

MINUTES – APPROVED 2/11/2016

General PTA Membership Meeting

January 8, 2016, 9:30am

Mantua Elementary School

I. The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am by Julie Middleton.

Executive Board and Membership Attendees: Julie Middleton, Lisa Libby, Chanda McCarthy, Nicole Willis, Kristina Clarke, Kathleen DeCarlo, Jackie Cranford, Megan Burski Wells, Junas Basio, Marian Basio, Edith MacArthur, Luis Uribe Gamboa (Parent Liaison), Jenn Ros, Amy Halstead, Katherine Gilber, Kathy Phillips

Administration and School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Amy Alley

II. Adoption of November 2015 Minutes – A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes as written.

III. Reports

-President's Report

Julie Middleton

- Updated combined PTA and FCPS calendar distributed which includes a recently added delayed opening on 3/1 to accommodate primary voting
- Changes to Wish Fund funds approved last month: Bib hose project estimate came in at \$2,000 which is less than budgeted. The short throw projectors are on hold due to the installation costs no longer being covered by FCPS, installation cost estimates vary widely thus too much uncertainty to proceed at this time

-Treasurer's Report

Nicole Willis

Fundraisers:

- We received \$1202.70 from Box Tops for the March through November timeframe
- Donations in the amount of \$68.56 were received through MemberPlanet and extra money received from individuals when they paid their membership dues
- In the Fundraising Partnerships section we received \$111.85 from the Five Below shopping fundraising during the holidays and a total of \$369.54 from direct deposits from Amazon
- The Freddy's Steakburger Restaurant Night brought in \$116.92
- Sales from Spirit Wear have brought in a profit of \$2539.96, \$1000 over our anticipated/budgeted amount for profit

Membership Dues

- Since our last meeting in November 2015, we have gained 14 new members through MemberPlanet (10) and checks received (4)

Programs & Events

- We received a check for \$300 from a company wanting to cover the costs of the MathCounts team's t-shirts. And we paid out \$240 for 10 students for registration fees to the MathCounts competition
- Basketball jerseys were purchased for \$4432.00, permit fees were paid for \$1372.00, and a refund was given to a mother in New Jersey that accidentally registered her child up for our basketball team
- The Book Fair Proceeds check will be written for \$5,804.19 that will go directly to the library
- Chat n' Chew expenses of \$367.99 were paid for books for the club
- We received \$353.00 from concession sales at the Drama production of Annie Jr. I'm still waiting on the ticket sales money to be received. DramaWorks was paid for their services in the amount of \$3200.00
- Kids Care Club spent \$140.30 for supplies for their projects
- Raccoon Runners received another \$140 for some registration fees. And we paid out \$243.75 for medals, \$525.00 for the Turkey Trot Registration, and the rest of the expenses were various reimbursements
- Take Home Reading books were purchased through Scholastic for \$280.00

Hospitality & Appreciation

- Reimbursements were paid for some small receipts from the Welcome Back Breakfast at the beginning of the year, a Book Fair lunch, and Cafeteria Appreciation totaling \$89.42

Directory Expense

- We paid McCabe's Printing \$1560.73 for the printing of our directory

Supplies

- I had to buy new blank checks from Checks Unlimited for \$365.20 and new envelopes for \$24.16
- Copy paper for \$42.36
- We paid for the office Binding Machine's handle to be replaced for \$107.73

Website Expense

- We paid for a subscription to SignUpGenius for use with the task of organizing our many volunteering opportunities

Mantua ES Wish Fund

- We wrote checks to the school to cover reimbursements for the Keva Planks for \$247.36, the Enchanted Learning system for \$125.00, and 6 iPad floor stands for \$228.79

-Principals' Report

Jan-Marie Fernandez

Events that took place:

- Thanksgiving luncheons and book fair, thank you for coming out and supporting the students and library
- Drama production of Annie, Jr, kids did a great job
- Field trips and winter choral concert were enjoyable

- Human Growth and Development lessons for 5th and 6th
- 2nd and 3rd graders attended a math workshop put on by Woodson students. It was very well attended at an estimated 205 students.
- Winter Sing Along and 2 hour early release on 12/18 kicked off the two week winter break

Upcoming events:

- 6th Graders go to the National Gallery of Art
- 1/14 Band Concert
- 1/18-19 Martin Luther King Day and Teacher Work Day
- 1/20 Strings Concert
- 1/21 Rising 7th Graders Frost MS Orientation
- 1/24 Woodson Pyramid Concert
- Frost MS Math selection counselors in school for 6th graders
- 1/26 Potential Parent Technology Night by Ms. Dunfee to be confirmed; opportunity to give parents info on various web programs available to students
- 1/28-29 Celebrate Calm Parent Education sessions
- 1/28 4th Grade Human Growth and Development preview session for parents
- 1/29 Family Fun Night at Fairfax Ice Arena
- 2/3 Luther Jackson Middle School Orientation for Rising 7th Graders
- 2/4 Two Hour Early Release
- 2/5 Teacher Work Day
- 2/11 PTA meeting, 7pm

Other:

- Ann Marie DelValle is the new Administrative Assistant and Finance, Meena Bhatia has retired
- Dr. Garza has announced the new budget plan, if in support of the plan please be in touch with political officials, contact names were handed out. The proposed budget is significant as it addresses important compensation issues. Within FCPS, teachers are being lost, especially in the first 1-10 years of their careers. They are going to neighboring counties instead of staying in FCPS because of higher compensation; positions are going unfilled in our school because there are no candidates. Nine years have passed without increases, employees can't afford to live in the area without cost of living increases. Ms. Fernandez emphasized that it is extremely difficult to get and retain quality teachers in all grade levels and especially in Special Education. You are urged to contact the Board of Supervisors in support of the county transfer to the school system. A discussion followed around how to communicate and organize support of the budget proposal by Mantua ES and the PTA. Dr. Garza is asking for support and organization from the employees, different than previous budget cycles. If transfer doesn't happen or is significantly lower than proposed, programs will be cut. Increases include step increases for those qualified, higher COLA increases and increases for custodians and food service workers who work below "living wage" levels. Budget proposal also includes reducing class sizes to less than 30 students at the elementary school level.

-Assistant Principal

Amy Alley

- CogAT – 2nd – 6th grade scores were received and mailed to students' homes
- Naglieri – 2nd-6th grade (select students) scores to come soon. 1st graders take the test in March
- IOWA – 6th graders take Algebra aptitude test to determine 7th grade match course selection, will be given next week, scores returned in March

- WIDA assessments to measure level of English proficiency. Kindergarteners start next week; 1-6th grade through February. WIDA is a 4 part test, one on one assessment for many portions and youngest students.
- If child is in the AAP pool based on scores, you will receive that letter with the scores
- If your child is not in the AAP pool, and wish to refer your child, paperwork is due on 1/15
- Timeline for AAP selection/eligibility notification and orientation date questioned. It was stated that eligibility letters should arrive 1-2 weeks before the orientation date
- Parent Liaison, Luis Uribe introduced. He was thankful for jackets and coats received for families in need.

-1st Vice President for Programs

Lisa Libby

- Parent Education sessions, Celebrate Calm, will be held at the end of the month. Participants come to one session
- Enrichment registration dates are 2/10-17; classes start in March
- Talent show auditions by 2/12, look for more info in Alert News. We are looking for new talent show director for next year, ideal to find a shadow for this year
- Spring drama production in April, rehearsals start next week
- KCC gave secret gifts to all employees at the school, employees were very grateful.
- Five Below donated toys and many toys were distributed to Home Stretch, Ronald McDonald House, Wesley house and Fairfax County Parent Liaison, Luis Uribe Gamboa

-2nd Vice President for Fundraising/Membership

Chanda McCarthy

- Restaurant Nights coming up include Flippin' Pizza and Chipotle
- The Five Below fundraiser was successful. Donated toys were provided to families in need during the holiday season
- Spring Fling is on 4/2, organization is underway and contracts for bounce activities are being signed
- Homes Tour will be held on 5/15

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

The Parent Education workshop, Active Parenting, is being brought back for a three part seminar. It will be led by former Mantua counselor Teresa McConnell for three consecutive Monday nights beginning on 2/29. Ms. McConnell is donating her time and a \$20 registration fee will be paid by participants that will cover their course materials. We need \$499 to acquire the updated teaching materials and Active Parenting DVDs and up to \$100 for scholarship funds. The teaching materials and DVDs will be added to the parent education materials available for check out in the library.

A motion was made to approve \$600 for the Active Parenting seminar. Motion was approved, none opposed.

VI. Announcements – check out www.mantuapta.org and the AlertNews for more information on what is happening at Mantua.

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 10:38am.

