



MES PTO MEETING RECAP

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

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President's Address: Chelsea Cole-Kelly

- Welcome to 2024-25 year. Board member introductions

Principal's Update: Kate McCoy

- Overall a great start to school
- Parent drop off and pick-up are especially efficient
- Goal of working on improving communications; information about forming Focus Groups being released in Take Home Notices
- Questions for administration can be sent prior to meeting and bigger topics can be scheduled to be discussed via an open forum session

Superintendent's Report: Candace Morrell, Director of Teaching & Learning

- Communication Document:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/12TGWSqlllac26ou4M_64w23HPzfgJ8392OrN8ZTUSH0/edit?usp=sharing
- Recommends "going right to the source" when you can (teacher, admin, etc.)
- Website has been improved over the summer; information on bus schedules, lunch menus, specials, family engagements, events, student handbooks, board notices, legal notices, etc.; team welcomes feedback on anything you'd like to see
<https://www.mansfieldct.gov/2527/School-District>
- Emergency Message System - Ensure you are receiving texts or emails; tests will go out in near future; reach out to office if not receiving so they can fix issue
- Bus issues - reach out to school first - they can reach the bus company
- Zonar Bus App - let school know about issues - IT will work directly with you to solve; app needs to be updated annually

Summary of PTO Run Annual Events:

- Fall Festival - October 5th- apple cider, donuts, mooncakes, raffle/fundraiser (including ride the firetruck to school, Principal for the Day)
- Snow Ball - January - divided into lower grades and higher grades
- Spring Book Festival - spring - authors/illustrators will come; mobile local bookstore



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Budget: Lauren Garafalo

- \$8000 currently in bank account
- \$3000 earmarked for the cost of hoodie and T-shirt orders for teachers
- \$2000 earmarked for Fall Festival budget

Fundraisers: Julia Babcock/Amanda Spalding:

- Lyman Orchard Pies - made approximately \$4000 last year; fliers and take home notice upcoming; orders due October 23rd
- UConn football Fundraiser, October 19 at 12:00 p.m.; limited interest so far; no cost to PTO
- Monster Trucks - sold 67 tickets
- Future Fundraiser ideas- Disney on Ice in January; UConn hockey and basketball games
- Fall Festival - 10/5/24 - still need 20 volunteers, games, raffle, crafts, photo spot; non-perishable can food drive to support the Covenant Soup Kitchen; still looking to hire face painters; Chinese Moon Festival will be featured
- Celebrate Mansfield - Saturday 9/28 2-6 p.m.; joining with Mansfield Public Schools and the Middle School MMSA; table and activities; low waste event
- Harlem Wizards vs. Teachers Game - high cost for renting space and organizing; discussing for next year given all the logistics/money/looking for sponsors - Event cost between \$4800 to \$8000 depending on day plus facility cost; ESCU \$2000 for 3000 seats, EO Smith 500 seats; possibility of two games in a day; 7-8 staff needed to play against Wizards; Let PTO know if you want to help plan for next year
- T-Shirts/sweatshirts - tried to keep them as close to cost as possible; about \$1000 raised that will get rolled back into PTO activities



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Open floor:

- Library:
 - Will the library be added back in for 3rd and 4th graders?
 - Library is happening for all students.
 - 3rd and 4th grade students are having Library during a math period
 - Math period “minutes” are made up throughout the week
 - Schedule is being adapted due to new math and reading programs that need to be incorporated this year and have a specific number of minutes that need to be allocated to them
 - Current schedule works out to 5 minutes less of library than students had last year
 - Agreed that communication from administration would have been very helpful
- STEM:
 - Can scientific inquiry be added to the general curriculum and not just STEM class and how can parents/PTO support this?
 - Many grade level explorations will focus on science exploration. The new reading program already has some science based inquiry in it.
 - Grade level Team leaders will help connect PTO to where we can help
- Extracurriculars:
 - Are extracurriculars something that can be offered?
 - After-school program limited by bus schedules, unlike at Middle School
 - Teachers can announce and start clubs
 - On the agenda for grade level Team Leaders
 - PTO can help support with extra hands or funds
 - Suggestions for:
 - running club (different from Mileage Club- in school activity)
 - Can be brought to new PE teacher who just started
 - physics club
 - coding club
 - library club
- Communication about September 11th Discussions
 - Can parents have a heads-up regarding potentially traumatic in-school conversations and provide parents with guidance for discussing at home?
 - Feedback will be brought back to teachers
 - This was not a schoolwide conversation but happened in an individual classroom
 - Will need to be looked into further



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Open floor cont.:

- Schedule:
 - How do you form the schedule? How is it chosen:
 - New academic programs launched this year and last year have minute requirements that we must adhere to:
 - Bridges Math program / Number Corner
 - Foundations Reading program
 - Addition of Spanish for K and 1st grades
 - Start to run out of minutes to incorporate everything into the school day/week
 - Schedule draft to work out kinks and build in all the important programs
 - Building new systems for a larger scale school:
 - Last year drop-off and pick-up procedures were important systems building efforts
 - This year, talking a lot about systems building for schedule
 - Successfully experimented with lunch waves
 - joint lunches for K and 1st
 - Much quieter than combined 3rd and 4th

PTO FaceBook Page:

- **Mansfield Elementary School PTO**
 - Must answer two questions prior to acceptance to private group
 - Ensure it is our parent/guardians/teachers in group
 - Many Mansfield PTO's out there! Texas, Massachusetts, etc.