



MES PTO MEETING RECAP

JUNE 2, 2025

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President's Address: Lauren Valentin

- PTO involvement since April Community Meeting
 - Hosted 1st MES's Spring Book Festival
 - Staff Appreciation events held for all MES staff
 - Summer MES Apparel Order launched
 - <https://givebutter.com/MES-shirt>
 - Closes 8/30/25 w/ delivery to classes expected by 10/1/25
 - Supported the 4th Grade Promotion
 - Finalized Yearbooks
 - Developed new Field Day staff shirts

Administration Update: Superintendent Candace Morell & Principal Kate McCoy

- Expressed appreciation for MES families and community involvement.
- Recognized and thanked the PTO and parent volunteers for their responsive and fun collaboration throughout the year and recent contributions, including yearbook efforts and new staff Field Day shirts.
- Playground Enhancements:
 - Playground closed for summer to allow for:
 - New inclusive we-go-round" will be installed this summer.
 - Additional terrain improvements and a refreshed nature play space are planned.
 - Shade structures are under consideration, pending feasibility.
- Great Hall Acoustics:
 - Acoustic panels with colorful, whimsical designs are in development.
 - Installation expected post-design and bidding in late June.
- Water Quality Update:
 - Drinking water testing continues, with final inspection results due late July.
 - Goal: Reopen water fountains for the 2025 school year.



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Administration Update: Superintendent Morell & Principal McCoy cont.

- Student Learning Highlights:
 - Spring experiential learning:
 - Water quality testing
 - Weathering and erosion activities
 - Kayaking at Mansfield Hollow
 - Visits to Goodwin Forest
 - Music and theme-based projects
 - Upcoming events: Field Day and additional kayaking excursions.

Youth Services Overview: Sarah DeLuca, YS Supervisor

- MES Programs offered this year:
 - PAWS Recess Program (Grades 1–2) with UConn volunteers
 - Tiger Strong (Grades 3–4), a free after-school social-emotional and movement-based program
 - PreK Puppet Program promoting emotional learning
 - Counseling referrals: available for students and families
- Early Start CT Initiative:
 - Recruiting paid parent ambassadors to help with community outreach for a new early childhood initiative; details coming soon
- Summer Playdates:
 - Held Wednesdays in June, 4–5 PM at the Mansfield Community Center Playground
 - May be extended past June based on interest
- Encouraged families to follow Mansfield Youth Services on Facebook and take a contact card.
 - mansfieldct.gov/311/Youth-Services
- Parent feedback praised Tiger Strong and emphasized the importance of inclusive, proactive social-emotional programs.



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PTO Year in Review: Lauren Valentin

- Major PTO Hosted Events:
 - **Fall Festival:** Community engagement through games, raffles, and sponsor-supported activities.
 - **Snowball Dance:** Included music, photo booths, and lion dance performances to celebrate the Lunar New Year.
 - **Spring Book Festival:** First-ever event celebrating literacy; included activities for all age groups, author readings, crafts, and a partnership with Riverbend Bookshop.

- Community Engagement (school & town-wide):
 - Welcome-back initiatives like Popsicles on the Playground and Open House participation.
 - Coordinated volunteers for Field Day, Picture Day, and newly launched Running Club.
 - Distributed supplies such as snacks for standardized testing and bucket hats for kindergarten crafts.
 - Presence at Celebrate Mansfield, Trunk-or-Treat, Winter Welcome and Maple Festival
 - Donated food to Covenant Soup Kitchen

- Fundraising Highlights:
 - Over \$2,000 raised through MES apparel sales
 - \$6,300+ earned from Lyman Orchard and Mson's events
 - ~\$500 each from XL Center and UConn sports fundraisers

- MES Staff & Student Support:
 - Provided welcome lunches and gifts, free T-shirts for new staff, and designed staff Field Day jerseys.
 - Hosted two meals for Staff Appreciation Week and additional treats.
 - Funded former student scholarships and supported families in the CARES program with clothing and essentials.
 - Covered yearbook costs for all 4th graders and ensured every student was pictured, even those who enrolled late.



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2025–2026 PTO Board Roles: Lauren Valentin

- Many open positions, no prior experience needed—just a willingness to support the school community.
- PTO welcomes volunteers with all types of availability—roles are flexible and can be shared.

- Filled Positions:
 - **President:** Lauren Valentin – will plan and run meetings, assist with events, support volunteers, and work closely with MES admin & staff.
 - **Vice President:** Amanda Spalding – will assist the president, coordinate events, and step in when needed.
 - **Treasurer:** Michelle Trevino-Talbot – will manage the PTO budget and finances.
 - **Secretary:** Peter Keefe – will take meeting minutes and organize summaries.
 - **Communications Chair:** Julia Babcock– will manage sharing PTO updates via take-home notices, social media, and text alerts.
 - **Fundraising Co-coordinators:** Justina Ingerson & Emily Potz – will propose, plan, and help execute fundraisers.
 - **Staff Appreciation Chair:** Justina Ingerson – will coordinate events and tokens of appreciation for staff.
 - **Event Coordinator:** Matt Egan – will manage logistics, volunteer signups, facility forms, and communication globally across all PTO events.
 - **Yearbook Co-coordinators:** Ryan & Tainá Sindler – will oversee creation of the yearbook by collecting photos, organizing content, and coordinating with staff and volunteers
 - **Grade-Level Liaisons:** will keep communication lines open between PTO & team-leads, support events, pitch in wherever needed, and rally other parents
 - PreK: Jessica Ritchie
 - Kindergarten: Anna Young
 - 1st: Katie Clauson
 - 2nd:Kelsey & Peter Keefe
 - 3rd: Rob Brandon
 - 4th: Geneva Gardner



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Open floor (throughout meeting):

- Concern Raised: A parent expressed concern about limited science instruction/investigation in the lower grades, especially 2nd grade.
- Response from School Leaders:
 - More details at upcoming Board of Education meeting
 - Thursday, 6:30-9pm (at the latest) in Town Council Chambers
 - Topic: **Deep Learning** featuring student work
 - Virtual attendance welcome
 - <https://mansfieldct.gov/video>
 - MES is gradually expanding science instruction post-consolidation of three schools and adoption of new core literacy curriculum
 - Goals:
 - Minimum of 2–3 units this year, expanding to 6 units over the next two years.
 - Continued integration of NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) into grade-level thematic learning and enrichment programs.
 - STEM & Enrichment Adjustments:
 - One teacher leads Lego-based engineering, while another partners with grade levels as an enrichment teacher for hands-on science aligned with standards.
- Commitment to transparency and improvement: Time has already been carved out in next year's schedule for science in every grade.
- Superintendent Morell emphasized balancing urgency with quality as the school builds a robust, standards-aligned science program.



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Open floor (throughout meeting) cont.:

- There was appreciation shared for the Engineering Night – described as unique, engaging, and well-coordinated.
- The need for consistent and streamlined communication across event planning and volunteer coordination was reinforced.
- Emphasis was placed on mentoring new volunteers and allowing flexibility in commitment levels.
- Pre-K Enrollment:
 - 55 applications for 30 PreK spots
 - Notification calls are in progress and ongoing through summer
- Board of Education Meeting: Scheduled for Thursday; will include exhibits of student “deep learning.” Families asked for email reminders with the link

Next meeting TBD for Fall, 2025

- 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

