

MINUTES – FINAL, APPROVED 4/6/2017

General PTA Membership Meeting

March 3, 2017, 9:30am

Mantua Elementary School

I. The meeting was called to order by Sam Leiber at 9:38am

Executive Board and Membership Attendees: Sam Leiber, Dawn Keene, Nicole Willis, Kristina Clarke, Chanda McCarthy, Megan Burski Wells, Althea Bryson, Edith MacArthur, Kathy Phillips, Kathleen Cashin

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

II. Adoption of February 2017 Minutes – No objections; minutes approved as written

III. Reports

-President's Report

Sam Leiber

- Traffic committee meeting took place to further discuss the opening of Horner Court, heavily represented by the people who live on the street; need additional support from parents and residents to represent both sides of the discussion. Next meeting to take place on Monday, March 6th, 8-9pm at 9202 St. Marks Drive, Sue Shuman's home. Working to draft a survey that will include where you live, be representative of the community as a whole and questions be jointly created by all parties
- March 8th at 7pm, Providence Community Center, Fairfax County School Board and Board of Supervisors will host a Joint Budget Discussion
- March 11th at 9:30am, Providence Community Center, School Funding 101, a hands on interactive workshop on the budget process
- Eco Team update:
 - Tips on GMM and Alert News
 - Discussion to bring awareness to what we do
 - Recycling project for lobby for Earth Day (similar to Turkey and Snowman)
 - Ms. Sullivan's class is involved; the PTA Board received a letter from her class asking for grants from four teams interested in surplus food donation, recycling, solar panels and a garden. The PTA responded with providing them a booth at the Spring Fling free of charge and a \$300 grant. They must make sure all measures are approved by administration and meet regulations. Sam to meet with Ms. Sullivan's class to discuss further their ideas
 - Similar to the Woodson National Honor Society math session done with our students, the Woodson Ecology Team will do a presentation for Mantua students
 - FCPS Energy Battle; 5 kilowatt meters are in the building now to measure energy use
- Nominating Committee is being formed and recruiting for next year's board positions is underway. We need three people for nominating committee. If you have any interest in serving on next year's board, please contact any member of the board

-Treasurer's Report

Nicole Willis

Fundraisers

- Just over \$100 in donations received from MemberPlanet deposits since the last meeting

- The Fairfax Ice Arena sent us a check for \$100 – Currently have this listed under the Restaurant Nights account because unsure where to put this money. PTA usually doesn't receive money from the Ice Skating event. It is a Community Spirit Activity; therefore we usually just pay out expenses and don't receive money from them. Will move the credit under donations.

Membership Dues

- We received 3 new memberships (\$38.08), which includes a discounted teacher rate
- We sent our 2nd payment to the Virginia PTA to cover state and national dues for 6 new members (\$22.50) since our first payment in December 2016

Programs & Events

- The Spring Break Art Camp has successfully filled all 32 spots. There are a couple students waitlisted at the moment. The total brought in is \$3652.00, but I will be refunding a couple parents that overpaid as soon as I get confirmation from Ms. Shirley after she has spoken with the parents. Therefore, the total will be closer to \$3624.00. Per Ms. Shirley, the PTA will receive \$960 of this (\$30 per student registered) and then the rest will be given to the art teachers to pay for supplies and their time.
- The Garden & Landscaping is coming along. We've reimbursed them for signs, paints, bird seed, flowers, plants book, lawn bags, mulch for a total of \$198.34
- Community Spirit Activities - \$400 to the DJ for the Valentine's Dance, \$31.71 on snacks for the Ice Skating night, and \$275 for the Lego Night
- Drama Club - \$3200 for *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* from DramaWorks and \$357.00 for the T-shirts order
- Take Home Reading – A cart was purchased for \$59.99

Filing Fees

- The State Corporation Commission Annual Fee was paid at \$25.00

Hospitality & Appreciation

- The Administration received lunch from Mamma Lucia's for appreciation week (\$82.20)

Staff-Related Expense

- Three teacher Class Supplies Welcome Checks were voided from the beginning of the year and reissued to those that have misplaced their checks from September. We still have a few outstanding checks that we're waiting to hear back from the teachers.
- Amazon Click through link update: due to an unmonitored email we were not receiving payments but we now have \$166; issue is hopefully resolved. Different than Amazon Smile (works on ads placed on our website)

-Principals' Report

Jan-Marie Fernandez

Events That Took Place:

- PTA Family Fun event, Valentines Dance was held

- Job Fair – excited that Human Resources has decided that more people can be “early hire”, well attended and more to be planned
- Thank you for lunch during Administration Appreciation
- Virginia Opera performance of the Three Little Pigs for younger grades, K-3, kids enjoyed the performance and were engaged in the show, really well done
- Woodson Math enrichment program for 4th and 5th graders
- Colonial Day Parent Planning Session

Upcoming Events:

- Basketball playoffs are underway
- Lego Night - tonight
- 3/7 Family One and Three field trip to George Mason Theater, *Teacher of the Black Lagoon*
- Safe and Secure Online Seminars: 3/7 at 7pm and 3/8 at 9:30am, attend either one
- Girls Basketball Finals, Wednesday 3/8 at 6 and 7:45pm
- Boys Basketball Finals, Thursday 3/9 at 6 and 7:45pm
- 3/10 Talent Show Rehearsal
- 3/11 Talent Show, 5:30-9pm, Janet Sottolano will MC the event in JMF’s absence
- 3/22 , 6-8pm Heritage and Literacy Night
- 3/24 School Closed; Teacher Work Day
- 3/29 or 3/31 Family Two field trips to Riverbend Park
- 3/30 Colonial Day
- 3/31 Drama presents *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, 7pm
- 4/1 Drama presents *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, 2pm and during school on 4/3
- 4/6 PTA Meeting, 7pm

Other news:

- Regarding the opening of Horner Court, JMF emphasizes that it was not initiated by the school; community members and concerned parents initiated the conversation with Dalia Palchik, who then came to the administration with facilities’ plan already in motion; not aware that all residents were not involved. Many different solutions were discussed on this emotional issue but getting the kids in and out of the building safely is the one and only priority.
- Top 100 elementary schools in Virginia ranked by The Patch, Mantua is ranked #15 after mostly Arlington schools

-Assistant Principal

Amy Alley

Testing news:

- WIDA is done, scores to be received in summer
- IOWA scores for 6th grade AAP and advance math students will go in the mail today
- Next week, first graders will take the Naglieri test, a timed 30 minute test for nonverbal abilities; test is taken on computers
- Finalizing SOL schedules for 3rd-6th grades; new this year, every child will take the Math SOLS in the CAT form (computer adaptive format, test responds to how kids answer). Hardest adjustment is that the kids can’t go back to do a question again but gives a more accurate score
- Reading SOLS for 3rd, 4th, 5th grades are also CAT; new for these grades. Advantage that there are fewer questions so shouldn’t take as long to complete the tests

- Question regarding adaptive questions: can students get back up to the higher level questions? Yes, they can, in response. Tests with questions randomized for difficulty can also be challenging for kids to handle; if they struggle on a series of higher level questions they may be tired or frustrated and not recover when they get to an easier question. Unit tests during the year are more helpful information to identify what areas kids struggle.

-Assistant Principal

Nick Rousos

- Working with engineers to help design brackets and fences to keep kids off building, can see evidence of where the kids are getting onto the roof, security cameras are not a viable option
- We have won 19 carts for \$500 from an online auction; \$20K worth of carts for \$800 including gas and transportation
- Bullying protocols in place for how to handle reports of bullying. Protocols differ based on if reports come in from kids or from parents, may require counseling and/or discipline based on the Bullying and Harassment Management System. Make a distinction between true bullying and unkind, inappropriate social behaviors; don't use the word bullying too lightly as there are big consequences to students' permanent records. Bullying is a big deal and taken very seriously. Discussed possible parent education session around the distinction between bullying and non-social skills, counseling and disciplinary actions. Additional bill being considered to deal with parent notification in cases of founded bullying

-1st Vice President for Programs

Dawn Keene

- Talent Show (Althea Bryson) – 55 acts, 105 kids involved, need parent volunteers especially to help manage kids, will be a great show on March 11th at 5:30pm
- 700 books collected through the Book Drive

-2nd Vice President for Fundraising/Membership

Chanda McCarthy

- Spring Fling, to be held on April 22nd, 11am-3pm, flyers to start coming home, first one is for the sign on parties

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

None

VI. Announcements

Check out www.mantuapta.org and the AlertNews for more information on what is happening at Mantua

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 10:43am