

**MWES PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**11/10/08, 7:00 p.m.**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Recorded by Amy Crawford, Recording Secretary

**PTA President – Barbara Ohnmacht**

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

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

**Treasurer – Kevin Slack for Virginia Slack**

Kevin distributed newly reformatted budget forms and reimbursement forms for review. No dollar amounts were changed; he simply reformatted the forms in order to add more details and break down line items by committee. He will be producing a profit and loss statement on a monthly basis. Kevin will add year-to-date and month-to-date totals to the budget form. We have approximately \$22K in the bank right now. He encouraged committee chairs to turn in receipts in order to be reimbursed. So far from the Silver Bells catalog and one Market Day event, we have made \$1,716.

**PTA President - Barbara Ohnmacht**

Fundraising is severely down this year. Barbara reported that many schools are seeing a steep decrease in fundraising due to the economy. She also stated that most people did not seem to like the Silver Bells catalog.

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

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

**Safeway/Giant Escript – Amy DeGeorge**

Amy renews everyone who has ever designated Manor Woods for Escript. Her efforts have resulted in a significant amount of money for our school. Not very many parents in kindergarten have registered yet for Escript, so she will put out registration forms at upcoming teacher conferences. She will also put a link in the eSchool newsletter which will go to the PTA website.

**Traverse Wall Discussion – Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Spring**

Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Spring, PE teachers, gave a PowerPoint presentation on possible Traverse Walls for the gym. We have enough money in our budget from last year to purchase such equipment for the school. The PE teachers researched several traverse wall systems and feel that the wall built by the Everlast Company is the best option because it has 3-inch mats. The traverse wall has been approved by Ron Miller, Howard County safety officer. The company gave us a price quote of \$4,519 for the traverse wall. Installation could be done by the county, thus saving money. The wall would be 32 feet by 8 feet. The wall comes with a one year warranty. The PTA would grant MWES the money, and the school, not the PTA, would be liable for any injuries. Mr. Weisner stated that his only concern originally was what could possibly happen when outside groups use the school, but the mats cover the climbing wall when not in use, so he is no longer concerned. In terms of hygiene, the mats and holds would be wiped down with antibacterial cleaner. All PTA members received an email from Barbara Ohnmacht prior to tonight's meeting stating that the traverse wall would be discussed. There are enough people present at tonight's meeting for a quorum if we vote on the traverse wall. A motion was made by Don Hester to approve purchasing the 32x8 foot traverse wall equipment from the

Everlast Company for \$4519 pending objections of lower than 10 percent of PTA membership. Kevin Slack seconded the motion. Barbara Ohnmacht will email the motion and proposal to the current 420 PTA members. All rejections of the motion must be received by November 21, 2008. If no more than 10 percent of members reject the motion, then the equipment will be purchased.

**Principal – Jim Weisner**

Mr. Weisner stated that he is supportive of the traverse wall.

There are currently 609 students enrolled.

American Education Week will be held November 16 – 21, 2008. Parent teacher conferences have been scheduled. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a SIT meeting. Report cards will be issued on November 13. Jump Rope for the Heart will be held for grades 2 – 5 on November 24, 2008.

**Assistant Principal – Carol Hahn**

Mrs. Hahn reported that the bus evacuation drill went smoothly.

The student council is sponsoring a Harvest for the Hungry food drive. Everyone is encouraged to bring in non-perishable, non-expired canned food.

There will be a meeting for parents of ESL students at Susan Lee’s house on Friday.

**Committee Reports**

**Citizen’s Advisory Committee – Andy Kenny**

Andy is the new chair of this committee. He went to the last CAC meeting. There is no redistricting anticipated for the 2009-2010 school year which would affect Manor Woods.

**Fall Book Fair – Karen Chase**

The Book Fair will be November 12, 2008 at Barnes and Noble in the Longate Shopping Center. Children will be given reminder stickers about the event as the board the buses home that day. No vouchers are needed for the fundraiser. Manor Woods’ families should just state that they are affiliated with Manor Woods in order to receive credit.

**Fun Day – Don Hester**

Don met with Laura Cochran, past Fun Day chair, to discuss Fun Day games and procedures. All game equipment is currently being housed at the school. Fun Day will be held April 24, 2009.

**Cultural Arts**

There will be a social studies event on November 19, 2008.

**Green School Committee – Stacy Ichniowski**

Stacy Ichniowski reported on Trash Free Tuesdays. Fourth grade won the first Trash Free Tuesday. She is still looking for volunteers for weighing trash on Tuesdays. Blue recycling bins are in all classrooms.

**Fundraising – Kim Harvell**

Market Day food sales have a low participation rate. Forty-nine (49) families ordered food last month, and only 20 parents have ordered this month. We need to advertise the benefits of the Market Day monthly food sales.

**Membership – Jennifer Peffal**

Directories are finished! Mrs. Hahn was concerned that the directory included some students' names whose parents did not want their information released. Before the directories are distributed, Mrs. Hahn will look into this.

**Reflections – Lynne Pagan**

Entries are down this year. There will be a celebration for all participants on December 2, 2008 at 2:15 p.m.

**Variety Show – Cathy Smith**

The show date is November 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. There are 25 acts in the show.

**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.

**Blood Drive – Renee Quinn**

The blood drive will be held on November 20, 2008 from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**SIT Representative – Angel Bivens**

The SIT committee is looking at demographic data at Manor Woods. There are more boys than girls at the school. The committee is looking into how this trend affects reading strategies.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. Due to low attendance at last December's meeting, there will be no December meeting this year. Next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2009.**