



Mansfeld Magnet PTSTO Meeting Minutes



Meeting Date: August 13, 2015.

Edward called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Everyone introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes:

The May meeting minutes were reviewed. Edward made a motion to accept the minutes, Lilian seconded. Motion passed.

President’s Report:

Edward explained open position on the PTSTO Board. Vice President for Member Coordination, Vice President for Fund Raising at Large and Vice President for Parking Fund Raising, or if there was a position that someone would like to contribute.

Edward reviewed some fundraising efforts of PTSTO and other groups. Parking for UA football games, parking for UA basketball games, hot dog carts, beverages at the UA football games, and food sales with Chipotle.

Principals Report:

Mr. Sanchez reported on several topics.

- School has started with a wonderful 6 days. Students were able to pick up schedules, no major issues at lunch—6th graders were kept in line for lunch after the bell rang to insure everyone was able to eat.
- MMS wants to build a positive culture and climate so the homework load is less by design. Content can’t happen until relationships are built. Next week teachers will ramp up on content.
- Enrollment: Fall enrollment was projected at 787. Currently over projection. Not all students are in the system and final count is pending. Numbers are at 839, 313 6th graders, 278 7th graders, and 248 8th graders. Until this year the largest population was 810. In May magnet population was predicted, but some students who have a choice to go to Mansfeld or Robins, have decided to attend Mansfeld.
- Teacher ratios: Currently there are 10 teachers for 6th grade. The district ratio standard is 27:1, right now it’s 31:1. Looking for the count of student at 10 days. Doesn’t want the classrooms to go over 32:1. Electives have larger classes, but they are doing a good job of managing. Counselors are working to balance the classes. They are looking at 5th grade scores to see if students can be moved into advanced classes—they have more space. If the number of students stays consistent then staffing will go up. They will request more magnet funding for next year.
- Mansfeld is not short any staffing, all of the 46 teaching position are filled. Mansfeld looks for highly-qualified teachers and they had many applications for vacant positions. There is a desire to hire teaching assistants.
- STEM. Magnet schools have a theme. Ours is STEM. Our magnet coordinator is Ms. Bittel. Teachers have been trained in STEM and how to take it back to the classrooms. STEM should be in all subjects (Language Arts, PE, etc), STEM is infused in daily program.
- August 14th will be the first Bulldog Nation assembly. Every quarter there is an assembly to share the news of positive behavior. Mansfeld is a PBIS-- Positive Behavior Intervention Support—school. We are a role model school. Mr. Sanchez taught PBIS to other schools this past summer. In the classrooms, students are given a yellow card if they are off-task as a warning. If the behavior continues students get a red card. They must fill out a reflection card on how to make a better choice and they will talk with the teacher. If they receive a referral to go to the Principal or Vice Principal they will be asked if they were given a yellow or red card if they say they haven’t received the cards, the referral is null and void. Students are rewarded for good work. All teachers have a wristband. They can give that to a student that goes above and beyond (doesn’t always mean academically). All recipients of wristband go into a quarter lottery and one winner is pulled and rewarded a big prize (mall card, movie gift certificates, tablets, beats headphones). The PTSTO funds the PBIS rewards.
- Open house is August 27th. From 6-6:30 everyone will meet in the cafeteria. At 6:30 classrooms will be visited in 10 minute intervals.
- New this year is Advisory. Used to be called SSR—silent sustained reading—students will have a teacher that is their advisory teacher. The goal is for each teacher to work with 18-20 students and do lots of different activities with them—good news share out, team building games, community service, pen pals. This advisory teacher will be the students advocate. Open house you will meet with Advisory teacher.

- August 31st is picture day. Everyone must wear a uniform. Parent link will be used to give notice. Everyone takes a picture for ID purposes. Students will receive info on how to purchase photos.
- 21st Century/Boost starts 9/8. There will be before and after school sessions. This is the 4th year of the grant. Boost offers tutoring and enrichment sessions. It dismisses at 5:00. Menu will be sent out soon. Covers sports. If they find they had a lot of interest in sports teams they may offer the class has an activity. No games against other schools, just between the Boost students. Activity buses will take kids home. One goes east, one goes west, please tell your child where they live. Boost is a 5 year grant. Funding changes through the years. Some magnet dollars offset the cost of tutoring. Boost is a lottery, they identify the 25% that need the program. It's offered to students has space is available. 200 students can participate. You put in your application and as spots open your application is processed. Boost is provided by a federal grant. The teacher to contact is Michelle Gower/Honeyman. Call her number on web site and leave a message. Schedule will be online soon.
- Tax Credit: You can go online to see the tax credit categories. Teachers go to the principal first to see if there is budget for their classroom/club request, then they go to site council and last is PTSO. Tax credit can take 3 to 4 weeks to process.
- Students Rights and Privileges: During this week's advisory period students and teachers will be going through the Handbook so students know their rights, what constitutes a violation and the consequences. This handbook is updated every year.
- Conferences: 9/16, 9/17/, 9/17. Half days with lunch. Dismissed at 11:16. Lunch will end at 11:50. They can get on the bus then. If your student needs a conference, you will be notified by mail. If you don't hear from us, parents can call and make an appointment. Thursday you can attend the drop-in segment. You can meet with teachers in the cafeteria in a horseshoe set up. Parent wait in the middle until the teacher they want to talk to is available. Drop ins are Wed: 6:30 to 7:30 and Thurs 3:30 – 7:30.
- Thanks to PTSO: Each year there is a welcome back theme. Last year was STEM, this is was Happy New Year. PTSO provided breakfast and paid for ½ the cost of polos for teachers (\$6 of \$12).

Community Representative Report:

We have 100-150 UA volunteer tutors. They are supervised in the library. They are from the Math Dept., the Dept. of education, STEM and Technology, and Eller. They have to be fingerprinted and sign a confidentiality agreement. There is a waiting list of those waiting to tutor. Call Ms. Mosconi for a tutor if you're concerned about your student.

Three parents are needed for site council meeting. That meeting happens 4:30-5:30 before the PTA Meeting.

Some student needs include backpacks. Rachel brought in two. Educational Enrichment Foundation gave 10 backpacks. Composition books are needed. You can drop them off at the office, Ms. Mosconi's office or the uniform closet. Lilian and Ms Mosconi organized the uniform closet. We are happy to receive used uniforms. Towards the end of school we need uniforms. Student council will train 4-5 students to come once a day to organize the closet.

Community Representative is funded by Title One. We need to distribute the Parent Involved Policy, Parent compact. We will put the documents online and provide a print option.

Question for Ms. Mosconi: can the tutors be used to reduce the size load of classrooms for teachers?

No, the tutors cannot go into the classrooms to teach (staff needs to be highly qualified). They also can't discipline students. Their presence might help. Parent volunteers are welcome in classrooms.

Wish list of items we liked: pencils, tissue, items can be dropped at office, taken to teachers personally, or at the community office.

Reading teacher did a wish list on Amazon for books and received all of her items plus extra that she can use on Amazon. She used Facebook to get the word out. Response happened overnight.

Note from Kristie Rabago (parent): She started a Facebook group "Mansfeld Parents". It's for items that don't seem appropriate for the school page.

Secretary's Report:

Sent community news in two batches. Will check on two emails (parents said they hadn't received—Rachel, Selena). Posted meeting to community page.

Treasurers Report:

Lilian reviewed budget. Budget from last year provided. Budget for this year provided. Second sheet included restricted funds—what we hold for Mr. Levario, what we have for volleyball, grant for Ms. Lozano from the science foundation, and more. They do fundraising and these groups are asking PTSO if they are willing to hold their funds.

Edward proposed that we agree to hold funding for groups who are fundraising at the school. Stefani seconded. Motion passed.

Mansfeld is required to have 2 STEM units each year per student. Office Depot is limited in what it can offer; therefore, we might want to consider having a line item for STEM supplies in the budget. Tax Credit monies can only go to the students and not supplies.

Teachers need a ton of 2-liter bottles for a project. A suggestion was made to reach out to Pump-it-Up and Get Air since they hold birthday parties and go through a lot of 2-liter bottles.

A request is made that teachers submit requests by April so that they can be paid before the end of school year. For reimbursements after May Mr. Sanchez will reimburse the teachers and PTSO will reimburse him in the fall.

General Discussion:

Open positions

Vice President for Member Coordination - Selena Zimmerman volunteered. Edward nominated Selena, Kristie seconded. Selena was elected.

Vice President for Fund Raising at Large – Stefani Boe volunteered; Christina Kelso will also help. Edward nominated Stefani, seconded, Stefani was elected. Stefani and Christina will develop new ideas. Albertson’s is going away at the end of 2015.

Vice President for Parking Fund Raising – Sonya Tapia volunteered. Edward nominated Sonya, Wendy seconded, Sonya was elected. Will coordinate volunteers.

Ms Bittel, Magnet Coordinator/Teacher:

There are 4 dates for STEM Nights, Thu 9/24, 11/19, 2/18 and 5/5. The first night is with Water Resources Research Center. Instead of using Title 1 funding for food, there will be a food truck round-up. They will set up at 4:30. They don’t offer a portion of their sales, but they won’t sell drinks so that the school can sell beverages. It was said that the Eegee’s truck offers a portion of sales and so does the Little Anthony’s truck. STEM night format will be a welcome activity, keynote speaker, breakout sessions, adding a parent focus session of Citizen Science – what can you do at home. Ms. Bittel is working on emailing newsletter, monthly calendar and the magnet magazine. STEM nights are open to community and students can earn free dress.

Parent Question: Has Mansfeld received grant funding from local or regional organizations? Could a watershed management group be asked to make a campus garden area, add a cistern, or look at replacing grass with drought-friendly plant area?

Answer: Mansfeld has only received EEF grant. There is a partnership with the U of A Biosphere for STEM. 6th grade science classes visit the Biosphere, Ms. Bradford’s art classes does a water color microscope art project. The art is hung in a gallery at Biosphere. Moses Thompson at the U of A (formerly with Manzo) has students in their gardens and tree projects. School has looked for way to work with a garden or be creative so that 150 students can have a garden experience. Mike Bean brings 200 UA students to do volunteer work around the school and on the Platt.

Mr. Levario, Choir/Guitar Teacher:

Reviewed plans for Advanced Choir: Events are a big motivator for students. Advanced chorus will do Music Man Jr. the materials have been purchased. Some expenses and events:

- Sound technician for the musical in March 2016
- Two trips to Phoenix, sing at the capitol for 25 minutes; festival
- Dec 8th chorus concert with an instrumental concert at school
- Sing at the airport (get paid \$100)
- Caroling at the Capitol has a bus expense of \$770
- Fees for accompanist
- Need to join the National Music Educators Conference \$125 or there will be a fee for each event that the chorus participates in.
- Each performance with included fundraisers and chorus will do fundraisers buy selling water at football games.

Guitar class is in the 2nd year. They’ve been sharing guitars with the 8th grade class and they really need their own guitars. Requested funding in June. Approved for 10 guitars. There are 35 kids. They’ve been requested to bring their own. Does PTSO

have money to fund guitars?

Mr. Levario has a quote from Music and Arts Music Store (an approved vendor) for \$119 plus tax. Can PTSO purchase one? There are 3 from Boost, but those can't be checked out.

Discussion: Natalie posted a call for donations to her Facebook page. Can EEF grant be used? Teachers are not taking advantage of their grants. Subject tabled until next meeting.

Free Dress passes will be in the office.

First football game is September 3rd. Kick-off is 7pm, parking starts at 5pm.

Next Meeting and Adjournment:

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2015, at 6:00 pm in the school library.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved.