



MARS PLANET FOUNDATION

October 21 , 2025 Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Present	Ambassadors	Present
Beth Ziegler - President	X	Jennifer Antonio	
Amanda Webster– Vice President		Helianna Galvis-Orr	
Kim Vandall - Treasurer	X	Tricia Holland	
Kelly Dunn - Secretary	X	Robin Parsons	
Jeannie Irwin	X	Lee Ann Riner	X
Sandy Page	X		
Amy Riggio		MASD Admin	
Aaron Rose	X	Dr. Samantha Flanhofer	X
Vickie Zaccari	X	Mr. Travis Mineard	

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Meeting Minutes – The Meeting Minutes from September 2025 were discussed.

- ❖ Jeannie Irwin motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Sandy Page. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Teacher Grant Presentation

- ❖ Mrs. Lenzi/Ms. Mortier – Battle of the Books: Reading Relays
 - Grant request for funding all 6th grade students to compete in Battle of the Books. A similar program is running for a few 5th grade classes and Mrs. Lenzi and Ms. Mortier would like to bring a new Battle of the Books program: Reading Relays to all 6th grade students in Mars Centennial School. Funds requested will be used for 7 different book titles as well as prizes. These books will be utilized year after year for continuation of this program. Grant request total is for \$8,800.
- ❖ Dr. Flanhofer – PBIS – Positive Behavior Initiative for Centennial School
 - The PBIS project is successfully active in the Primary and Elementary schools. This grant request is to launch the PBIS program for the entire Centennial School and includes materials to launch the program with the goal of continuing the program year after year. PBIS is a program to encourage positive behavior among students. This request includes funding for signs, t-shirts, a motivational speaker and prizes. The total investment amount being requested is \$1,700.
- ❖ Mr. Black – Environmental Science Class – Recycling in Our Community
 - Mr. Black requested a grant to fund a field trip that would consist of his Environmental Science and Art classes combined. The students are currently collecting old building materials and other thrown-away items across the district to recycle. They are learning about the different types of recycling based on material type. The field trip would be a day to take the students and their materials to different types of recycling centers. These centers include Seneca Landfill, TC Recycling in Mars, Construction Junction, Haul Eycling and the Center for Creative Re-Use. Funds requested are \$1,900 to transport 30 – 35 students and materials to all locations, as well as a few entrance fees for tours. The amount requested is to cover two field trips this year, as Environmental Studies is

only a half-year course, and there will be two sets of students in one school year, he would like to take.

- ❖ Mrs. Hock – Point Park Media Day (Newsapooloza) Field Trip
 - Mrs. Hock is applying for a grant to fund a field trip for the newspaper and journalism students. This field trip will take the students to Point Park University to participate in their annual Media Day program. Students will interact with Pittsburgh news, print, and radio journalists throughout the day and explore careers in media. The grant amount requested was \$589.04 for transportation and entry fees to the program.
- ❖ Mr. Machusko – High School Tech Ed TV Project
 - The proposal is for the installation of 10 flat-screen televisions around Mars Area High School. These televisions will be programmed from a Raspberry Pi system, which the students will program and control. Tech Ed students would create protective cases for the televisions, program them, and update information on each program to provide updates and announcements to all students in the high school. Building maintenance would assist in running any necessary electrical.

Teacher Grant Presentation Discussion

- ❖ Battle of the Books: Reading Relays
 - The board discussed the feasibility of funding the grant in full or for only 5 books, as well as eliminating prizes.
 - A motion was made by Beth Ziegler to fully fund the Battle of the Books grant request. Vickie Zaccari seconds the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.
- ❖ PBIS Program – Centennial School
 - Board discussion occurred regarding the grant request and how it fit within the parameters of the Mars Planet Foundation terms of not repeating a grant request, as this is a project previously funded for starting the program in other buildings.
 - Beth Ziegler motioned to approve the grant request in full. Vickie Zaccari seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the grant request with a 5-2 board vote.
- ❖ Recycling in Our Community
 - Discussion amongst the board was regarding the nature of the request to fund two field trips in one year that are the same trip, just different students. Can one half be funded now, and the second half after EITC funds are guaranteed for the second half of the year?
 - Beth Ziegler motioned to approve half of the grant amount at this time, not to exceed \$950, and fund the remainder once EITC funds are confirmed for a 2026 field trip. Kelly Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Point Park Media Day (Newsapooloza) Field Trip
 - The board discussed the size of the trip being less than 20 students served by this grant. The goal is to serve as many students as possible for a grant award.

- Beth Ziegler moves to approve the grant not to exceed \$600, and Kim Vandall seconds the motion. Motion passes with a unanimous vote.
- ❖ High School Tech Ed TV Project
 - Board discussion led to questions that they would like answered before voting on the project. Who will be doing the update on the systems when classes change, as Tech Ed is only a semester class? Also, postpone the vote until EITC funds are guaranteed. Beth will reach out to Mr. Machusko with a list of questions to be answered and inform him that the board will pose a formal vote at the next meeting.

President's Report – Presented by Beth Ziegler

- ❖ Beth Ziegler moves to accept the resignation of Amanda Webster as board Vice President. Kelly Dunn seconds the motion, and a unanimous vote was given.
- ❖ Kelly Dunn motions to elect Sandy Page as Mars Planet Foundation Vice President. Kim Vandall seconds the nomination. Unanimous yes vote.

Treasurer Report – Presented by Kim Vandall

- ❖ Check was received from the District for athletic event ticket sales from school year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$2,380.25.

Scholarship Report – Presented by Vickie Zaccari

- ❖ Vicki and Jeannie met with the high school guidance counselor and principal to set dates for the scholarship program, plan catering, and set a timeline for scholarship applications and winners.
 - May 13th Scholarship Night – Reception 5:30 – 6:30
 - Scholarship application deadline – March 1st
 - Winners to be submitted by April 17th
 - Presenters need to be submitted by March 20th for printing of the program

Fundraising Reports – Presented by Beth Ziegler

- ❖ Nothing to Report

EITC Report – Kim Vanall

- ❖ Total AP Course fees to be paid are for 4 students taking 1 exam each. Beth Ziegler motions to pay for 4 AP course tests at \$99/each from EITC funds. Jeannie Irwin seconds the motion. Unanimous vote to approve payment.

Technology Report – Presented by Jeannie Irwin

- ❖ Nothing to report

Communications Report – Presented by Jeannie Irwin

- ❖ Nothing to report

New Business

- ❖ Kelly Dunn to arrange date and place for Christmas dinner/meeting in December.

Kelly Dunn motions to adjourn the meeting, Kim Vandall seconds – meeting adjourned at 8:45

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, in the **library of Mars Area High School**.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kelly Dunn