

PTA Board Meeting Notes

September 15, 2010

Mantua Elementary School

The president called the meeting to order at 7:08PM. Present at the meeting were:

Executive Board: Nicole Armstrong, Lori Prendergast, Sandy Spector, Lori Recher

School Representatives: Jan-Marie Fernandez, Cheryl Thompson, Janet Sottolano

General Membership: Julie Lifland, Christine Choi, Deirdre Mayes, Jinhee Kim, Jonathon Kim, Denise Butts, Debbie Schwartz, Greer Nelson, Jacquie Heller, Michelle Collins, Suzy Sowder, Dawn Thomas, Haydee Cooper, Shannon Murphy, Sugie Severs, Paula Puckett, Liz Schatzman, Laslo Pentek, Yanbei Zhao, Lesley Kowalski, Tatiana Krasovskaya, Eugene Toussaint, Kathleen DeCarlo.

The minutes from the June meeting were reviewed. Two typos were corrected regarding the FLEX program and the title of the award presented to Teresa LeMair - Northern Virginia District PTA Volunteer of the Year. The amended minutes were approved.

Presidents Report: Nicole mentioned that Back to School nights were coming up. The PTA will have information tables in the gym. Also noted that a chairperson for the Talent Show is still needed. The PTA Website is up to date, and new distribution lists are in the works for the Alert News.

The Annandale Boundary Task Force has formed committees and elected leaders, but there is no other activity to report on. School Board meetings are televised (Apple 21) on Thursday nights.

Treasurer's Report: The 2010-2011 budget was presented by Sandy. Most of the line items are in line with last year's budget. The main difference for this year is that Sally Foster has changed their format. It is now set up to have the children sell \$20 gift cards that would be used online for purchases. It was decided to forgo selling the gift cards, but keep Sally Foster available for anyone wanting to make purchases online. As a result, a Fall Raffle is underway as the main fall fundraiser. The raffle has been broken out from the Spring Carnival, and is being run by Meri Farling.

Several line items in the budget are not being funded this year, but are being kept in place for consideration in the 2011-2012 budget. These are items that have either needed -0- in the past few years, or have been funded this year by other means.

The question was raised as to whether or not any other fundraisers would be considered. They will not, as the 2010-2011 budget has been developed with the current fundraisers in place. Suggestions for possible [future] fundraisers included roller skating or ice skating nights.

The Ice Cream Social was a big success this year. The addition of pizza went well. Having the Social on the

first day of school was not ideal for the teachers, as many could not stay. This year's date was chosen to accommodate the Jewish holidays and other school/community/pyramid events.

There were several questions regarding line items in the budget. The Chess Club, Destination Imagination and Parent Education programs were explained. Laslo Pentek expressed interest in supporting the Chess Club.

The 2010-2011 budget was voted on and approved.

Principals Report: Jan Marie Fernandez and Cheryl Thompson gave us an overview of Mantua Elementary's first week back to school. There are approx. 860 students currently enrolled, which is 80 less than last year. Last year's 6th grade class was the largest in Mantua's history, while the number of kindergarteners this year is low. Kindergarten classes are 18 students on average, and there is a possibility of losing a teacher. On a positive note, additions to the staff include: Ms. Chiara Dabney (Italian), Ms. Kathleen Blamer (Music), Ms. Meredith Schultzie (Music), Mr. Ringle (Music) and Ms. Rosalin Akechian (Cafeteria Hostess). Lori Fowlkes is now full time in the front office.

Back to School nights are scheduled for Sept. 21st and 23rd. The tables will be there from 6:30 until 7:00. All business at these tables must be concluded by 7:00.

The focus for this school year is the application of brain-based research including use of movement in the classroom. Currently the staff is going over strategies to apply this research. This focus is being driven by Fairfax County. There will be in-depth analysis of the data continuing on over the year.

This coming spring the 50th anniversary of the school will be celebrated. The school opened in September of 1961. The celebration theme will hopefully be connected to the carnival. Kathleen DeCarlo raised the possibility of tying the anniversary in to Spirit Wear.

Cheryl discussed the bus issues from the first week of school. The only major problem was the overcrowding of bus 54. Bus 8 is now handling the overflow. For all transportation problems, it was suggested to call Cheryl first so that she can mediate with transportation. First week no kids were "lost". Also discussed the successful establishment of the weekly routines the first week of school. All specialties start on the first day of classes.

Questions were raised about the Mantua Elementary main website regarding the addition of translator information. Jan Marie indicated that it can be added. A typo on the website was noted. Cheryl will double check.

The redesigning of the pyramid's DHH program for the following school year was discussed. The numbers of deaf students has been reduced, in part due to Cochlear implants. There is the possibility of consolidating all 3 programs into one school. Jan Marie is on the steering committee. If the DHH program moves out of the school, Mantua will only have one VP position, not 2. Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and the Assistant Superintendent of Facilities will be making the decision.

Report of First Co-Vice-Presidents for Community Outreach: Submissions to the Alert News must be in by close of business on Fridays. The New Family Outreach had a lot of people at the rising kindergarten play dates over the summer. Girls on the Run will be accepting registration online starting 18th. Mentor Works is looking to host a luncheon in Oct/Nov. The Boy Scouts are hosting a new members meeting Thursday, Sept. 16th. Leslie Kowalski is working on Destination Imagination (similar to Odyssey of the Mind), and has spoken to the state rep. This program is team based, not an open enrollment. Competitions are currently in Frederick County. If there is enough interest, a Fairfax County competition could be established. Jan Marie suggested just going with Manutua, or Woodson pyramid to check for interest first. Leslie is also working on a book club - Chat and Chew. This will be offered to grades 4-6.

Basketball is looking for coaches, ref, etc. This is a very popular program that handles approx. 300 kids. The registration for the FLEX programs is due Oct. 8th. Drama Club held an informational meeting earlier this evening and had a great turnout.

Kathleen DeCarlo gave the details for the planned Family Fun Nights as follows:

Friday, 10/15/10 for Pokemon in school cafeteria (7:00 to 9:00),
Friday, 2/25/11 for Lego in school cafeteria (7:00 to 9:00),
Friday, 4/8/11 comic books in school cafeteria (7:00 to 9:00).

Report of Second Vice-President for Membership and Fundraising: Teresa's report was given by Nicole. School wide volunteer lists are coming back. Sign ups for classes will be out at Back to School nights. Each class will be given list of what they still need in the following Tuesday folders.

Yearbook and Auction now have chairs. PTA membership is tracking with last year's numbers. There will be a table at Back to School nights, and online registration will be available starting October 1st. The Spirit Wear drive is underway, and orders will be taken until Oct. 8th. The Restaurant Nights have been scheduled as follows:

Thursday, 11/11/10 at Noodles and Company (4:00 to 8:00),
Wednesday, 1/19/11 at Baja Fresh (4:00 to 8:00),
Thursday, 3/31/11 at Chick fil-A (4:00 to 8:00).

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.