

PTA General Meeting Notes
November 9, 2012
Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM.

Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Lesley Kowalski, Carolyn Stephan, Jennifer Epley, Shannon Murphy, Teresa LeMair, Julie Middleton

School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Tina Tingler and Amy Alley

General Membership: Liz Schatzman, Melissa Nelson, Amy Halstead, Cindy Delaney, Tre Krupnick, Shoshi Kalderon, Kathleen DeCarlo.

Vote: The Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and voted on by the membership.

President's Report: Lesley asked whether people find the PTA signs in the neighborhood helpful. She mentioned that there are going to be meetings in the county regarding overcrowding issues at Fairfax High School and Lanier Middle School. It is likely that kids will be moving to Frost Middle School and Woodson High School. The next community meeting is November 12th. She asked whether anyone would like to attend the VA School Board Association Meeting in Williamsburg, VA. Monica Cameron had planned to attend, but is no longer able to do so. Lesley announced that there will be no PTA meeting in December and that the next PTA meeting will be January 10th.

Treasurer's Report (Carolyn Stephan): Carolyn mentioned that she needed to add a new line item to the P&L statement for the new after school enrichment programs that the PTA is sponsoring. This item was not in original budget, but the programs should break even and not impact the bottom line. Kathleen DeCarlo placed a new order for spirit wear. The income for the Basketball program is higher than expected, but it could include membership dues, as well. This is the first year that we have offered online registration for basketball and allowed people to sign-up for the PTA membership in order to get a discount on their basketball fee. The Chat & Chew income is close to what was anticipated in the budget. Otherwise, there are no other major changes.

Principals' Report: Jan-Marie Fernandez started out giving the Principal's report. She announced that the Thanksgiving luncheons are next week. The 4th-6th grades will be on Wednesday, November 14th and the K-3rd grades will be on Thursday, November 15th.

The Drama Club performance of Treasure Island will be Friday, November 16th at 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 17th at 2 p.m. There will be performances on the following Monday & Tuesday for the students at school.

On Wednesday, November 21st, we will have a 2-hour early dismissal prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Family Life Education (FLE)- The FLE program will be moved up to before Christmas for the 5th and 6th graders. The county has been strongly encouraging all of the elementary schools to move up the dates that they present this program. The preview meeting will be November 29th. At that meeting, parents can preview the videos and other materials. Ms. Fernandez says that the teachers are trained to follow a script. If a teacher receives a question that is not part of the script, the question will be sent home for parents to answer. Girls and boys are separated for these lessons. The 5th and 6th

graders will meet for 5 days for 1 hour each day (December, 13th, 14th, 18th, 19th, 20th) The 4th grade will have a 1 hour session in the new year for an introduction to Human Growth and Development.

Ms. Fernandez also announced that the winter choral concert will be on December 17th at 7 p.m. and the winter band concert December 18th at 7 p.m. The school-wide Sing-a-long will be on December 21st around 2:30 p.m. Ms. Fernandez said that she actually doesn't encourage parents to come because the gym is at capacity having the entire school in there at one time. Most assemblies are broken up by grade, but the Sing-A-Long is the rare event when the entire school meets in the gym.

Ms. Fernandez gave the PTA a heads up that the Superintendent is going to be announcing a proposal to change the Advanced Academic Program. He will be announcing soon a proposed plan to expand Elementary and Middle School centers around the county. There is currently not a center in the Falls Church Pyramid which means that the Woodson Pyramid receives students from that Pyramid. It is probable that these changes will help with overcrowding issues at Canterbury Woods and Mantua. The Superintendent doesn't think the proposal will be financially viable for the upcoming year, but hopes to continue the discussion.

Ms. Alley announced that there is a lot of testing going on in the school at this point in the year. The 3rd-6th grades are taking the Ecart tests. Ecart tests are tests to check and see how students are doing on certain topics at this point in the year. The 1st and 2nd graders are taking the Math Reasoning Assessment (MRA) tests. The Kindergarteners are taking the DRA word assessment. The 1st graders are taking the NAGLIERI test which is a non-verbal timed test.

The 5th and 6th graders have the option to bring their own computing device to school on Tuesdays. The school has plenty of computer equipment for the school to use, but the students are allowed to bring in their own device if they know how to use it. They must register the device and put a sticker on it. Teachers can help make sure that the device is connecting to the WIFI in the building, but teachers can't help students learn how to use their device. Also, it's important to remind students to make sure their devices are charged.

Ms. Tingler reminded everyone that Monday is Veterans Day, but that school will still be open!

Report of First Vice-President for Community Outreach(Teresa LeMair):

- Mentor Works is a great program in the school where teachers work with at-risk youth at the school. The program is planning a special event in January.
- February 15, 2013- the next Family Fun Night will be a Hip Hop Valentine's Sock Hop; dance instruction included; Kathleen has hired a DJ and there will be no cost for families to attend; the Pokeman Family Fun Night had a good turnout.
- There are 75 kids in Drama Club this year and the Treasure Island Performance is next week (see Principal's Report for dates and times),
- 94 students in Chat & Chew- meetings will start in December
- Take Home Reading- Parents have been trained and the program is underway
- Academic Competitions- 6 Destination Imagination teams[need details on teams]
- The new Community Building Network volunteer is Shoshi Kalderon.
- GOTR is almost over for the fall season; the 5 K race that the girls run is on Sunday, November 18th.
- Chess Club started this week and will continue meeting through the end of May.
- New date for financial seminar, "Yes, You Can Raise a Financially Aware Kid" is December 5th @ 7 p.m.

Report of Second Vice-President for Fundraising (Jennifer Epley): Jennifer made the following report:

- The Auction is now online with over 250 items available to bid on (Lesley also mentioned that there is a laptop available at this meeting if anyone would like to bid immediately!)
- The Book Fair is coming up next week and we are still looking for volunteers.
- Please use the new Amazon Link on the PTA website for your shopping- the PTA gets a percentage of your sale if you click through that link.
- Remember that all yearbook solicitations are online only this year- there will be no mailings sent out for the yearbook.
- Spirit Wear order is in and distribution will be next week.
- Our next Restaurant Night is Tuesday, November 27th at Pizza Hut (20% of take-out and dine-in orders will be donated to Mantua).
- Kristen Driscoll is taking over the recycling position from Kevin Mangis
- We raised \$1500 in the Fall Box Tops Campaign
- The PTA now has a Facebook Administrator- Lisa Klein
- The PTA is always in need of grant writers

Report of Second Vice-Presidents for Membership (Shannon Murphy)- Shannon gave the report on Membership. The current number of memberships for the school year is: 380. Though the PTA Directory is not technically a membership responsibility, Shannon did mention that progress on the directory is being made slowly. Everyone should have received an email regarding their entry in the directory by now and the deadline to respond is November 11, 2012.

Old Business:

New Business:

Fungi Award- This month's Fungi Award winner is Ms. Bousbouras

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM.