



# MES PTO MEETING RECAP

JANUARY 13, 2025

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## President's Address: Lauren Valentin

- PTO Executive Board Changes
  - Chelsea Cole-Kelly has stepped down
    - Lauren Valentin - new PTO President
    - Amanda Spalding - new Book Festival co-chair

## Principal's Update: Kate McCoy

- MES Proposed Budget
  - School Data from iReady diagnostics
    - Decrease of percentage of students needing the highest level of intervention (Tier 3) in both math and reading
    - Increase in percentage of students, at or above grade level (Tier 1)
  - Enrollment decreasing as projected
    - Staffing shifts to accommodate for grade level needs and changes
      - Adding Math interventionist (part time to full-time)
      - Strings Position made full-time
      - Student Supports adding a BCBA - Board Certified Behavioral Analyst
    - Building robust After School Program
      - Looking at moving PM extended care to the Mansfield Community Center
        - AM extended care to stay at MES
        - Working on transportation needs for extended care moving to MCC and transportation after activities to MCC
        - 3 day a week proposal
          - M, Tu, Thu
- Spring Look Ahead
  - Strings concert for 3 & 4 grades on 1/22 at 5:30pm
  - BOE budget presentation 1/23 @ 6pm
  - Snow Ball Dance 1/25/25



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## Superintendent's Report: Peter Dart

- Superintendent Dart is retiring at end of school year
- MES Facilities
  - Water Systems & Quality:
    - Copper levels exceed recommendations at certain locations in the school
      - Levels regularly checked & time has not solved issue from copper pipes
    - Bottled water and filtered water stations in place
    - Water systems to control future copper levels are being put in place
      - Needs to be installed by early July
      - Should be quick install and notices will be sent to families
  - Sound
    - Great Hall/Cafeteria is loud space.
      - Volume measured in decibels
        - although loud, levels are not unsafe
      - Quality of sound from reverberation is current issue
    - School Building Committee has been asked to continue to advocate and address this issue
      - Proposal to rethink design of sound dampening panels to absorb more sound in Great Hall and keep aesthetic of space
      - Continue to address sound in classrooms and small spaces
    - Acoustic sound panels already installed in many locations
      - Noticeable difference in some areas, negligible in others
    - Sound dampening headphones have been purchased and are available for students with sound sensory issues
    - Project is under budget so there is still money available for the mitigation strategies



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## Superintendent's Report: Peter Dart cont.

- Playground Updates
  - Town council and building committee to remove wood chips and install rubberized surface
    - Will help with mobility issues
  - Improvement of universal design
    - Installation of We-Go-Round structure
      - Merry-go-round type structure for all ability levels, including wheelchair users
  - Challenge is the timeline of when these can be installed
  - PreK team is having their preschoolers design a natural playground in the shaded area on the side of the playground that will be installed at the end of this school year
  - Transition

## Budget: Lauren Garafalo

- ~\$5000 currently in bank account
- upcoming expenses
  - Snow Ball Dance
  - Teacher Appreciation
  - Yearbook
  - 4th Grade Promotion Ceremony
  - Spring Book Festival

## Fundraisers: Julia Babcock

- Disney on Ice
  - 67/90 tickets sold for \$325 profit
- Uconn Women's Basketball Game
  - **Feb. 2, 2025 @ 1pm @ XL Center**
  - <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Mansfieldelementary24>
  - sold out of 1st round of tickets, 2nd round added on
- Munsons
  - Cashless & Paperless purchasing running solely on Give Butter platform
  - Runs **2/3/25 - 3/7/25**, pickup **4/4/25** at Firehouse 107



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## Fundraisers: Julia Babcock cont.

- Cirque du Soleil
  - **March 16 @ 1pm @ XL Center**
- **Give Butter:**
  - Safe, online purchasing platform for 501c registered charities, like MES PTO
  - Allows students to be part of team sales (classrooms)
    - Similar set up to Lyman Pie online selling
    - Competing for **extra recess** on Munson's fundraiser!
  - **No fees** associated for donating on Give Butter
    - PTO incurs any costs.

## Events: Lauren Valentin

- Snow Ball Dance **Saturday, January 25, 2025**
  - 2 dance waves with DJ Glen playing music and Lunar New Year aspects
    - **1:30-3 (PK-1st) & 3:30-5 (2nd-4th)**
  - If inclement weather
    - Rescheduled for Feb. 1st and everyone will be notified.
  - RSVP's necessary (fire code)
    - <https://forms.gle/xSx8B64Y6JC84Sof9>
  - Free hot chocolate for every child
  - Snacks for sale \$1
    - Snacks have been donated so all raised funds will go towards cost of event and future PTO events
  - Craft table set up in Great Hall
  - Non-perishable donations collected for Covenant Soup Kitchen
  - Photo Booth
    - PTO now owns a photo booth printer
  - Still looking for more volunteers
    - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084AAAAD2DA3F5CE9-53155983-mespto>



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## Events: Lauren Valentin cont.

- MES Apparel order is open on Give Butter platform
  - <https://givebutter.com/MES-shirt>
  - **Closes 1/31/25**
  - Pickup/Delivery expected at the end of February
  - Variety of new items available
    - Long-sleeve shirts
    - Crewneck Sweatshirts
    - T-Shirts
    - Hoodies
- Yearbooks sales started on Give Butter
  - <https://givebutter.com/MESyearbook>
  - Orders due by **April 11th**
  - Option to donate to families who may not be able to afford a yearbook
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation
  - Appreciating ALL MES STAFF in the school for a full week
    - week of **May 5th**
  - Donations are accepted on Give Butter
    - <https://givebutter.com/MESappreciate>
  - Staff were polled to see what they REALLY want
    - Lunch is the number one request at present time
- Book Fest will be in the Spring
  - Planning is just beginning
- Communication Reminders
  - MES PTO page and take home notices are where we post all of our flyers
  - Please answer the questions to join the Private Facebook group
  - We have a parent volunteer translating flyer information into Mandarin and Spanish
- Autism Awareness month is **April**
  - How can PTO support?
    - Considering ideas



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## Open floor:

- Parent suggestion about reducing illnesses in children that made big difference in health of her family
  - Wash hands prior to lunch has significantly helped their child
    - School already doing handwashing
    - Kate to reinforce with teachers
  - Parent willing to volunteer to do a handwashing presentation

## Next meeting Monday, April 7, 2025 @ 6:30 pm

- Please Join us!
- Free pizza & childcare!

## MES PTO Contact Information:

- **FaceBook Page**
  - [Mansfield Elementary School PTO](#)
    - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2874156259541372>
    - Private group that requires admittance
      - Must answer two questions prior to acceptance
        - Ensure it is our parent/guardians/teachers in group
        - Many Mansfield PTO's out there! Texas, Massachusetts, etc.
- **Website**
  - <https://mansfieldtigerspto.org>
- **Email**
  - [mansfieldtigerspto@gmail.com](mailto:mansfieldtigerspto@gmail.com)