

**Minutes of the Mantua PTA
October 2, 2002
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Laura Mead, Carole Thomas, Pam Promisel, Beth McKeown, Rob Luftglass

School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Elaine Wellner, Tina Tingler, Ann Baum

Board Members: Donna Cipicchio, Kandy Barham, Jeannine Davies, Loren Brandman, Randi Kirkland, DeeAnn Jeremiah, Cheryl May, Jennifer Cooper, Barbara Suidikas, Allen Clark, Leanne Stynchula, Gretchen Martens, Laura Samotshozo, Kristin Lahiff, Chris Love, Nancy Robinson, Miriam Smolen, Robin Hoffman, Beth Whitehead

General Membership: Elana Plotnick, Carla McTigue, Kris Abel-Helwig, Lynn Richmond, Beth Rivelis, Ashok Kumar, Robin Webb, Marie Romais, Mei Chen, Ann Fisher, Linda Halstead

A correction was requested to the Minutes for the September 18 PTA Meeting. Since Mantua has participated in Reflections before, this reference will be removed. Nancy Robinson moved that the minutes of the September 18, 2002 meeting be approved. Donna Cipicchio seconded. The motion carried.

Beth McKeown presented the **Treasurer's Report**. She provided the Income statement for July 1, 2002 through October 31, 2002. Beth noted that while we have reimbursed for sales tax in the past, we will no longer do so, since everyone has received the information needed for tax exemption. Beth reiterated that she will provide checks at the next PTA meeting for receipts received in the PTA mailbox by Tuesday, November 5. If receipts are provided to Beth at a PTA meeting, she will attempt to provide a check within one to two weeks.

Highlights from the income statement included a \$300 donation to basketball, income received for Hands on Science, Drama, the ExxonMobile donation and a similar donation from Freddie Mac through the Moten family. Expensed include items for the Silent Auction, a golf hole (Ryan McLaughlin Memorial Tournament) sponsorship from the Benevolent fund, and the Marvelous Monday fund.

Laura Mead presented the **Announcements**. Laura welcomed members who are attending their first PTA meeting. Laura indicated that the Uno's night was a big success, both for the PTA and Uno's. Uno's manager was very pleased with the number of Mantua families and told Laura that the preliminary numbers show that the Mantua PTA earned over \$400 from this event. Uno's is anxious to have a similar event.

Cindy Wilson reported that \$207 was raised through a basket fundraiser for the garden; \$72 was contributed to the American Cancer Society.

The Printer Cartridge program is going well. Laura provided some Fedex forms that will allow individuals to send these cartridges in directly and mentioned that more forms are available and cartridges may still be left at the school. We have already raised \$141 from this program.

Laura announced that Tom Hoffman is researching the purchase of a new scoreboard, with the goal of having it in time for season. Registration for the winter season should be in one of the next two Tuesday folders. Registration forms will also be available on the school web site. Tryouts are scheduled for Nov 9-10 and the season starts in December and ends in March.

Laura indicated that we still need meeting representatives – someone to attend School Board meetings and someone to participate on the Superintendent’s Advisory Council.

Providence Players will have their fall plays on October 18, 19, 25, 26, and November 1, 2. Some of proceeds go to Frost, so all are encouraged to attend these plays both to have an enjoyable evening and to support the school in which our children will be attending.

There is a Woodson renovation meeting on October 23. All are encouraged to attend. Laura noted that our first graders will be the first ones to benefit from the renovations at the current schedule.

Principals’ Report: Jan-Marie Fernandez reported on Back to School Night. While it was successful, traffic/parking issues will require us to expand to two nights next year, with a K-3rd grade and a 4-6th grade session. Any input would be appreciated – planning starts soon for next year. It was requested that we also try to have Back to School Night earlier next year. Jan-Marie said that she will send a request in early so that we may try to secure nights that are closer to the beginning of school.

PCs are now set up and working in 6th grade classrooms. Fifteen German vocational specialists will be visiting Mantua on 10/25. Jan-Marie was recently at Gallaudet, discussing phase two of Project Achieve. Initial grant money for this Project has been spent, and we are now trying to expand consortium nationally.

Jan-Marie reported that regarding Project Success, a PhD student from Gallaudet will provide support to Visual Media project. The goal is to assist Deaf, ESOL, and others to improve reading skills.

Jan Marie attended a Microsoft conference. She was able to see the new tablet PC, which while impressive, is also expensive – approximately \$1700 each.

Mantua also hosted a Principal’s conference. We presented a Creativity video, which Jan-Marie would also like to show at a future PTA meeting. In addition to this video, Roll-ins

from Good Morning Mantua might also be a nice addition to PTA meetings, allowing the PTA to see more of what the children are doing.

Traffic modifications have been made to improve safety during drop off/pick up times. With the exception of Horner Court residents, only buses are now allowed in circle area during designated times. Ropes will be set up from approximately 8:40 and 3:15 until the last bus leaves. Cars may only go straight to the expanded Kiss and Ride. It is requested that parents move to the end of the Kiss and Ride area to allow for the maximum number of cars and improved traffic flow. It was suggested that an Unload sign be added so that parents understand the arrangement. It was noted that some parents are ignoring patrols request to move their cars. It is requested that parents work with us to make the best of a bad situation (too many cars in a limited area). It was also noted that parents, especially walkers, should not bring dogs during drop off/pick up times.

Elaine Wellner announced that 4th and 6th graders are testing this week. Please have people here on time (9am). The next standardized testing will take place in November – the CogAt tests.

Tina Tingler announced that she is still happy to be here and is becoming more and more familiar with the school. Please email her if any questions – tinamarie.tingler@fcps.edu. (not tina.tingler@fcps.edu – this is someone else).

On behalf of the K-2 teachers, Jan Marie requested booster seats to help these classes participate in an upcoming field trip. They need to comply with the new laws requiring children under 6 years old or 60 pounds to use a booster seat. Anyone with an extra booster seat should contact Janet Sottolano.

Elaine Wellner also requested that anyone with extra baby food jars provide them to Emily Chance-Dunn, the Art Teacher.

Laura Mead mentioned that we are still selling sports magnets and that the Internet & Computer Ethics for Kids book is still available for all PTA members.

Teacher Representative Report: Ann Baum, announced that she has joined Janet Sottolano as a Teacher Representative. Ann re-emphasized the earlier request for booster seats.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Box Tops for Education: Nancy Robinson reported that collections are going very well and encouraged parents to keep collecting the Box Tops. If we double the collection total from last year, General Mills will add a 10% bonus. Over \$150 has been collected to date. General Mills accepts the collections twice during the school year, the first time being on October 31. There is a collection box in the front office. Parents can send the box tops in Tuesday folders.

Nancy also reported on other fundraisers - Giant food and Harris Teeter – and reminded parents that they need to sign up every year. Nancy is researching the Escript program that Safeway is a part of. Nancy is also going to research the Target fundraising program. She reported that Mantua is no longer involved in the Campbell's Soup program.

Woodson Community Coalition: Leanne Stynchula is now the coordinator for this community support program. In the past, this program sponsored/helped finance Woodson all night grad parties, post prom parties, Frost clubs, summer library openings, and various other ways to benefit Woodson pyramid. Leanne requested people contact her if they would like to volunteer and/or if there are any projects within the Woodson pyramid that the Coalition might support.

Fall Fundraiser: Jeannine Davies reported that over \$28,000 of sales has been made so far and they are striving to reach last year's total of \$32,000.

Community Spirit: Gretchen Martens reported on several activities. While the Woodson football game was a success, there are many extra pompoms. One idea presented was to sell them at Mantua basketball. Gretchen also mentioned the Woodson Homecoming Parade and Carnival on October 19. Mantua has the opportunity to march in the Parade and have a booth at the Carnival.

The Pickett Road McDonalds is offering Mantua a contribution of 10% of all sales on upcoming Monday evenings in October.

The Wizards are offering Mantua discounted seats for a Wizards game. Gretchen is researching similar programs with the Capitals.

Gretchen is researching Mantua Spirit tee shirts and is looking at design changes.

Pam Promisel reported on **Parent Education**. A session on Safety in Cyberspace is tentatively scheduled for October 24. In November a session on what it takes to be a successful student will be scheduled. Pam also mentioned the Parent Education Survey that will be included in the Tuesday folder and asked all to make sure to return the survey so topics of interest can be targeted.

Carole Thomas reported that we are in the final stages of the **Directory** validation, and it is going to print in next week or two. Information on 810 students has been validated so far. PTA Membership to date is 382 families (56%) and 37 teachers.

Silent auction planning is going well with many restaurants and vendors committed. Invitations went to the printer today and should be sent to homes in next two weeks. The admission cost will range between \$15 and \$30 per person depending on when the tickets are bought.

Barbara Suidikas reported that the first **Principals Coffee** is scheduled for next week and will focus on how much is too much homework.

Jennifer Cooper reported that the **Kids Care Club** is wrapping up the Lamb Center project and is looking forward to delivering the generous donations.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the revised minutes of the September 18, 2002 meeting after noting a slight change to the Reflections description.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next meeting is November 6, 2002.

Robert Luftglass
Secretary