

PTA Membership Meeting Minutes

9:30 A.M. May 8, 2015

Mantua Elementary School

Attendees: Kathy Phillips, Lauren Brennan, Amy Halstead, Megan Burski Wells, Rachel Lima, Karen Cheng, Principal Jan-Marie Fernandez, Asst. Principal Amy Alley, Asst. Principal Nick Rousos, Julie Middleton, Lisa Libby, Nicole Willis

Meeting called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Julie Middleton.

April 2015 Minutes reviewed and adopted

moved - Kathy Phillips

seconded - Amy Halstead

Reports

President's Report - Julie Middleton

Julie reviewed the current Wish List (listed here):

\$6,200 - Dreambox Site License – This would be for a one-year license for the entire school beginning in September 2015 through August 2016, in order to support the Woodson Pyramid initiative to have Dreambox in all of the Woodson schools. We have received wonderful feedback about this math remediation/enrichment software. Parents have been very enthusiastic about the use of this tool at home.

\$1,800. - Site License for the Wixie Program

This is a web-based version of Pixie but a bit more advanced. Pixie is a drawing program. Wixie would allow kids to access the program from home and teachers can provide feedback on their work. It automatically associates the students' work with the homeroom teacher. Teacher can see real time exactly what the student has done so far and make comments and grade it. Teachers can create templates or work and assign it to students to complete. The teacher can create assessments and grade it in the program. Teachers can share their projects/templates with multiple teachers.

\$580.00 - A high quality camera for staff to take pictures of special events for the yearbook, display on GMM, Mantua website and to maintain our school history through pictures.

\$20,000. - Instructional Supplies (paper and printer cartridges) The PTA helping with the purchase of copying paper and printer cartridges would allow Mrs. Fernandez to use some of our Instructional supplies money to pay for a full-time IA or part-time teacher. Mrs. Fernandez mentioned that it is a hard budget year for school staff and budget cuts have been

made across the board. The school's big expenses are paper, computer cartridges, toner, and custodial supplies. Any funds the PTA can give for supplies will help staffing.

\$13,460 - 20 iPads – These iPads will be used to finish filling up two carts of iPads that we already own. The iPads are being used in classrooms throughout the school day to work on Dreambox, research in the library and for a multitude of lessons within classrooms. The iPads are primarily used in small groups.

\$22,350 – 30 iPads and Cart - This new cart of iPads would allow us to have more carts to share between grade levels and classrooms.

\$20,000-\$30,000 – New Track – Mr. Rousos has worked with FCPS to determine an estimate regarding the track. The variation in price is dependent on the amount of site work that is needed near the baseball diamond. However, the first item that has to be resolved is the drainage issue near the front end of the field and Fairfax County government is responsible for this. We will need to wait for that assessment before moving forward in this process.

Members can send additional ideas up to May 20th - more info will be in Alert News. Lauren Brennan suggested adding screens on the side of the stage in the gym for Talent Show and possibly other individuals that speak at the school.

Julie mentioned that the PTA bank account has accumulated some money by netting an excess at the end of the year over many years. We will be talking about how to pay down that balance over the next year. Nicole Willis added that we should determine, as a membership, how much to keep in our account as a cushion or for a big ticket improvement of the grounds. Jan-Marie mentioned that money was set aside as a community care fund for a number of years and Julie Middleton added that there was also a hope that a shade structure would be built by the playground. Instead, Jan-Marie requested that we could add the need for a bench and umbrella by the climbing structure for the teachers.

Megan Burski Wells commented that it would be nice to see something in the cafeteria about reducing waste (i.e., composting, recycling etc). Amy Alley stressed the need for parents to lead the charge on a recycling/compost program because of all the rules behind getting it done correctly. A group in the county is called "Get to Green". If anyone is interested, Nick Rousos has additional information on "Get to Green". Amy Alley indicated that we have started something with the sixth grade as a test project.

Treasurer's Report - Nicole Willis

Thank you to Dickey's barbeque for their support of the PTA. Thank you to SCOOPS2U for delivering ice cream for the teachers and admins for teacher appreciation week.

Fundraisers

Box Tops: Received the check for \$700.20

Carnival/Spring Fling: Have received checks from all of our food vendors in which we received a certain percentage of their proceeds (Subway \$75, Red Hot & Blue \$200 and Dickey's BBQ \$90); as well as most, if not all, of the remaining silent auction payments; and some more sponsorship funds.

Restaurant Family Fun Nights: Dickey's BBQ Night brought in \$205

Programs & Events

Basketball: The Teachers vs. Parents Basketball Game brought in \$2123 from ticket sales and a sponsorship from Dickey's BBQ. We also spent \$242 in fees to hold the game at the high school.

Distance Learning Center: We have reimbursed the school \$2500 to cover four laptops

Talent Show: The talent show brought in just over \$1000 (\$1010.30) between ticket sales and purchases of "Good Luck Charms". And we spent \$312.93 more this past month on expenses for concessions & the "Good Luck Charms".

Hospitality & Appreciation Exp

Office Staff Appreciation: We covered the office staff lunch out

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: We received a sponsorship check for \$250 that helped to cover a lot of the luncheon costs.

Principals' Report - Jan-Marie Fernandez

Thanks to Ted Donat and all the parents and teachers that helped with the Talent Show. It was a wonderful event.

Thank you to all who helped to organize the staff vs. parent basketball game at Woodson. It was a very fun event.

Thank you to the PTA for a wonderful teacher appreciation luncheon.

Field Trips - Family 2 went to the GMU center for the arts, 3rd grade went to Colvin Run Mill, 4th grade went to the NSO

Woodson art show - please come view the amazing art hanging on the walls at the school

Spring picture day was April 29th

Lego night was May 1st. Everyone had a great time.

Colonial Day was a wonderful event for the 4th graders.

Visitors from Japan are in town, May 8th, seeing how technology is used in classrooms here at Mantua.

In sad news, our dear Carole Puckett's husband passed away on Monday in Hospice after a battle with cancer - funeral services were held May 8th in the afternoon.

The Raccoon Run is May 9th.

AAP orientation is May 11th in the evening.

Band concert is May 12th.

Kindergarten orientation is May 18th - 2pm - 3pm.

Next PTA meeting is June 4th.

Assistant Principals Report - Testing - Amy Alley

3rd through 6th grade parents have received letters in the mail about SOL testing. The schedule is as follows:

May 11– 3rd Grade Reading, part 1

May 12– 3rd Grade Reading, part 2

May 13 – 4th Grade Reading

May 15 – 5th Grade Reading

May 19 – 6th Grade Reading

May 20 – 5th Grade Science

May 22 – 4th Grade Math

May 26 - 5th Grade Math*

May 27 – 6th Grade Math

May 28 – 3rd Grade Math, part 1

May 29 – 3rd Grade Math, part 2

June 2 – 4th Grade Virginia History

Children who score within a certain range will be eligible to retake SOL within a short timeframe - schools must have a certain percentage passed to keep state accreditation - the highest score is what is recorded - elementary scores do not affect children, only schools.

Amy Halstead - Will we hear from the school if our child falls within the retesting range?

Amy Alley - We will identify the children, see if there is a permission slip, provide remediation, and retest - if she can alert the parents she will but there are no guarantees she will have the resources to do that.

Additional testing - DRA letters have gone home, we do a county math assessment, 3rd and 6th graders do a foreign language assessment.

We do not have the Naglieri scores yet.

Current 4th and 5th graders will be receiving letters of intent for band, strings, or general music. Please be sure to indicate your child's intent for next year so that appropriate schedules can be made for your child. A separate letter will be sent for interest in chorus.

1st Vice President for Programs - Lisa Libby, Ellen Lemieux

Here at the end of the year I want to extend a thank you to all of our volunteers over the past year. We will be having a reception from 6:30 to 7 p.m. before the next PTA meeting (June 4th) for ALL volunteers. Whether you have stuffed Tuesday Folders once or run a

committee, everyone is invited!

2nd Vice President for Fundraising/Membership - Meri Farling

No report

Old Business - Julie Middleton

Nominating Committee - Liz Schatzman, Shannon Murphy, Rachel Fleming

Slate for 2015 - 2016 PTA Board

President – Julie Middleton

VP Programs- Lisa Libby

VP Fundraising/Membership - Chanda McCarthy

Treasurer- Nicole Willis

Secretary- Kristina Clarke

We are still looking for volunteers to fill committee positions. If you are interested, please speak to any board member or nominating committee member.

New Business - Julie Middleton

Mia Brennan - Sixth grade party planning meeting - May 11th 10:30am in the parent resource room in library and 7:30 p.m. in room 16.

Announcements- Check out www.mantuapta.org for more information on these and other events:

5/9: Raccoon Run

5/11-6/5: SOL Testing

5/11: 6th Grade Party Interest Meeting

5/12: Spring Band Concert, 7pm

5/18: Kindergarten Orientation, 2:00 p.m.

5/25: SCHOOL CLOSED: Memorial Day Holiday

5/28: Spring Strings Concert, 7pm at Woodson

6/4: PTA: Monthly Meeting, 7pm, Library

6/7: Mantua Homes Tour

6/8: Spring Choral Concert and 6th Grade Musical, 6:30pm

6/9-11: Field Days (K-2, 3-4, 5-6)

6/18: 6th Grade Party

6/19 Last Day of School, dismissal 2-HOURS EARLY

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.