



MES PTO MEETING RECAP

JANUARY 12th, 2026

PAGE 1

President's Address: Lauren Valentin

- Welcome back!
- What's been going on?!
 - Winter Welcome @ Downtown Storrs - won 3rd place in the tree contest!
 - Helped out at conferences
 - Popcorn for 2nd grade team
 - Wolfpack hockey game
 - Yearbook photos are coming in, if you have any please send them to yearbook@mansfieldtigerspto.org

Principal's Update: Kate McCoy

- New staff introduction
 - Jacob Orcutt - front office staff
- Winter-Spring look ahead
 - Jan 19 - no school
 - Jan 22 - Grades 3 & 4 string concert
 - Jan 24 - Snowball
 - Feb 11 - Grade 2 string concert
 - Feb 13 - No school (professional learning day)
 - Feb 16 & 17 - No school
- Journeys in learning
 - Empower MES students to wonder, explore, and grow engaging in hands-on experiences, discovering new ideas, and building knowledge together with and in our community.
 - K - Why to trees matter
 - 1 - How do animals survive and adapt in the arctic
 - 2 - How do plants and animals adapt to their habitats? How does our Earth change over time?
 - 3 - How do humans and their environments influence each other?
 - 4 - How do changes in Earth's surfaces affect the ecosystem?
- Club Updates
 - Early spring club signup deadline is this Wednesday at 4pm!
 - See handouts for more info or email mes-clubs@mansfieldct.org
- Celebration of MES Play - featured in EdWeek article: [Play-based learning yields more joy, high scores at MES](#)

Superintendent's Report: Candace Morell



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JANUARY 12th, 2026

PAGE 2

- For more safety on Rt. 89, installation of Automated School Zone Beacons - this week!
- Next 5 year district development plan: seeking community input!
- The water system is fully operational and drinking fountains are now open!
- 2026-2027 budget
 - Presentation to BOE: 1/22, 1/29, 2/5
 - Presentation to Town Council: 4/6
 - Annual town meeting: 5/12
 - Breakdown:
 - 85% salaries/benefits
 - 13% operating expenses
 - 2% supplies/books

Fundraisers: Emily Potz & Justina Ingerson

- Past/present fundraisers
 - Wolfpack v. Bruins: sold 12 tickets, raised \$36
 - Disney on Ice: sold 51 tickets, raised \$153
 - Swag: raised \$184
 - Papa Ginos: raised \$213
- Upcoming fundraisers/events
 - Munson's fundraiser starts this week! Pickup March 22nd at the library.
 - Snowball - Jan 24th
 - Still looking for volunteers!
 - Mittens sent home with kids for decoration
 - Split into younger/older waves, but this is flexible
 - Collecting canned goods for Mansfield Food Pantry @ the library
- Potential fundraisers:
 - Candles around Mother's Day
 - Women's UCONN basketball game
 - Yard goats
- GiveButter "Tip" does not go to PTO, so please select \$0 tip when donating

Budget: Michelle Trevino-Talbot

- Current bank account balance: \$5842
- Key expenses since last meeting
 - Winter welcome
 - Sunshine committee donation
 - Snowball: ~\$1000 mostly DJ

Open Floor:



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JANUARY 12th, 2026

PAGE 3

- 4th grade ice skating trip not happening?
 - A: PE teachers are looking into whether they can do this. 2 broken legs have led to questions whether these physical activities are appropriate. In addition, 4th graders have the most field trips already.
- Concerns about lunch: cleanliness of lunch trays, smaller portion sizes, having hand sanitizer available on lunch tables
 - Chef Maraiah can join at the next PTO meeting to answer these questions.
- Pre-k concerns about substitute teachers not having
 - Some substitutes just don't work out in certain grades, it's something that is trial & error until a good sub is found.
- Are there ways to ask questions anonymously or without attending the PTO meetings?
 - Email PTO and they can forward the concern. Can also reach out to Kate and request confidentiality and she will respect it.
- Is there an assessment process for pre-k kids going into Kindergarten to inform future teachers about their needs?
 - Yes, for kids already in MES preK there is. Kate will look into ways to do this for kids not in MES preK.

Coming Up:

- January 24th: Snowball
- January 16th - February 20th: Munsons Fundraiser
- March 30th: PTO Meeting



MES PTO MEETING RECAP

JANUARY 12th, 2026

PAGE 4



Next Meeting:



Monday, March 30th, 2026 @ 6:30 PM



MES Great Hall



Free pizza & childcare – bring a friend!



Everyone is welcome – your voice matters!



Stay Connected with MES PTO



Facebook

[Mansfield Elementary School PTO](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2874156259541372>

Private group – answers to membership questions are **required**:

- To ensure that only parents, guardians, and staff from our school community are granted access
- Minimize the risk of unauthorized individuals joining the group
- Maintain a safe and respectful environment for sharing school-related news, events, and photos



Instagram

[@mansfieldtigerspto](#)



Website

mansfieldtigerspto.org



Email

{info@MansfieldTigersPTO.org}