

PTA General Meeting Notes
May 2, 2014
Mantua Elementary School

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

Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Meri Farling, Teresa LeMair, Carolyn Stephan, Julie Middleton

School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez and Amy Alley

General Membership: Donna Hoover, Lori Prendergast, Sharon Schechtel, Lisa Libby, Deanna Freemyer, Heather Hill, Alexandra Kepler, Shannon Murphy

Vote: The minutes from the April 2014 meeting were reviewed and adopted by the membership as amended.

President's Report (Teresa LeMair): Teresa reminded everyone that Mantua PTA is on Facebook. There were many helpful posts the other during the flooding event the other day. The PTA Facebook page announces important events, fundraisers, volunteer opportunities and more.

Carolyn is going to give the treasurer's report, but Teresa wanted to announce that at the next meeting we will be voting on how to spend any excess funds that we have raised over the year. She let people know that they could send in suggestions to spend excess funds through the end of May. In addition to those ideas, we will review and vote on ideas provided from the Principals.

Treasurer's Report (Carolyn Stephan): The Spring Fling was a huge success. We anticipated \$10,000 in profit and actually made \$13,000. Our Restaurant Nights have also been successful. The Chipotle night made \$1000. We are waiting to hear the amount from Elevation Burger. The Relyea Family gave a generous donation to the PTA of \$4000 that will be used to update the Distance Learning Center. And finally, the Treasurer position is still open for next year.

Principals' Report (Mrs. Fernandez): We had a Fabulous Heritage Literacy Night in early April. We celebrated Administrative Assistance week for the ladies in the front office. Twelve students from 6th grade were chosen to represent Mantua at the All-County choral festival at the end of April. Over 600 voices all singing together. It was a beautiful event. They bring an outside conductor to work with the kids the day before the event. The Staff Fitness Challenge has begun. Teams have been formed and we have connected to INOVA Fairfax and the County. The 5th Grade gave their Global Awareness presentations last week. It's great to see the kids using the Smart Boards with their power point presentations.

Upcoming Activities

May 5th-9th- Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5th – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon- Monday after school

May 5th- Choral Concert

May 6th- 6th Grade panoramic picture; individual pictures in the morning; must prepay for panoramic picture, but pay afterwards for individual pictures.

May 9th- 6th grade field trip to Gettysburg

May 10th- Raccoon Run- Jennifer Cooper has been running this event for years

May 19th- Kindergarten orientation

May ~~XX~~²⁹- Spring Strings Concert

June 9th- TC celebration; deaf program moving

June 9th- 6th grade musical

June 8th- Mantua Homes Tour

June 10th, 11th, 12th - Field Days

June 12th- PTA meeting

June 14th- TC 40th celebration Picnic

June 20th- 6th Grade awards ceremony and party

June 25th- Last day of school- 11:40 a.m. release.

Due to the fact that many families have already planned vacations or paid for camps for their children, we will grant families attendance flexibility the last week of school. We will work on the logistics of yearbook distribution. Friday would make the most sense since many children won't be attending the following week. We are working on a schedule of fun activities for the last 3 days of school.

On a more somber note, Bob Hurley passed away. Bob was a long-time bus driver for Bus 13. He had been on medical leave since December. Ms. Tingler has an address for condolence cards.

Ms. Fernandez mentioned that the school system didn't get the transfer we hoped for from the County. Mantua is working to fill some needs for supplies, etc. because it's likely that unspent money will be taken at the end of the year. Teresa wanted to note that the PTA has increased the amount of money spent on supplies for the school so that Mrs. Fernandez can reallocate money to staffing.

Lori Prendergast asked a question about whether there would be changes to the bell schedule for 2015 at Mantua. Ms. Fernandez responded that, in theory, those schedules aren't changed after they are posted, but this year is different. Dr. Garza wants to move things forward faster so it is likely that a lot of changes could occur this summer.

Dr. Garza is rational and brilliant but we think she is overwhelmed with the county and state hoops have to be gone through to get things done. We don't know what is going to happen next year. By this point in the school year, we usually know the schedule and it would remain unchanged. In addition, since Mantua housed the deaf school, we

would usually never have an earlier start time. With next year being the first year without the deaf school, everything could change.

Summer School will be July 15th-August 1st- Children with reading issues will be notified that they are eligible for summer school. Less than 10% or 60 kids (rising 1st to rising 6th grade) are allowed to attend summer school. However, Mantua is "buying" one teacher so there is 1 teacher for each grade. Mantua will have 72 kids in program with 6 teachers.

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

The Enrichment Program is going well this spring. Ending dates will vary wildly due to snow days. Unfortunately, we had bigger issues with parents picking up late this session. This hasn't been a big problem in the past, but it seems to be one this time. We probably need to continue to remind parents that they must pick up on time. We could add something to the initial email. Someone suggested that we have a different emergency contact for each enrichment class.

Raccoon Runners are having a great year. It's a very big program this year. The discussion topics are positive and the girls have a safe environment to discuss issues that bother them. We need to start a program for boys. Aaron Wilson had expressed interest in starting one.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is next Monday. We need food and volunteers! See this week's Alert News for more details. We are also in need of gift cards. In the past, nearly every teacher has received something at the luncheon. There is a box in the Front Office for gift cards. Next week is also Teacher Appreciation Week. The Alert News outlined what each kid should bring in each day. In the past, some room parents haven't coordinated this for their classrooms and there were teachers and kids who didn't get to participate.

The Front Office staff is going to Coyote Grill today for lunch and the parents are covering for them.

Report of Second Vice-President for Fundraising & Membership (Meri Farling):

We need people to buy yearbooks! They are still available for \$30. Currently working to finalize a new fundraiser: the Mantua Homes Tour. Sharon Schechtel is coordinating this event and has had 2 homes sign up so far. It will take place on June 8th.

Old Business: The nominating committee is proposing the following slate for next year's PTA Executive Board:

President- Julie Middleton

Vice President 1 (Programs) - Lisa Libby and Ellen Lemieux

Vice President 2 (Fundraising & Membership) Meri Farling

Treasurer- Nicole Willis

Secretary- Teresa LeMair

We will vote on this slate on June 12th. We will need a quorum for the vote to take place.

New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.