

**MWES PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**9/8/08, 7:00 p.m.**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Recorded by Amy Crawford, Recording Secretary

**PTA President – Barbara Ohnmacht**

Minutes from May's meeting were reviewed. Adrienne Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes, and Angel Bivens seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

The Back to School Picnic was well-attended and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was suggested that next year we have parent volunteers in the cafeteria to help monitor the children as they get their food.

**First VP – Greg Thomas** – No report.

**Treasurer – Virginia Slack**

Virginia distributed the PTA budget for the year. A motion to accept the budget was made by Adrienne Taylor, and Mrs. Hahn seconded the motion. The budget was approved.

**PTA President – Barbara Ohnmacht**

We have \$20K in our budget so we have decided to donate a climbing wall to the PE department. Jane Jones is currently researching prices for climbing walls.

**Corresponding Secretary - Amy Lowe** – No report.

**Recording Secretary - Amy Crawford** – No report.

**Principal – Jim Weisner**

Mr. Weisner is beginning his tenth year at Manor Woods. He thanked the PTA for the staff breakfast at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Weisner reviewed upcoming school events. Back to School nights are next week (Sept. 15 – 17). On Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be school photos. On Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, there is a SIT meeting at 3:00 p.m. On Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, Manor Woods will receive an American Character Education award. There is no school on Sept. 30 or October 9. First progress reports will be sent home on Oct. 3.

Helen Mercer asked the PTA to consider donating character education banners for the cafeteria. The banners cost approximately \$1000. She would like 10 banners for \$100 each. We will vote at the next PTA meeting to decide whether to donate the banners.

There are currently 603 students enrolled with a breakdown as follows: K (98 students), first grade (77 students), second grade (112 students), third grade (104 students), fourth grade (114 students), and fifth grade (98 students).

The eSchool newsletter comes out on Tuesdays and Fridays. Manor Woods is trying to go green, so the newsletter is electronic. Hard copies of the school newsletter will only be made if requested.

Community flyers and school notices come home to youngest and only children only.

Mr. Weisner next discussed dismissal procedures. A note must be sent in if a child's dismissal procedure is changing. Do not make last minute changes. Mr. Weisner urged parents to not just show up and take children out of their bus lines without signing them out in the office.

Mr. Weisner next discussed parking and drop-off issues. Students can come into the school building at 8:30 a.m. School starts promptly at 8:45 a.m. If a child is late, the parent must walk the child into school and sign him or her in. Please be careful of children in the drop-off loop. Mr. Weisner urged parents to be civil and courteous. Do not park your car in the red fire lanes!

Conferences will be in November. Mr. Weisner is considering having parents sign up online for an appointment time. He will make a decision on this next week. Mr. Weisner wants 100 percent parent participation in conferences.

The school picnic was the next topic. Mr. Weisner said that the picnic was very positive overall, but there are a few areas to improve for next time. He urged parents to monitor their children's behavior at after-school events. He saw children running in the hallways, jumping on the stage, and spilling trash on the floor. Character education is very important, and we must model good behaviors to our children.

#### **Assistant Principal – Carol Hahn**

Manor Woods recently won two awards. MWES won a Chik-Fil-A Core Essentials Award and a Maryland Schools of Character award.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **PTA Council Delegate – Marc Norman**

Dawn Harvey has agreed to be the second delegate with Marc. Marc encouraged everyone to complete a survey for the PTA Council and give input. The PTA Council would like to increase PTA enrollment countywide by 10 percent. The PTA Council will be having a coat drive in November, a book drive in January, and Prepare for Success backpack donations in the spring.

#### **Fall Book Fair – Karen Chase**

The Book Fair will be November 12, 2008 at Barnes and Noble in the Longate Shopping Center. Teachers will be at the event from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. reading to the children, but vouchers will be accepted all day.

#### **After-School Programs – Lisa Demonte and Cheryl Brown**

New programs this fall include Chess, Yoga, and Computer Robotics. Registration ends on Monday, and classes are filling quickly. Parents must send in a note every day their child has an after school program. Parent volunteers are needed in the classroom for every class.

#### **Cultural Arts**

Steven Kellogg, children's author, will be coming to Manor Woods on May 21, 2009. We applied for a grant and were awarded one third of the cost of his visit.

#### **Walking Program – Jane Jones**

The walking program starts tomorrow! Let's hope for good weather.

#### **Green School Initiative – Stacy Ichniowski**

Stacy has agreed to chair this new position. Sang Kim, fourth grade teacher, will also be helping. There will be a new program called "Trash Free Tuesdays" in the cafeteria with the intent of reducing paper products. Recycling bins will be put in classrooms. There will be a "kick off" event for this new program.

**Fundraising – Kim Harvill and Paula Grant**

We will be doing the Market Day holiday catalog sale and have monthly Market Days for fundraising this year. Awards will be given to the highest sellers in each grade.

**Reading Campaign – Carol Kressen**

The reading campaign will be all year long. The theme this year will be “Let Reading Change Your Life.”

**Membership – Jennifer Peffal**

We currently have 290 PTA members (with 190 families). Another mailing will be sent out in October. The directory will be published in mid-October.

**Reflections – Lynne Pagan**

The theme this year is “Wow!” Entries are being accepted for the following categories: Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Musical Composition, Dance, and Film Production. Entries will be accepted September 22 through November 5, 2008. Lynn Pagan is now the countywide coordinator for this program.

**Giant/Safeway – Amy DeGeorge**

We made \$10,000 last year from these programs. Amy will be sending home renewal forms for Giant and Safeway next week. There is a link to Escript on our PTA website.

**Variety Show – Cathy Smith**

The show date is November 13, 2008. Information is coming home in Friday folders.

**Bulletin Board – Gina McIntyre**

Contact Gina if you have a program to advertise on the bulletin boards.

**PTA Website – Jane Jones**

Give Jane information you would like posted on the PTA website.

**Ductakes – Francine Bennett**

Ducktales will be published three times this year (hard copies) with two electronic versions.

**Hospitality – Nicole Geiger**

A breakfast was held recently for the staff to kick off the new school year, and a breakfast for the bus drivers will be held later in the month.

**Blood Drive – Renee Quinn**

The blood drive will be held on November 20, 2008.

**Community Service – Ingrid Holzman**

There will be a Winter Coat drive beginning October 13, 2008 and Backpack for Success school supply drive in the spring.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**