

MINUTES - DRAFT  
General PTA Membership Meeting  
October 15, 2015, 7:00pm  
Mantua Elementary School

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm Julie Middleton.

Executive Board and Membership Attendees: Julie Middleton, Lisa Libby, Nicole Willis, Kristina Clarke, S. Sekharraju, Helen Keil-Losch, Ajita Krishna, Xin Fu, Amy Halstead, Matt Hollerith, Sriram Peri, Amy Quigley, Suhas Adhikam, Edith MacArthur, Bob Greene, Karen Cheng, Yanling Lin, Omar Thondique

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

II. Adoption of September 2015 Minutes – A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes as written.

III. Reports

-President's Report

Julie Middleton

- Julie welcomed all attendees to the meeting
- Huge thank you to all for your participation and support for the fall fundraiser, Run for Rocky. It was run by the PTA and school this year without the support of an outside company which resulted in more effort and only slight less profit, all of the proceeds stay at Mantua. Total money raised was almost \$40,000. Julie will send a survey via Survey Monkey to get feedback on the fundraiser event.

-Treasurer's Report

Nicole Willis

Fundraisers

- We have collected \$288.84 in funds for purchases of extra directories and business sponsorships for the directory
- We have received \$3,268.70 in donations between Open House, via MemberPlanet , Back to School Night, and Friends of Rocky donations
- Escrip deposits total \$120.36
- Fundraising Partnerships deposit total \$189.71 (all from Amazon)
- The Ice Cream & Pizza Social brought in \$1,905.00 net
- The Fall Fundraiser has brought in \$16,459.41 just in cash and checks (after expenses were deducted). MemberPlanet's totals are \$39,822.78.
- Spirit Wear orders via MemberPlanet show \$695.00. Only some of that has been deposited to our account

Programs & Events

- Basketball registration has been received on the computer, but not yet accounted for in our checking account. Expenses have been paid for permits in the amount of \$100 and supplies such as balls, benches, tables, and scorebooks for \$875.15 (total \$975.15)
- Chat 'n Chew club fees total \$805.00
- Drama Club fees total \$6650.00, expenses for scripts purchases were \$683.00
- Kids Care Club fees total \$220.00
- Raccoon Runners fees total \$2920.00 and we've processed a small amount of expenses so far in the amount of \$104.02 for snacks
- School Spirit Displays expenses were paid out at \$273.73 to cover things like the entryway decorations and flower pots as well as some updates to the courtyard.

- ☒ Take Home Reading Expenses show \$519.67 to pay for the Take Home Reading folders at \$505 and food for the Parent Training Meeting at the beginning of the school year.

#### Membership Dues

- ☒ We've collected almost \$4900 in membership dues and our first payment to the state/local and national PTA's will be December 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Staff-Related Expenses

- ☒ Learning Resources - We purchased some new sound equipment (mics/battery packs) for \$2084.00 to assist with the various events held on the stage
- ☒ Teacher's Fund – Welcome Checks were written to all of the teachers and support staff totaling \$7,150.00 as a "Thank You" from the PTA for all of the hard work that they do and to help supplement their classroom supplies

#### Other

- ☒ Supplies - \$113.49 for paper for the Open House folders and for a new toner cartridge so that I can continue to print out checks!!
- ☒ Website - \$131.33 in website related costs to keep things moving (hosting and site design)
- ☒ Sponsorship checks have not yet been received for Run for Rocky, this should lower our expenses

#### -Principals' Report

Jan-Marie Fernandez

- ☒ Last year the PTA provided the school with funds to purchase 30 Ipad. Twenty of those have been purchased, another 10 are ordered. There are funds left over after the purchase and we are creatively looking for ways to spend the money that will support the curriculum in an exciting and technology-based way. We would like to use the remaining money to purchase 10 Lego Robotics kits. The kits would be packaged in carts for use by specific grades (ie, lighting and electronics for 5th graders, story starters for younger grades.) The older grades can learn programming with the Ipad and Lego Robotics. A group of teachers went to a Lego training over the summer so are able to implement the curriculum and have starter kits. Also Ms. Dunfee will support. DLC improvements and document cameras also were purchased. Board discussed and verbally approved use of the leftover funds for Lego Robotics kits.
- ☒ Funds were also distributed for the purchase of outdoor furniture near the playground but require clarification on what is to be purchased. Ideas include a new bench for shady area and umbrellas. All is undecided because of grounds work to be done next summer.
- ☒ Two Back to School Nights were held in September. They were well attended.
- ☒ Spirit of America - 6<sup>th</sup> grade field trip
- ☒ Bus safety instruction for K-3<sup>rd</sup>
- ☒ Camp Highroads information meeting held
- ☒ NSO - 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip
- ☒ Lockdown drill held on 10/14. During the lockdown all doors are locked, window shades pulled down, children escorted to safest place, all staff and students are quiet. Police would arrive in a real situation to clear the building; administrators clear the building in practice situation. Safety and security office and police

representatives meet with administrators regularly to review practices and scenarios in case of emergency.

- 10/19-23 Custodian Appreciation
- 10/20 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Jamestown
- 10/22 Parent Preview session for K-6<sup>th</sup> grade Family Life Education (FLE) Emotional Social Health lessons. The FLE Human Growth and Development lesson for 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade preview will be at a later date. Parents can opt children out of FLE lessons, specific lessons or all of the lessons. Pacing guides provided for teachers, lessons are taught by teachers in the classroom and not by guidance counselors, alternative activities are provided if student has opted out.
- 10/23 Family One field trip to the pumpkin patch
- 10/23 Family Fun Night, 7pm
- 10/24 Woodson Pyramid Choral Fall Field Day, 1-4pm
- 10/30 Spirit Parade, 9:30, spirit parade includes the toilet papering of the administrators and prizes raffled for the teachers. Two hour early release at 2:05
- 11/2-3 Student Holidays and Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/5-6 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trip to Hidden Ponds
- 11/5-6 5<sup>th</sup> grade overnight field trip to Camp Highroads
- 11/10 Fall Picture Day Make Up
- 11/13 PTA Meeting, 9:30am

Amy Alley

- The CogAT test (includes three parts: verbal, non-verb, quantitative) is in progress currently. It is being administered via paper and pencil for FCPS by the county's choice. Scores will be sent home at a later date.
- Classrooms assessments for math and reading are also in progress.
- The Naglieri test is coming up 11/16-20 for 2nd thru 6th graders, 1st graders will take the Naglieri March 7-11. The Naglieri is administered online.

Mr. Rousos has been out sick for a couple days and could not be present. He is busy dealing with transportation, busses and kiss and ride, which are improving.

-1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for Programs

Lisa Libby

- Karen Cheng, chairperson for the PTA Reflections Program, spoke about the program. Reflections is an art contest that students can enter work in one of six different categories. This year's theme is "Let your Imagine Fly!" Entries are first judged at the school level, then state and national levels. Deadline is 10/23 to turn in entries. Karen presented ideas to promote the program including GMM, yearbook, display case, Woodson Art Show, sponsorship and prizes for entrants in an effort to promote the contest. Thanks to our volunteer judges: Marianne Cherry, Mia Brennan, Rachel Fleming. Currently we have student entries in at least 3 categories.
- Enrichment classes started this week, everything going smoothly. There was one incident when a Mantua teacher had to teach an enrichment class when the enrichment instructor didn't show. Drama Club is under way, Kids Care Club meets next week and Raccoon Runners has started.
- Flex classes have also started. Chinese 3 was requested by parent. Parent demand and student enrollment determines Flex programs offered. Curriculum and access to FLEX teachers is available if parents have questions about Flex. A parent raised a

question about why Italian is taught. Ms. Fernandez explained that it is an exposure language, Italian is close to Latin and translates easily to the romance languages, brain research supports that exposure to any second language is beneficial and is not dependent on which language, it stimulates the ability to hear language in more than one language. Mantua students receive 1+ hour of exposure per week and it is funded by the county.

- ☒ Parent Education is ramping up for the year. Our first session will be held on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 pm in the library. Our very own counselor, Richard Hang, and social worker, Laura Thieman, will be presenting on "A Dash of Play" including strategies for mindful play with our students. Refreshments will be served.

Save the date for special guest speakers Kirk and Casey Martin, of Celebrate Calm, giving TWO presentations on Thursday, January 28 from 7-9 pm and Friday, January 29 from 9:30-11:30 am. Both presentations will be in the library. These speakers are phenomenal and their strategies can change your whole outlook on parenting and interacting with your kids. You won't want to miss either of these two sets of Parent Ed opportunities, so plan now to attend!

- ☒ We are seeking volunteers in two areas. First volunteer opportunity is in the clinic. We need two volunteers to attend a two hour training to then be able to cover the clinic if the health aide worker needs to be out. Also, a SignUp Genius list will be sent in the Alert News for school wide volunteering opportunities including room parents and fall party coordinators.
- ☒ There is a form in this week's Tuesday folder for parents to complete if they want to opt out of their information being printed in the Mantua directory
- ☒ Pokemon Family Fun Night is Friday, October 23rd. It is free and always a popular event, Pokemon experts come to lead the event.

-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for Fundraising/Membership Chanda McCarthy, report given by Julie Middleton

- ☒ Spirit Wear deadline is 10/23, spirit wear is on display in cafeteria
- ☒ Box Top Contest is going on this month. Class that collects the most Box Tops will win a pizza party
- ☒ Recycling Toner Cartridges – discussion regarding what to do with the cartridges as we are no longer doing it as a fundraiser.
- ☒ First Restaurant Night at Dickey's happened last week

#### IV. Old Business

- ☒ The Mantua PTA Wish Fund is open, applications are being accepted, interested staff and PTA members in good standing can apply online. It is a relatively short turn around so that money can be awarded and spent this school year. Applications are reviewed by admin and then voted on by a committee. Application deadline is 11/2.
- ☒ A recycling idea for the cafeteria has been brought forth by a parent. Amy Alley has encouraged the parent to work with staff and PTA. Best to start a program small and then get bigger, to ensure its sustainable. Great ideas, but it always takes volunteers, effort and initiation to get off the ground and keep running.

#### V. New Business

- ☒ School Supplies fundraiser was discussed. That type of fundraiser may be possible if there is online ordering, teacher specific, customizable lists and home delivery. It

would have to work in a logical, low maintenance way as not to put a burden on staff and volunteers.

VI. Announcements – check out [www.mantuapta.org](http://www.mantuapta.org) for more information on these and other events:

October 22: MATHCOUNTS Interest Meeting, 7:45-9:00 p.m., Room 23

October 23: Family Fun Night - Pokemon Cards & Games Night, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

October 23: Spirit Wear Deadline

October 23: Reflections Contest Deadline

October 30: Box Tops Contest Ends

October 30: Fall Spirit Parade, 9:30 a.m.

October 30: 2-Hour Early Release

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm