

MINUTES
General PTA Membership Meeting
September 11, 2015, 9:30am
Mantua Elementary School

I. The meeting was called to order at 9:42am by Julie Middleton

Executive Board and Membership Attendees: Julie Middleton, Lisa Libby, Chanda McCarthy, Nicole Willis, Kristina Clarke, Amanda Trimillos, Courtney Allen, Nicola Farris, Sam Leiber, Christin Nolan, Samantha Galui, Rachel Lima, Tre' Krupnick, Melissa Moran, Laura Morandi, Kati Hesford, Lou Rajack, Kathy Phillips, Amy Bharwani, Stacy Jessup, Dawn Keene, Jennifer McFadyen, Juhyun Moon, Amy Mireku, Vanessa Hall, Susanne Fitch, Shannon Murphy, Jennifer Cooke, Teresa Willebeck-LeMair, Laura Close, Dave Eldred, Gruping Zhou, Honghui Li, Christine Clifford, Michele Geib, Jamie Steider

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

II. Adoption of June 2015 Minutes – A motion was made by Dave Eldred and carried to approve the minutes as written.

III. Reports

-President's Report

Julie Middleton

- Julie welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
- PTA was able to give over \$70,000 last year.
- PTA will again be sponsoring the Wish Fund, a grant program with 10k in funds, led by Jennifer McFadyen.
- Plans are underway for our fall fundraiser, Run for Rocky. Run for Rocky will be a similar event to last fall's fundraiser, Boosterthon, which netted approximately \$40,000. In response to parent feedback Run for Rocky is being run entirely by the PTA so 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the school. Roll out and more details to follow next week.
- Introductions of the PTA board members were made.

-Treasurer's Report

Nicole Willis

Fundraisers

- We've already received some small donations from members at Open House
- We've had \$65 deposited electronically through Escript
- Thanks to Amazon purchases, we've already received \$100. A question was asked regarding Amazon and using the link. The link is on the PTA website and it can be clicked on at any point during your Amazon purchase and the school benefits.
- We have written checks to pay for the pizza for the Ice Cream & Pizza Social this evening and the DJ
- We've already purchased T-shirts for our Fall Fundraiser "Run for Rocky"

Programs and Events

- Scripts were purchased for \$683.50 for the production of Annie!

Membership Dues

- We've collected almost \$800 in membership dues from Open House plus another \$248 that has been deposited from credit card transactions (not yet recorded in QuickBooks)

Hospitality and Appreciation Expenses

- I will be writing out the Welcome Checks soon that are given to the teachers and IA's every year to help with costs of supplies in their classrooms

Learning Resources

- We purchased some new sound equipment (mics/battery packs) for \$2084.00 to assist with the various events held on the stage

Other

- I have completed the tax form 990-EZ for the PTA's fiscal year of 2014-2015. In order to remain in "Good Standing" with the VA PTA, I will email them a copy of the tax form along with a copy of our Audit, the Year End Report for 2014-2015 and the Minutes from today's meeting. The new 990 tax form and Audit will be uploaded to the PTA's website soon.

- A new letter has been uploaded to the MantuaPTA.org website to verify that we are a charitable organization if you have made donations. Please pull up the new form and update your records if you need this form.

-Principals' Report

Jan-Marie Fernandez

- Mrs. Fernandez welcomed all attendees to the meeting, happy to have many parents. Current number of students is 960 and rising. Mrs. Fernandez described many of the challenges with student enrollment numbers and staffing over the summer. Because enrollment numbers change throughout the summer and are not final until school starts many changes happen right before school starts including hiring new staff and changing classrooms. Mrs. Fernandez discussed the number of students required by the county at different grade levels before instructional assistants or additional teachers can be hired. Overall, class sizes are good, especially in kindergarten.
- Dr. Garza visited on the first day of school. It was a nice visit and she was impressed. Many preparations were made including painting, tree trimming and street cleaning. Thank you to Christine Clifford for the flower pots and beautification efforts.
- Woodson marching band visiting today
- Ice cream social is tonight
- 9/16 Back To School Night, 4th-6th grades
- 9/18 Run for Rocky kick off
- 9/18 6th grade field trip to George Mason
- 9/18 Woodson Feeder Night
- 9/24 Back To School Night, K-3rd grade
- 9/25 Run for Rocky, 3rd-4th grade 9:30-10:30, K-2nd 10:30-11:30, 5th-6th 11:30-12:30.

- ☒ 10/8 Fall Picture Day
- ☒ Early October – parents information meeting for 5th grade overnight trip to Camp High Roads.
- ☒ 10/9 Student Holiday
- ☒ 10/12 No school, Columbus Day
- ☒ 10/14 4th grade NSO field trip
- ☒ 10/15 Evening PTA meeting

Amy Alley

- ☒ Testing happens throughout the year. Current testing includes language surveys for ESOL students, math and reading assessments for primary and upper grades.
- ☒ County wide tests to be administered include the CogAT given to every second grader over three days, window is 10/13-23. The CogAT includes three parts: verbal, non-verbal and quantitative. First graders are given the Naglieri, a non-verbal test, in March.
- ☒ All new FCPS students with no test data on file will be tested. Also parents can request a one-time retake of one test. Information from the tests is used for AAP placement and classroom teaching techniques.
- ☒ Mrs. Fernandez emphasized that there is no need to prepare students for these tests. Previously, a special CogAT was developed for FCPS. There is no need to rush kids to AAP, tons of opportunities for all students and kids who prep for test can struggle in AAP.

Nick Rousos

- ☒ Trees around the marquee have been trimmed – they are gone! Mr. Rousos is looking into the cost of an electronic marquee: \$14,000 for single color, \$17,900 for multi-color. Installation typically runs 10-18K, for a total of \$24-36K.
- ☒ There are traffic issues around the school at arrival and dismissal times. Mr. Rousos spoke with Officer Green this morning; he is acutely aware of traffic issues around school, will watch dismissal today starting at 3:30 then will meet to discuss possible solutions. Best case scenario would be to reduce the number of cars in Kiss and Ride and control when cars can begin to line up. This would help because the busses are stuck in the line of cars and are unable to load students. It is thought that this has been a problem in the past but is exacerbated this year with the later start and dismissal times. Various solutions were discussed. Walkers were warned to be extra careful. Clarifications were made about acceptable and legal parking places. The MCA has a traffic safety group meeting that Julie Middleton will be attending. Mr. Rousos will work with transportation to get busses in place earlier to help avoid getting stuck in the Kiss and Ride line. The Transportation Supervisor has been on site during dismissal and is aware of the challenges. Mr. Rousos emphasized that transportation and the administration are aware of the problem and are working on it.
- ☒ The track as discussed last year is not going to happen for now. Fairfax County Government has an agreement with FCPS that school land can be used for storm water

management. As a result, several large containment areas will be added to school grounds near the playground and baseball field for drainage. Construction will be during next summer. It was delayed from this summer because of the ESY students on campus. This is a county government decision, not FCPS. Concerns were expressed regarding safety of the students and impact on school grounds. It was clarified that we are in the Providence district, also supported by Mason district and to contact those officials regarding concerns.

-1st Vice President for Programs

Lisa Libby

- Thank you to all volunteers!
- Mantua PTA clubs begins registration next week. 6th graders can register for Drama club at 8am on 9/15 online. Starting on 9/16 5th grade tech and 3rd-6th grade actors can sign up. Please attend the interest meeting on 9/14 for more details. Also check the Alert news for links and details.
- Shannon Murphy discussed enrichment opportunities. Registration starts on 9/16, online. Information and schedule was in the open house folders and is online. Fall and spring sessions will be held; there is no winter session.
- Discount for PTA members; reasonable fees associated with clubs. Discount is not for enrichment classes.
- Susanne Fitch discussed FLEX language classes being offered at Mantua.
- Vanessa Hall discussed Academic Competitions opportunities. An interest meeting will be held next week.

-2nd Vice President for Fundraising/Membership

Chanda McCarthy

- Our fall fundraiser, Run for Rocky is coming up! It is similar to Boosterthon that we used last year but we are going to do it ourselves this year so we will need lots of support. Kickoff is next week 9/18 and the theme is "Mantua Super Heroes – Run to the Rescue!" Highlights will include a pep rally, daily prizes/thank yous, raffle prizes for incentives, everyone gets a tshirt, flat fee donation rather than per lap, donors can pay via member planet. Watch the thermometers around school to see how we're progressing toward our goal.
- There will be many fundraisers throughout the year; its a great way to get involved. Please get involved!

V. Old Business

None

V. New Business

- Adoption of 2015-16 Budget -Julie did a brief overview of the budget detailing changes including the addition of a line item for learning resources, garden and landscaping and the continuation of the Wish Fund. A motion was made by Shannon Murphy and carried by Jamie Steider to approve the 2015-16 Budget as presented.
- Approval of 2014-15 Audit - Nicole described the audit process and presented the document. Sandy Spector, a CPA and Mantua resident reviewed our practices and receipts. She concluded

that our records were in good order and offered a couple best practice suggestions. A motion was made by Lisa Libby and carried by Vanessa Hall to approve the 2015-16 audit as presented.

- ☒ Money was previously donated to the school by the PTA to pay for a school-based software license for Wixie. It was later learned that the school system was buying a county wide license. Because the school, for audit reasons, cannot give back donated funds, it was suggested that the funds be used for Brain POP. A motion was made and carried to approve the re-allocation of the \$1800 from Wixie to Brain POP.

VI. Announcements – check out www.mantuapta.org for more information on these and other events:

9/11 Ice Cream and Pizza Social, Playground, 5-7pm

9/11 PTA Event: Volunteer Info Meeting, Reading Room, 10:30am

9/14 PTA Event: Drama Club Info Meeting, 7pm

9/15 Mantua PTA Clubs Registration Begins (Drama Club, Racoon Runners, Kids Care Club and more)

Mantua PTA Basketball Registration is Underway

9/16 Enrichment Registration Begins

9/16 Back-to-School Night , 4th-6th grades, 6:30pm

9/17 PTA Event: Academic Competitions Meeting, 7:30pm

9/17-18 PTA Event: Drama Club Auditions

9/18 PTA Event: Run for Rocky Fall Fundraiser – KICKOFF

9/24 Back-to-School Night , K-3rd grades, 6:30pm

9/25 PTA Event: Run for Rocky!

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 11:31am