

PTA Board Meeting Notes  
January 6, 2010  
Mantua Elementary School

At 6:35PM a presentation was given regarding the Mantua Advanced Academics program. Q&A followed.

The president called the meeting to order at 7:23 PM. Present at the meeting were:

**Executive Board:** Nicole Armstrong, Lori Prendergast, Amy Ivey, Julie Lifland, Teresa Willebeek-LeMair, Monica Cameron

**School Representatives:** Mrs. Jan-Marie Fernandez, Ms. Cheryl Thompson, Janet Sottolano

**General Membership:** Shannon Murphy, Eugene Doussaint, Jeri Gloege, Melissa Morgan, Bob Greene, Julie Gerock, Kathleen DeCarlo, Diane Schenk, Jackie DeScisciolo, Kathy Phillips, Deanna Freemyer, Kerry Hogg, Karen Wagner, Diane Schenk, Christie Choi, Jody Samuels, Laura Kent, Lesley Kowalski, Kris Mickey, Judy Regan, Kathy McCabe, Tina Cariola, Jackie DeScisciolo

Minutes from the December 2, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Presidents Report:** Nicole noted that the PTA by-laws need to be updated every five years, and that the newly proposed draft is available on the PTA website as well as at the front entrance Parent's Corner table. A copy was also passed out to attendees denoting proposed changes and why the changes were being recommended. The next PTA meeting will be February 3 and the by-laws will be voted on at that time, at which the PTA needs at least 20 current members to attend and vote. Dr. Dale will present the budget for FY2011 to the School Board on Thursday 1/7, which will include significant cuts to programs in order to make the budget balance. On January 8 the group "Voters Fighting for Fairfax" will be rallying at the NOVA Ernst Center (Annandale campus) regarding the Governor's budget and the amount FCPS receives. The group is trying to get additional state money into Fairfax County. An attendee asked if the PTA will take a stance on any advocacy issues and Nicole noted that it is against by-laws to do so unless there is a membership vote to support a specific position. She further noted that the PTA website has put together a page for parents to get more information about FY11 budget advocacy groups without taking a stance either way. It was also noted that this group rallying on Friday is non-partisan and only trying to get more money for Fairfax County schools (not for any one program) which is the reason why she mentioned it. On January 25-26 the public will be allowed to speak at a public hearing. Nicole highly recommended parents going/speaking but also suggested not making statements that are detrimental to another group in favor of something else. The PTA website has been updated with wish list items that Mantua school needs along with donation forms for the upcoming auction. Mrs. Fernandez noted that the technology pieces are the key items the school really needs. She will also review the list and see if anything else can be further prioritized.

**Treasurer's Report:** Julie Lifland noted that the net proceeds from the book fair was sizable (over \$5,000). She also noted that the PTA contributed money to assist a school family in need. There was not a lot of other activity in the month of December.

**Principals Report:** There are lots of activities coming up. A new special education parent group is forming and planning on meeting once a month on Wednesday. The first meeting is on January 20 to find out what parents want/need. Cathy McCabe has been selected as our teacher of the year. ESOL testing will begin January 26 and through the month of February. Sixth grade IOWA testing for Algebra is February 3.

**Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach:** The second family night theme is LEGOs and will be held January 15 in the cafeteria at 7PM. A second restaurant night will be sometime in February with a Valentine theme. It was noted that the check from the first restaurant night was over \$700 from Noodles & Co. The talent show will be February 6 and a reminder for applications will go in the upcoming Tuesday folder. It was noted that parents have been emailing requesting cutting the length of the show down from 3 hours. It was suggested to have groupings of children by age/grade. Another suggestion was to combine efforts with duplicate talents (i.e. same piano song). It was also suggested for next year to accept applications "until a set date **or** until a maximum number" has been reached (whichever comes first). Mrs. Fernandez noted that 3 hours is not a long time considering that we have one talent show a year and over 900 students. Kids Care Club meeting is Tuesday, January 12. It was noted that Lost & Found items will be picked up for donation soon, and parents need to remember to go through it before items are taken away. The Reflections program has named its winners which will be announced in the next Alert News. All first place winners go on to Level 3. Twenty entries were submitted with 7 going to the next level. Art work is hoped to be displayed in the front entry display cabinet at some point. It was noted by several people that it is a fabulous opportunity for children to showcase their art. Something will also be put together for the Morning News to promote it better. Nicole noted that if pictures are provided, they will be added to the Alert News/PTA website. Parent education for the spring is set for March 4 at 7 pm and Pam Dolan will speak. Community Building is continuing their efforts with translating the Alert News into different languages and Vietnamese has been added. Deirdre Mayes is working on FLEX for Kindergarten in the spring.

**Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising:** Melissa Greene will chair the carnival again this year and is in need of volunteers. Sally Meyer is the co-chair. Contact them at [missyfay76@msn.com](mailto:missyfay76@msn.com) (for Melissa) and [smeyer824@verizon.net](mailto:smeyer824@verizon.net) (for Sally) for volunteer information. Yearbook order deadline is January 17. The online auction will begin February 2. All families should have received a donation form, and donations are tax deductible. The form is also available online at the PTA website. It was noted that the spring brings lots of events for the school and volunteers are really important from now until the end of the school year.

**New Business:** The Korean parents would like to host a luncheon for the staff to celebrate the New Year and are hoping to do that February 12. The parents will coordinate with the office and the librarians.

Nicole needs blurbs for the Alert News in Korean and Spanish which advertise the availability of the Alert in those languages.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm