

PTA Board Meeting Notes

February 2, 2011

Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Nicole Armstrong, Lori Prendergast, Sandy Spector

School Representatives: Cheryl Thompson, Tina Tingler, Janet Sottolano

General Membership: Christie Choi, Julie Lifland, Sally Myer, Haydee Cooper, Karen Gaughan

Minutes from the January 5, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Presidents Report: Nicole Armstrong had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: This month's report reflects Box Tops monies. Christie Choi noted that the next Box Tops contest will end sometime in March. Restaurant night at Baja Fresh netted close to \$500.

Principals Report: Mrs. Thompson noted that February 21 is a regular full-day and will run on a Friday schedule. Colonial day is set for February 18. Strings is scheduled for Friday, February 9 and the band concert is February 8. Tina Tingler noted that we have a new 6th grade special education teacher – Eileen Tatten. The after-school program for deaf students starts February 3. The ESOL test (WEDA) will occur along with Algebra screening for GT children.

Report of First Co-Vice-President for Community Outreach: Spring FLEX and Enrichment courses will begin to be advertised this week in the Mantua Alert News. Registration is due February 25th with classes starting the week of March 7 for 8 weeks. The next Parent Workshop will be held on February 22 at 7 pm in the school library. The topic will be brain research and will be hosted by Principal Jan-Marie Fernandez. Details will be sent home in next week's Tuesday folders. Sadly, no teams could be formed this year for Destination Imagination. However, Lesley Kowalski would like to possibly try again in the fall. Chat 'n' Chew continues to run well with all groups having met twice with two additional

sessions remaining. Lesley Kowalski would like to look into having more than 45 minutes for the sessions which would entail lunch and part of recess once a month for four months. The groups currently meet on Mondays which is a short day so there will be a need to look at other days of the week. Kerry Hogg provided refreshments for an afternoon tea/mentor training session on January 25.

Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising: Class year book reps are very busy working with people who are proofing year-book pages. The last day to order year-books is February 7. Volunteers are needed for Colonial Day. Carnival volunteers are being recruited. Valentine parties are being coordinated. Appreciation days are coming up. Julie Lifland noted that the theme for Carnival is super-heroes and showed the carnival logo of Rocky Raccoon wearing a super-hero costume. This year the carnival is moving from tickets to wrist-bands which will provide unlimited play except for the climbing wall and dunk tank. Punch cards will still be sold day of. Mrs. Thompson asked how that will impact winning prizes. Julie Lifland noted there will no longer be a prize room. Instead prizes will be awarded at the booth. There will be no high, low and medium prizes but basic prizes so the level of difficulty needs to be increased. Games for small children will remain in the upper pod. Cotton candy will be moved out of the gym to help with crowd control. Another new item will be a rock-climbing wall which will be held outside (weather permitting) for \$2 a climb. The ever popular dunk-tank will also be \$2. Food and drinks will be cash only. Mrs. Thompson voiced concern that the new system may deter kids from certain games (i.e. the basket-ball game) they aren't good at and wanted to make sure that kids have fun. Sally Myer noted that new stations have been set up such as the rock climbing wall, face painting, etc to maintain a high level of fun/interest. The goal is to turn the focus from getting prizes to the whole 'experience' of the carnival. The silent auction will be moved to the library to allow for more space. It brought in \$4700 last year so the goal is that with more space and dressing-it up will bring in more. Tina Tingler wanted to make sure there will be enough games for little ones and Sally Myer noted all the games that will still be available for them. Nicole asked how the set-up committee was coming along. Sally Myer is looking to make it a committee of dads. Boy scouts have helped in the past which Sally was hesitant to do again simply due to lack of supervision. Nicole will put the Boy Scout leader in touch with Sally. The online auction is open to bidders. So far response has been good but Haydee Cooper has a concern that there aren't as many big-ticket items although the smaller items are getting a lot of bids. Half the section will close on February 9 with remaining items closing on February 15.

New Business: Janet Sottolano is requesting used tennis balls for use in the class-room. They have been placed under the chairs in the rooms that have new tile and it is working very well with no scratches

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm