

**MWES PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**10/13/08, 7:00 p.m.**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Recorded by Amy Crawford, Recording Secretary

**PTA President – Barbara Ohnmacht**

Minutes from September's meeting were reviewed. Mr. Don Hester made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mrs. Thomas seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

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

**Treasurer – Kevin Slack**

Kevin discussed our recent audit and proposed a revised budget format. The audit went well. He passed out some proposed revised budget forms. Although we function by committees, our forms are not broken down by committee, so Kevin would like to change the format of the forms. Kevin has transferred all budget information to Quickbooks, and all forms will be on the PTA's website. Kevin was interested to learn what events happen in which months. We will vote on the new forms at the next meeting, and information will be emailed to committee chairs. Kevin also reported that he has applied to get our sales tax exemption certificate from the state of Maryland, and he will soon be able to give certificates to committee chairs for their purchases.

**PTA President – Barbara Ohnmacht**

Barb reported that we have a new Fun Day chairperson. Mr. Don Hester has volunteered for this position. She also reported that there is a Board of Education candidates' forum this evening.

Barb reported that Mrs. Spring and Jane Jones have been researching climbing walls. A proposal is being put together and PTA members will vote at November's meeting to decide if we would like to purchase a climbing wall for the gym.

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

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

**Principal – Jim Weisner**

There are currently 610 students enrolled.

There will be a SIT meeting on October 19, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Angel Bivens is the PTA's SIT representative.

Conferences will be held November 24 and 25, 2008. Mr. Weisner decided not to have online registration for conference appointments. He was concerned that there would not be 100 percent parent participation. Sign-up sheets for conferences will be coming home on Thursday. Confirmation notices will be sent home on Oct. 31, and on Nov. 10, parents may schedule conferences with other teachers.

Other calendar events: Oct. 31 – Halloween parade at school, 2:00 p.m.

Nov. 3 – no school (professional development for teachers)

Nov. 4 – no school (Election Day)

Nov. 13 – report cards issued

Nov. 16 – 21 – American Education Week

Mr. Weisner next reviewed MSA testing results in reading and mathematics from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students from Manor Woods did very well in reading and math. Most students were either proficient or advanced, with very few students testing at the basic level. Mr. Weisner was quite pleased with the results.

MWES recently received a Maryland Character Education School of the Year award. Mr. Weisner feels that character education and academics are equally important.

Mr. Weisner next discussed technology issues at the school. The goal is to have all classrooms have LCD projectors. We only need four more. Mr. Weisner would like to have document cameras in all classrooms. He would also like to have 17 televisions mounted in the school, two in each team and in key places in the school.

**Assistant Principal – Carol Hahn** - No report.

### **Committee Reports**

**PTA Council Delegate – Marc Norman** - No report.

#### **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. There will be no vouchers this year; families will just need to say they are with Manor Woods in order for us to receive credit. Karen would like to keep the noise level down during the reading event this year.

#### **Publicity – Karen Chase**

Karen needs photos and stories of interesting events featuring MWES to submit to area newspapers.

#### **Cultural Arts**

We received \$1100 from the Arts Council to help us sponsor Steven Kellogg's visit to Manor Woods on May 21, 2009.

#### **Green School Committee – Stacy Ichniowski**

Stacy Ichniowski is the PTA's chairperson for this initiative, and Miss Sang Kim, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, is also involved. Trash Free Tuesdays will begin on Oct. 28, 2008. The goal is to see which grade can reduce lunch trash the most. Parent volunteers are needed to present information to the teams on how to pack a trash free lunch. Ms. Ashley Armstrong is coordinating the paper recycling fundraiser. Families are encouraged to bring paper to school to be weighed and recycled. Blue recycling bins are going to be donated to the school by the county soon. There will be a kick-off assembly about the Green School campaign, and Ms. Armstrong is looking into this.

#### **Fundraising – Kim Harvill**

Sales were not very good for the Market Day Silver Bells holiday catalog. In general, people are watching their money right now due to the bad economy. Market Day monthly food sales will continue for the rest of the school year.

**Reading Campaign – Carol Kressen**

The reading campaign will be all year long. The theme this year will be “Let Reading Change Your Life.” Calendars are being given to the children to help them keep track of their reading minutes. Volunteers are needed to help distribute Pizza Hut coupons to children participating in the reading campaign. There will be a book club hosted by Mrs. Flynn for fourth and fifth graders on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Second and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will have “Book Talk” in January 2009 to discuss what they’ve read and why they liked it. On Friday, Nov. 7, there will be a book club for adults to discuss How Reading Changed My Life by Anna Quindlen.

**Membership – Jennifer Peffal**

We currently have 412 members, 31 of whom are teachers. There are still 155 children not listed in the directory, so Jennifer is going to try one more mailing. All PTA committee chairs are expected to join the PTA.

**Reflections – Lynne Pagan**

The theme this year is “Wow!” The awards ceremony for this program will be December 2, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. for all children participating.

**Giant/Safeway – Amy DeGeorge**

We need to put a message in the eSchool newsletter reminding parents to reregister their Giant and Safeway cards.

**Volunteers – Courtney Kelly**

Courtney Kelly is the new chair of the volunteer program. Only 62 people have signed up to volunteer this year.

**Variety Show – Cathy Smith**

The show date is November 14, 2008. Information is coming home in Friday folders.

**Walking Program – Jane Jones**

Things are going great with the walking program. There is a tally board in the cafeteria so that the children can see which class is walking the most.

**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. Treasurer’s forms will be posted on the PTA’s website.

**Ducktales – Francine Bennett**

The next issue of Ducktales will be an electronic version with no photos. The deadline to submit articles is November 19, 2008.

**Hospitality – Nicole Geiger**

An appreciation breakfast was held for bus drivers on October 7, 2008. On October 21, there will be a luncheon for custodians. On November 25<sup>th</sup>, dinner will be provided to teachers during conferences.

**Blood Drive – Renee Quinn**

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

**Room Parent Coordinator – Dawn Harvey**

Dawn has distributed an electronic version of the room parent handbook to all incoming room parents. No room parent meeting will be held this year. Dawn will meet with “new” room parents if they have questions. Room parents should be contacting teachers about Halloween party arrangements soon.

**Community Service – Ingrid Holzman**

There will be a Winter Coat drive beginning October 13, 2008. There is a box in the lobby where donations of new or gently used coats, caps, and gloves can be placed. The coat drive ends on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Harvest for the Hungry food drive to benefit the Maryland Food Bank is taking place Nov. 1 – 21, 2008. This event is being sponsored by the Student Council.

**SIT Representative – Angel Bivens**

The SIT committee met on September 24, 2008. Goals for reading and math were approved. A school climate committee was formed to look at the Safe Schools Initiative. They are looking at Developmental Assets Program to achieve the goals of Safe Schools. The SIT representatives will be taking the SIT plan to the team level to incorporate the goals and strategies into their lesson plans. The individual teams will develop their own format of the plan to assist in developing team goals and monitor activities that are being conducted to work toward the goals and strategies in the SIT plan. Team formats will be shared at the next meeting.

**Fun Day – Don Hester**

Don is the new chairperson for Fun Day. Fun Day will be held April 24, 2009. Don is looking for a location to store the games. He is also recruiting volunteers to assist with the games.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2008.**