

**PTA General Meeting Notes**  
**March 7, 2014**  
**Mantua Elementary School**

The president called the meeting to order at 10:36 A.M.

Present at the meeting were:

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

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

**General Membership:** Lori Recher, Benzhuo Lu, Yonghui Yu, Donna Pentek, Kathy Phillips, Shannon Murphy, Jacke Sanford, Jen Rade, Deanna Freemyer, Lesley Kowalski

**Vote:** The minutes from the January 2014 meeting were reviewed and adopted by the membership as amended (February meeting was canceled due to snow).

**President's Report (Teresa LeMair):** There has been a lot of discussion about the budget, which currently has a large shortfall for a number of reasons - more people in the county, employee benefits/insurance costs being pushed down to the county from the state, etc. One topic of great interest has been the proposed personal property tax hike. There will be budget discussion meetings and there is a lot of information posted on the [fcps.edu](http://fcps.edu) website. I encourage everyone to take a look at these issues because they will definitely impact them!

**Treasurer's Report (Carolyn Stephan):** We made about \$2000 at our winter Box Tops competition. It looks like we will net about \$200 in the Basketball program. We are currently showing Spring Fling Expenses, but not the income since it doesn't occur until the end of March. Talent show expenses and income was lower due to the fact that there were far fewer participants. We made over \$1000 at our Restaurant Night at Chipotle on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Principals' Report (Mrs. Fernandez):** Ms. Fernandez expressed disbelief in how fast the school year has gone. Despite the weather, we have had many great activities this winter.

Activities since last meeting

- Choral Concert at Woodson on January 12<sup>th</sup>
- Talent Show on January 25<sup>th</sup> – It was a pleasure to Emcee the talent show
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Colonial Day on February 21<sup>st</sup>
- Custodian Appreciation Day on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>-

- Restaurant Night at Chipotle on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>

### Upcoming Activities

- March 14<sup>th</sup>- Science EXPO coordinated by school science club- only 8 slots left for kids who want to come and participate in the experiments
- March 28<sup>th</sup>- Science Fair XSTEM club to preview the displays of the 8 kids who are going to the Regional Science Fair from Mantua
- March 29<sup>th</sup>- Spring Fling
- April 7<sup>th</sup>- is now a full school day that will follow a “Wednesday” schedule; will not be an early release day
- April 10<sup>th</sup> Heritage/Literacy Night- 6 pm-7pm is Heritage Night; 7-8pm is the Literacy portion of the evening in your children’s classrooms
- April 14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>- Spring Break

As you are aware, we have had many snow days this winter.- looking at going to Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> ; talking about extending Mondays; If we go past June 25<sup>th</sup>, then we can receive a waiver; I think we would get more learning done by extending Mondays

The Total Communications(TC) program has been at Mantua for 40 years. Total Communication (TC) is a philosophy for educating deaf and hard of hearing students. It allows accessibility to language through a variety of modes including but not limited to **American Sign Language (ASL)**, written and spoken English, finger spelling, speech reading, gestures, drawings, and the use of amplification and technology. The program will be relocating to Canterbury Woods next year. There are many activities planned for the end of this year related to the TC program. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a staff “good-bye” picnic. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have the last TC picnic. Alumni of the program will be invited to the picnic, as well. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration to celebrate the time the program has been at Mantua. We are hoping to get some PTA support on the event, though we are not sure exactly what help we need at this point. Mrs. Sottolano and Mrs. Jan Prye are coordinating a celebration that will include lunch.

Every Thursday evening for 6 weeks, Mantua hosts a special evening of activities for the deaf kids. The last week of this special program will be the week before Spring Break- on the same night as Heritage/Literacy night. The TC program is always looking for dessert donations.

Mrs. Fernandez announced that because of the TC move, Mantua will lose one of the Assistant Principle Positions. That cut will result in Mrs. Tingler leaving us at the end of this year. We are only losing 23 kids through the deaf program. However, Mrs. Tingler is a special ed assistant principal which Mantua would no longer need. The proposed budget allows for a second general education Assistant Principal once a school reaches 950 children. We do qualify to keep a full-time School Based Technology Person. Most schools only have a part-time person. It is likely that class size will increase next year, as well.

### **Testing Report (Ms. Alley)**

6<sup>th</sup> Graders took the IOWA Algebra placement test. Those scores should be coming shortly. In order to place into Algebra in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students need to do well on the IOWA test and get a pass-advance on the Math. Students finished the WIDA- ESOL test at the end of January. The make-up window for the Cogat and Naglieri is now done.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will be taking the writing SOL next week. On Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, they will take the multiple choice test. On Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, they will complete the writing portion of the test. The SOL window is set for May 12- June 6<sup>th</sup>. We have not heard that the state will be changing this window despite all of the snow days. In addition, the State Senate and the House of Delegates are considering a bill to reduce the number of SOL tests that elementary schools take. They are specifically thinking about the reducing the number of science and social studies tests. Virginia is one of a handful of states that hasn't switched to the Common Core standards set by the Federal government.

**Report of First Vice-President for Programs (Teresa LeMair):** Teresa gave a big thank you to Dan Lash, Basketball Commissioner, and Dave Schatzman, scheduler, for a great job with the basketball program in light of all of the snow days. There were many games and practices that had to be rescheduled during the season. Chat & Chew also had to spend time rescheduling meeting dates due to the weather. Meri Farling announced that 37 girls have registered for Raccoon Runners. They will be meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 a.m. in the gym.

Enrichment Program- 285 students are participating in the Winter Enrichment program. That number represents the total number including if one child is taking more than one class. The Monday enrichment classes will go to May 19<sup>th</sup>, due to the snow days. The next Family fun night is Lego night is tonight at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. The Odyssey of the Mind teams will be competing tomorrow and the Destination Imagination teams will be competing on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

The PTA's biggest fundraiser is coming up on March 29<sup>th</sup>- the Spring Fling. There will be gigantic inflatable amusements, carnival activities, games and prizes for everyone as well as local food vendors, a marketplace, and a silent auction featuring prizes from all your favorite teachers and Mantua staff! Don't miss this fun-filled afternoon and a great way to support your school. We have changed the format of the Spring Fling which has resulted in the need for fewer volunteers. Past carnivals have need about 300 volunteer positions, but this year's Spring Fling needs about 120 volunteers. Classrooms aren't assigned to a particular job. Volunteers can access the Sign-Up Genius form at this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044EA4AD238-mantua1>  
We hope the weather cooperates!

## **Old Business:**

## **New Business:**

At this meeting, the membership voted on members of the Nominating Committee- Monica Cameron, Shannon Murphy and Liz Schatzman. There are soliciting volunteers for every PTA Executive Board position. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested, please contact them.

Mrs. Pentak brought up the issue of concussion testing at the school. Karci had an accident on the playground which resulted in a concussion. The Pentaks asked the clinic aid she administered a concussion test when Karci was brought into the clinic. The Pentaks were told that they do not administer those tests in the clinic. Mrs. Pentak explained that the CDC has developed an easy questionnaire through an App that anyone can administer. The CDC even provides training on the App. Mrs. Fernandez thinks it is a good idea, but would need to research how the school could implement such a program. School clinics are not run by the school system, they are run by the county Health Department.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.