

**Notes of the Mantua PTA
January 5, 2005
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: *John Jennison, Nathan Merrells, Cheryl May, Carole Thomas.*

School Representatives: *Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler, Cheryl Thompson, Jan Pry, Barbara Brown, and Janet Sottolano.*

Board Members: *Laura Mead, Jennifer Cooper, Martha Parsons, Loren Brandman, DeeAnn Jeremiah, Chris Purcell, Allen Clark, and Randi Kirkland.*

General Membership: *Melinda Burroughs, Monica Cameron, Jim Burt, Lois Urbanek, and Donna McGrath.*

John Jennison asked everyone to take a minute of silence for the people in Indonesia and Iraq.

John asked to suspend the agenda for a special presentation on the recent gang-related incident at the Merrifield Multiplex Cinema. Three officers from Fairfax County Police gave a report on the incident and emphasized the importance of citizen involvement in reporting and tracking these crimes. The officers also gave a presentation on how to detect gang activity and passed out several pamphlets educating parents about gangs.

Allen Clark made a **motion** that the minutes of the December 1, 2004 meeting be approved. Carole Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Tina Tingler made a presentation of the Preschool in the first of the "Whom We Serve" presentations. Jan-Marie presented background on the Bright Beginnings for Babies program that began this service. Teachers Barbara Brown and Jan Pry brought their 20 years experience to the meeting with a Power Point presentation showing typical days in the Preschool and described activities children participate in throughout the day.

Cheryl May distributed the Income Statement for the six months ending December 31, 2004. She stated that the PTA has collected all budget income for the entire year with the exception of pass-through items such as the Kids Care Club. The main thing coming up is the Carnival. Cheryl asked for Jan-Marie to come up with more Wish List items as we have budgeted \$15,000 to \$20,000 for additional items.

Mrs. Fernandez made the **Principals' Report:**

- She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

- She reported that December was a busy month for the students—
 - Fourth graders had Colonial Day
 - Sixth graders had Night Out with Ms. Thompson
 - Sixth graders also worked on a special math project
 - All students participated in the visit with the medical helicopter
- The Winter Sing-along was very nice with beautiful scenery, songs and actual snow on stage.
- Janet Sottolano has a proposal and is presenting at a national conference in San Antonio on how to use story telling in teaching.
- They have been overwhelmed with the tsunami tragedy. There are regulations against school raising funds for such charitable relief efforts. Jan-Marie reported that they are working with Jennifer Cooper and the Kids Care Club to plan what to do to help. They want to think carefully about what and when to contribute since there is now an outpouring of help.
- Jan-Marie reported that they are looking into developing another playground next to the existing playground that would be geared toward younger preschool kids and the kindergarten and first grade students. Jan-Marie said she has a separate budget for the preschool and has \$15,000 allocated for the playground but anticipates she will need twice that amount of money. Cheryl Thompson and Jan-Marie are working with the County on the exact placement of a 10-room modular which may impact where the preschool playground would be placed. She will keep the PTA posted.

Ms. Tingler made the following **Announcements**:

- She reported on upcoming after school programs. Sign language classes start next Wednesday for eight weeks. The sixth grade ESOL will meet every other week for a total of 5 sessions.

Ms. Thompson made the following **Announcements**:

- She reported on the December 16 Medi-Vac helicopter visit from the Fairfax INOVA hospital. They managed to get 1,127 children out on the field in 10 minutes only to wait over an hour for the helicopter to arrive. Everything went well and many pictures were taken. John is looking into having T-shirts, mouse pads, posters and mugs made with the “MANTUA” picture.

Principal’s Wish List:

The following were submitted on the most recent “Principal’s Wish List” items:

- A popcorn popper that can be used at many school events—\$800.
- Two items for the Distance Learning Lab—AV Digital Professional Mixer (\$5,735) and Subswitcher (\$462)
- Four sound systems at \$1,000 each

Cheryl May made a **motion** to increase the Distant Learning Lab budget to \$6,200, which is an increase of \$4,600 and to add \$5,000 to the Wish List budget (for the four sound systems and the popcorn popper). Laura Mead seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The following **Committee Reports** were filed:

Auction: Carole Thomas reported that this “experiment” of an on-line auction was a good investment. She said it involved little work (except for the Brandmans) and netted between \$24,000 and \$25,000.

Kids Care Club: Jennifer Cooper thanked everyone for the holiday gift donations. She said the Kids Care Club made the holiday happen for three nice families.

Talent Show: Jennifer also reported that auditions for the Talent Show will be held on January 18, 19 and 24. The date of the Talent Show is February 12.

Tsunami Victims: Jennifer also wants to do something for the Tsunami victims. There is some money in the pot now for families in need. They are looking into marking future events as possible collection opportunities or raising funds in other ways.

Basketball: Laura Mead reported that everything is going great with basketball.

Carnival: Laura Mead also reported that the Mantua PTA Carnival is going great and that meetings will be held in January.

Old Business

- **International Dinner:** The International Dinner can't be coordinated by the February meeting. It will be moved to a date in April (not a PTA night) and combined with Literacy Night.
- **Whom We Serve:** The schedule has been revised. February will be Deaf and Hard of Hearing; March is Gifted and Talented; and April is ESOL. The remaining months will remain the same.
- **Respect Document:** John handed out copies of the Respect, Rights, and Responsibilities letter he drafted to be sent to parents regarding the disrespect shown to school property. Slight modifications were made to the letter, and John will send it out under his signature in the Tuesday Folders.

New Business

- **Support Employee of the Year:** Laura Mead and Cheryl Dickison are filing a nomination for Cheryl Thompson as Support Employee of the Year.
- **Parent Workshop:** Nathan Merrells reported that Margaret Davenport, Counselor of Willow Springs School, has agreed to do her workshop on “New Dangers in a New Age” on January 18. The focus is on Internet, music/videos and advertising and TV.

- **Principals Coffee:** Jan-Marie said the Principal's Coffee on "Transition to Middle School" has been postponed and they can't find another date at this time. They will let us know the date in the Alert News.

Motions Carried

A motion carried to approve the minutes of December 1, 2004.

A motion carried to increase the Distant Learning Lab budget to \$6,200, which is an increase of \$4,600 and to add \$5,000 to the Wish List budget (for the four sound systems and the popcorn popper).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Nancy Robinson
Secretary