

**Notes of the Mantua PTA
October 4, 2006
Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: *Mary Jo Kavjian, Terry Murphy, Maggie Weddell, Anne Foster and Elizabeth Wasserman*

School Representatives: *Cheryl Thompson, Tina Tingler and Janet Sottolano.*

Board Members: *Donna McGrath, Jeriann Stone Mikesh*

General Membership: *Joyce Montgomery and Rene Pana-Cryan*

Minutes were distributed for September 2006. Maggie Weddell made a motion to adopt the minutes from the September 2006 PTA meeting. Donna McGrath seconded. The motion carried.

Terry Murphy distributed the PTA Income Statement for July to September, 2006. He said we were on budget. Membership dues are rolling in and amount to almost \$3,000. Mantua Basketball registrations are also coming in. The PTA has a \$16,601 balance in the bank.

MaryJo Kavjian introduced several representatives from **Life with Cancer**, a charity that helps families of cancer victims. This charity has been the beneficiary of the Raccoon Run since it started six years ago in honor of the late Mantua teacher Roberta Romano. Joyce Montgomery, a Mantua parent and Life with Cancer supporter, presented school administrators and the PTA with a plaque thanking them for the support. The group emphasized the following points:

- The Raccoon Run has helped raise \$42,000 for Life with Cancer. The group is urging continued support.
- Life with Cancer is raising funds for an \$8.5 million facility in Fairfax to house its free programs for families, including seminars and support groups, classes, and programs to help children through the grieving process.

MaryJo Kavjian made the PTA **President's Report:**

- An Internet safety seminar for parents was scheduled by Jennifer Krell and sponsored by Woodson Community Coalition and the JCC of Northern Virginia.
- The school district is holding two meetings about the creation of a new GT center at Jackson Middle School to relieve overcrowding at Kilmer and Frost Middle Schools.

Mrs. Jan-Marie Fernandez was not present. Ms. Thompson made the **Principal's Report:**

- She thanked everyone for making the ice cream social and back-to-school nights a success.
- The 5th grade went to the children's festival at Wolf Trap.

- The CogAt tests for 2nd graders were scheduled for Oct. 18, 19 and 20. Notices will be going out to parents. CogAt screening for 3rd -6th graders who haven't taken the test before are slated for Oct. 24-25. Naglieri screening for 2nd graders will be Nov. 9
- Thanksgiving Lunch is scheduled for Nov. 15 for grades pre-K -3rd and Nov. 16 for grades 4th -6th.
- Fairfax County will be distributing 900 glow-in-the-dark slap-on wrist bands at Mantua that students can wear on Halloween Night.

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

- The annual Spirit Parade is scheduled for Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. on the blacktop. Students will be encouraged to dress in different themes for different age groups. Parents are welcome.
- The Total Communication program will soon be asking for help preparing for deserts for an upcoming event.

Mrs. Sottolano made the **Teacher's Report**:

- Teachers were very disappointed that there was no PTA auction yet scheduled. The teachers enjoy participating and offering for bid special lunches, outings and other activities that children can enjoy with their teachers. Mary Jo Kavjian said we will discuss the status of PTA fundraising more under Old Business.

The following committee announcement was made:

Membership

- Anne Foster announced that the PTA had already registered 499 members. There are 679 families in the Mantua community. She said some people had filled out forms to register on the PTA website but had not paid electronically. They need to pay in order for registration to be valid.

Kids Care Club

- Donna McGrath said that the club's first meeting was held and 40 children attended.
- The club's next meeting is Nov. 1 and they will be collecting used coats to distribute to charities. She said Bailey's Elementary School is interested in both adult and children's coats. Please wash them first before donating.

Sally Foster

- Lynn Richmond sent her report in writing. The new deadline is Oct. 8.
- As of the day of the PTA meeting, 200 orders had been submitted totaling \$13,500. Half of all the money raised goes to Mantua.
- This will be Lynn's last year running Sally Foster. This is the time to find new volunteers.

Drama Club

- Jeriann Stone Mikesh announced that three productions were under way. The club has 80 children participating, more than ever before. Only three had to be turned away this year.

Old Business

MaryJo Kavjian said that discussions were continuing regarding alternative fundraising efforts, given that the PTA auction volunteers stepped down this year and no volunteers could be found early enough to send out solicitations in time for an auction to be held before the winter break.

- MaryJo Kavjian said that she will discuss with the school's art teachers whether they will help the PTA participate in a program that makes cups, t-shirts, refrigerator magnets, etc. out of children's artwork. This program has raised as much as \$8,000 for the school in past years.
- Ms. Thompson emphasized that the principal would love for the online auction to continue, not only because it has been a successful fundraiser, but because it helps bring the community together.
- The possibility of sending a letter to parents asking them to donate to the PTA in lieu of the auction was discussed. MaryJo Kavjian said that Mrs. Fernandez was not supportive of the idea. Ms. Thompson echoed that sentiment. While other schools successfully raise money this way in lieu of fundraisers, some members believed that it might be in poor taste at Mantua this year, given that we are already asking parents to buy Sally Foster and support the artwork fundraiser.
- Elizabeth Wasserman suggested that we try to have a scaled down online auction before the holidays featuring teacher activity donations and principal-for-a-day.

None of these measures came to a vote.

New Business

- MaryJo Kavjian mentioned that a parent had asked whether the PTA would sponsor pick-up basketball games that had started in the gym on Friday afternoons for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. These games are supervised by parents and staff.

Motions Carried

Adoption of Minutes for September 2006 PTA meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Cherie Curry and Elizabeth Wasserman
Co-Secretaries