL placement and testing accommodations, all components of the test are online
- Art and music assessment by 6th graders that is reported to the fine arts department
- Reading and math assessments, 3rd – 6th graders
- Club and Candid photos for year book are being done differently this year. We are trying to reduce number of pictures taken during school hours to avoid pulling kids out of the classroom by having clubs take pictures when they are meeting. The multiple PA announcements and kids leaving the classroom is disruptive; not excluding any clubs but rather trying to find more efficient way to get pictures without disrupting instruction

-1st Vice President for Programs

Lisa Libby

- Thank you for coming to our volunteer fair, great to meet new people and excited to share our opportunities
- Gardening Club – Wish Fund program allocated funds for a water source. They are building / managing a colonial garden which lines up with 4th, 5th and 6th grade curriculum and are planting many interesting and historical plants. Gardening interests please direct to Christine Clifford and Kati Hesford

- Valentines Dance is on 2/12
- Spring Enrichment registration ends on 2/17, classes start 3/7
- Feb 22-26 Administration Appreciation Week
- Parent Workshops – Kirk and Casey Martin present “How to Stop Defiance, Disrespect and Yelling.” You don’t need to RSVP, please come to just one of the sessions
- Active Parenting – examines parenting style and discipline techniques, held over a three week period, 7-9pm on Mondays starting 2/29. \$20 fee, firm registration deadline is next Tuesday, 2/16, send in a check with registration form. The flyer was sent home two weeks ago. Contact Kathy Philips if any questions
- Family Fun Lego Night is coming up on 3/4
- Talent Show deadline was extended to 2/21. Talent Show Rehearsal on Thursday 3/10 and Talent Show on 3/12, 5:30-9 in the gym. It is a fun night with many great performances. We are looking for a new director for next year, please contact Lisa if you have any interest

-2nd Vice President for Fundraising/Membership

Chanda McCarthy

- Chipotle night cancelled, trying to reschedule
- Spring Fling committee may have formed tonight – yay! Contracts signed and deposit paid for inflatables
- May 15th is the Homes Tour, please let us know of any houses or contractors that may be of interest for the tour

IV. Old Business

Update on the Reflections program from Karen Cheng: two students are moving onto the district level; awards for county level winners will be presented on 4/1 at FCHS. We already have four volunteers for next year’s program; the theme will be “What is Your Story?”

V. New Business

Jan-Marie Fernandez: The school will be closed to any activities this summer because of grounds maintenance. Contractors will be replacing heating and a/c units on roof of building, hoping for improvement of the system and cut down on work orders placed for maintenance. Mantua is rated an Energy Star School

Storm water project is back on but they are working on better management of the school grounds – i.e. underground tanks instead of drainage ponds and restoration of the ground above grade, new plan is less invasive to the use of school grounds (i.e., playground, fields and blacktop), trying to improve the current ponds, School Board member Dalia Palchik is involved

Also the neighborhood Crooked Creek project is working in conjunction with the storm water project

Hope to incorporate learning opportunities associated with the stream restoration and storm water projects. Already Mrs. Sullivan’s class is involved in a bird watching project, doing research on bird habitat and environmental impacts

Nick Rousos’ father is very ill with stage 4 cancer and has now had a significant stroke. Mr. Rousos will be out of the building often during this difficult time so please copy Ms. Fernandez and Ms. Alley on any communication to him.

PTA Member: Sidewalk ends as you come up Kirkwood creating a dangerous situation, especially during snow events. There have been past complaints and attempts to fix this problem.

Ms. Alley: Counters will be put down on Kirkwood to monitor traffic and collect data on traffic flow

Bob Greene, Chartered Organizations Representative: Cub Scouts are available for service projects; Boy Scouts also interested in service hours and Eagle rank projects, all scout resources are that of the PTA as the chartered organization for Scouts. Please contact Mr. Greene if you have projects for the Scouts

3/18 is a new date for the next PTA meeting

VI. Announcements – check out www.mantuapta.org and the AlertNews for more information on what is happening at Mantua.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm by Julie Middleton

VIII. Updates - Schedule changes that occurred between 2/11/16 and 3/11/16:

The School Board voted to close schools on March 1; a two hour delay had previously been planned

The monthly PTA meeting was rescheduled for 3/11/16; previously 3/18/16

Administrators Appreciation Week was postponed to March 14-18