

MINUTES - Final

General PTA Membership Meeting

September 8, 2017

Mantua Elementary School

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

Executive Board and Membership Attendees: Sam Leiber, Nicole Willis, Terri Radziewski, Dawn Keene, Trina Rasmussen, Heather Foguo, Suchantha Ramindram, Susanne Fitch, Jess Ros, Edith MacArthur, Kathleen DeCarlo, Liz Yansey, Emily Dagon, Sarah Dennis, Katherine Martino, Luis Faust, Jackie Cranford, Carrie Wendell, Jinhee Kim, Vanessa Hall, Jennifer Mack, Megan Willis.

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

II. Adoption of June 2017 Minutes – A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes as written.

III. Reports

-President's Report

Sam Leiber

Welcome to everyone.

Two main orders of business: Approve audit and vote on this year's budget.

Everyone is encouraged to join the PTA and sign up for the Alert News.

Eco Team. This team was formed last year and started green initiatives. There will be a special meeting in the next couple of weeks & will be announce in the Alert News. Please stay tuned.

-Treasurer's Report

Nicole Willis

Budget Numbers Since Last Fiscal Year (July 2016-June2017)

Fundraisers – INCOME

- Carnival/Spring Fling - \$200 from Dickey's Barbecue donation from the last Spring Fling
- Donations - \$444.24 via MemberPlanet online
- Fundraising Partnerships - \$171.02 from the Amazon Click-Through program from May and June's earned funds, \$20.44 from Amazon Smile from April to June, \$129.51 from Harris Teeter from March to May
- Yearbook - \$310 deposited in July from additional purchases in the front office

Member Dues – INCOME

- \$1619.48 deposited so far from collections

Uncategorized Expense

- \$225.60 was a reissued check for garden and landscaping expenses previously approved in the last fiscal year.

Fundraisers – EXPENSES

- Ice Cream Social DJs, cash box start-up funds, and pizza

Supplies – EXPENSES

- \$19.99 for stamp and envelopes for Membership Dues collections

Website – EXPENSES

- \$121.33 for In-Motion 1 year renewal for web hosting of PTA's website

Changes to Budget Accounts

- Removed "Wixie Site License" from the Expenses under "Staff Related /Learning Resources" as the county now will be covering those expenses
- Added "School Spirit Photographers" to Expenses under Programs (Replacing Yearbook Club)
- Added "Movie Night" to Fundraisers Income and Expenses
- Removed "Homes Tour" from Fundraisers Income and Expenses
- Under "Learning Resources" in Expenses, we have sub-categories for "Music Expenses" (i.e., piano accompaniment), "Technical Training", "Electronics", and "Dreambox Site License"
- Changed "Community Spirit Activities" to "Family Fun Nights"

-Principals' Report

Jan-Marie Fernandez

Welcome to everyone! That was a quick summer!

Events that took place:

Thank you to all of the volunteers who put together a fabulous breakfast for the teachers last week and to those who stuffed the Open House Folders.

It was a pretty smooth first week in terms of transportation.

There was the school board election the second day of school. Karen Keys-Gamarra was elected new school board member.

We have 1:1 learning going on. All 5th and 6th graders now have laptops. We are currently spending a lot of time teaching protocol to keep these expensive tools safe.

Last Friday, we had the Woodson marching band and that was a success.

Upcoming Events:

Ice Cream Social is tonight on the playground.

9/12: Back-to-School Night, 4th-6th grades
6 & 6 AAP 6:30 – 7:15 pm
5 & 5 AAP 7:15 – 8:00 pm
4 & 4 AAP 8:00 – 8:30 pm

9/19: Back-to-School Night for K-3rd grades
K 6:30 – 7:15 pm
1 7:15 – 7:30 pm
2 7:30 – 8:00 pm
3 & 3 AAP 8:00 – 8:30 pm

9/22: Woodson Feeder Night
Prior to the Woodson HS football game, students from the schools that feed into Woodson are invited to the field for some fun.

9/22: SCHOOL CLOSED: Student Holiday

9/26: Take Home Reading Training, September 26th @ 9:30 am in Room 30.
This program is used with K-1st graders. Parent volunteers assist students to give them increased exposure to reading.

10/2-6: Custodian Appreciation Week
10/9: SCHOOL CLOSED: Columbus Day Holiday
10/12: PTA Monthly Meeting, Library, 7pm

Staffing & Student Enrollment:

Ms. Fernandez shared that we currently have 1073 students enrolled. We had ended last year with 1000 students and projections for the new year were around 1000. However, we had to create an additional 6 classrooms during the summer. We didn't receive new positions until August so it has been busy with interviewing, trying to find new teachers who meet our requirements.

We have a fourth 6th grade general education position open. We had 2 people hired but those hires fell through. As a result, we currently have a large number of students in 3 classes with highly experienced teachers with a substitute assisting to create smaller breakout classrooms throughout the day.

We are also currently looking for an additional 5th grade AAP teacher. We are trying to make the best decisions we can to ensure each child is getting the best teaching quality.

An upside to this is that some grade levels are getting smaller class sizes as the overall growth continues. Kindergarten classes are on the borderline and, thus, have larger class sizes but they have an IA as well. We are focused on continual improvement.

It was asked of Ms. Fernandez about limiting enrollment. Given that we are a center for AAP, as long as FCPS allows parents to choose their child's school and provides the necessary transportation, we cannot turn away qualifying students.

-Assistant Principal

Amy Alley

Ms. Alley shared that she is responsible for the testing that takes place at the school.

WAPT: Kindergarteners will receive WAPT language assessment to determine who would benefit from ESL teachers.

i-Ready: A new universal screener called i-Ready will begin next week. This test screens in math and language arts and is an adaptive assessment. We are hoping that i-Ready will replace the DRA – developmental reading assessment – a 1:1 test. i-Ready is fun and interactive similar to Dreambox. Kindergarteners will take this test but not until October to allow them some time to adjust to being in school.

CogAT: The final assessment will be the CogAT given in October.

Parents are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Eva Bousbouras with questions regarding testing.

-Assistant Principal

Nick Rousos

Eco team: K cup recycling has started in the front office; a water bottle filling station was installed last night to reduce the use of disposable water bottles. These are outcomes from last year's Eco team meeting.

Storm water management cistern construction should be completed by mid October.

Buddy bench: The buddy bench was installed yesterday and there will be a dedication tonight at the Ice Cream Social. The buddy bench is in memory of parent who was an active member of the PTA. The PTA donated money for the buddy bench and is excited to have it.

Kiss & Ride: The buses have been getting onsite in afternoons. We appreciate parents waiting until 4 pm to allow the buses to get through. The Kiss & Ride seems a lot smoother than past years.

-1st Vice President for Programs

Dawn Keene

Academic Competitions: Vanessa Hall is the coordinator for Academic Competitions. There was a meeting last week. Don't be scared away by the name. Go to mantuapta.org for information. Not all of the competitions are academic nor are they all competitive. We are looking for volunteers.

Global Plus: Susanne Fitch is the coordinator for Global Plus language classes, provided by ACE. We are always interested in new classes but there has to be a certain level of interest.

Chat N Chew: Kathy Phillips is the coordinator for Chat N Chew, a book club for 3-6th grade. Registration is now open. The participants read a book each month from December to March and then discuss the books in a small group setting.

Enrichment: Heather Hill & Tara Kelly are the coordinators for the Enrichment program. Registration is now open; however, the Minecraft class is full.

Parent Education: October 11th, we will have clinical psychologist, Rachel Bailey, on how to raise responsible children without yelling or nagging.

-2nd Vice President for Fundraising/Membership

Terri Radziewski

- Pizza and Ice Cream Social today on playground.
- 10/27: Run for Rocky in the morning & Spirit Day Parade in the afternoon. Largest Fall fundraiser. Theme this year is Minions.
- Sign up for the PTA in order to receive a directory.
- Passive fundraising: Box Tops (run quarterly), Harris Tweeter, Amazon Click-Through, eScrip
- Spring Fling: Largest Spring fundraiser. We are still in need of a coordinator for this event.
- Restaurant Nights are being planned. We are looking at different options.
- 9/20: Whole Foods fundraiser. Five Fairfax County Whole Food stores will donate 5% back to Fairfax County Council PTA.

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

2017 Audit and 2017-18 Budget were approved.

Questions about the new website posed. Ms. Fernandez explained that the new website was designed to follow a specific format required by the school district. Parents had complained about ease of use of the last website. New website went live a week ago. Has been causing some technical glitches. Ms. Fernandez will make inquiries.

VI. Announcements

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

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 10:47am.

