



MES PTO MEETING RECAP

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

page 1/5

President's Address: Jeremiah Cole-Kelly (filling in for Chelsea Cole-Kelly)

- PTO involvement since October meeting:
 - Published 2024-24 MES Family Directory
 - email mansfieldtigerspto@gmail.com to add info or gain access
 - Took part in Celebrate Mansfield
 - Delivered ~200 Bulk T-shirt/Hoodie orders
 - Participated in Trunk or Treat
 - Offered Uconn Football & Hockey game tickets
 - Assisted Craft Fair with donations for CAREs program
 - Held 2nd annual Fall Festival

Principal's Update: Kate McCoy

- Two new office administrative assistants hired
 - Ally Pagan and Abigail Rucci
 - Continued training during conference week.
- Fall Conferences
 - Goal is for 100% attendance and in-person
 - Traditional format (i.e. not student led conferences that are held in Spring)
- Progress Reports
 - New format and other changes
 - All progress reports will include an explanation letter and guide to understanding changes
- Raptor Security System
 - New and better security system for screening and monitoring visitors entering school
 - Available for families to try out during conferences (Scan ID at entry to receive badge and scan ID again at exit)
- Communication focus group
 - Next meeting is virtually on **12/12/2024 from 4-5pm**
 - email mesoffice@mansfieldct.org to join focus group
 - First meeting focused heavily on the tiers of communication
 - Inconclusive survey data from previous communication survey
 - Partly due to low number of responses
 - Goal for high future survey participation



MES PTO MEETING RECAP

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

page 2/5

Principal's Update: Kate McCoy cont.

- Attendance campaign
 - “Research shows that absences add up and that good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation”
<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/truancy/truancy>
- CT State Law Thresholds
 - 4 absences in 30 days or 10 absences in a school year (includes excused absences)
 - State mandated letters go home if threshold is reached
 - Campaign goals to share information about:
 - attendance recording
 - mandatory letters
 - resources available
 - Materials available at conferences & letters going out in December to share information

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Shamim Patwa Director of Special Services

- Mansfield Make Time for Offline Challenge
 - <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/2635/Make-Time-for-Offline>
 - *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt (resource mentioned)
 - Elementary Age focus on reducing screen time and increasing play time
 - MES will be hosting play challenges to encourage learning through play
 - Looking for the PTO to support the initiative and spread the word.
 - Considering pledge board at the Snow Ball Dance
- Aaron Weintrieb speaking at the middle school on **12/3/24**
 - Topic: Parenting Your Neuro Atypical Child
 - All Mansfield families welcome, not only middle school aged
- Next Board of Education meeting **Thursday, 12/12/24 at 6:30pm** at Town Hall
 - Please attend!
 - Important to have more voices that represent our community
 - Entering budget season
 - There will be a lot of interesting conversations happening



MES PTO MEETING RECAP

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

page 3/5

Budget: Lauren Garafalo

- \$7400 currently in bank account
- \$1000 earmarked for reimbursements
- \$2000 earmarked for Snow Ball Dance budget

Fundraisers: Julia Babcock

- Lyman Orchard Pies
 - Raised \$4284 total
 - \$395 donated in lieu of selling pies!
 - Thank you to volunteers who helped organize/distribute
- UConn Hockey Game
 - Last weekend
- Disney on Ice
 - 38/90 tickets sold (as of 11/18/24)
 - **Saturday, January 4th, 2025 @ 11am**
 - Flyer in take home notices
 - seats sections are closer than Monster Truck event
- Uconn Basketball Game
 - **Feb. 2, 2025**
- Munsons
 - info coming soon, will include Easter candy
- Cirque du Soleil
 - March event, group sales not available yet
- Connecticut Sun
 - season over, but different options to discuss in future

Events: Lauren Valentin

- MES SWAG
 - Around 200 apparel orders completed in October
 - Running another bulk order soon
 - Order deadline in mid January with late February delivery
 - New items available
 - Crewneck sweatshirts
 - Long sleeve t-shirts



MES PTO MEETING RECAP

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

page 4/5

Events: Lauren Valentin cont.

- 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)
 - RSVP's necessary (fire code)
 - Music/song request on RSVP
 - Decorations:
 - Kim King to help students create snowflakes in art
 - Teacher team leads asked to share any winter art done in classrooms
 - Volunteers/Donations Needed!
 - Sign up genius
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084AAAAD2DA3F5CE9-53155983-mespto>
 - Set up/decorating night before.
- Imagination Library
 - Dolly Parton's program for free books for children birth - 5 years old
 - Emily Tinnel, MES librarian, working to start Mansfield program
 - PTO Pledged \$500 and will assist with advertising & recruiting eligible children
- Yearbooks
 - Considering figuring out how to get a yearbook to every MES student
 - Current ideas:
 - Community sponsors
 - Family sponsor pages
 - Check the box to donate a book for another child
 - work with school to identify children/families with need
 - Yearbook cost approximately \$12 without fundraising cost increases



MES PTO MEETING RECAP

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

page 5/5

Open floor:

- Parent offered to translate flyers to assist in inclusion
- Appreciation for meeting agendas and recording
- Class photo from picture day
 - Released after retakes, possibly at end of school year
 - 1 more contract year with current school photographers

Next meeting Monday, January 13, 2025 @ 6:30 pm

- No December meeting
- Please Join us!
- Free pizza & childcare!

MES PTO Contact Information:

- **FaceBook Page**
 - [Mansfield Elementary School PTO](#)
 - 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