



MARS PLANET FOUNDATION

April 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

Meeting Minutes – The Meeting Minutes from March 2026 were discussed.

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

Teacher Grant Presentation

- ❖ Mrs. Bodkin/Mrs Zavacky- – Reading Lab -K/1
 - Grant request is for \$2,070 for LePrea Education Fiction Collection. This set of 90 titles would have 6 copies of each book and replace the current reading materials used by the reading support teachers in Kindergarten and First Grade. This curriculum comes with a 12-month digital access of supplemental materials as well. The LePrea books will align with the UFLI teaching methods currently used at Mars Primary and Elementary.
- ❖ Mrs. Graff/Mrs. Waters – Rubik’s Cubes
 - Grant request is for \$1,880.06 that will cover the purchase of the cubes, storage bins, and supplemental materials. Rubik’s Cubes will be used in multiple ways for 6 fourth-grade classes. While the outdoor playground is unavailable during building construction, these offer another activity during indoor recess. Supplements requested will teach lessons in geometry, patterns, and critical thinking about how to solve the cubes logically. Requesting 150 cubes and supplemental materials to be purchased online. This gives 6 classes the ability to use cubes for each student.
 - Source for purchasing would be Amazon/Walmart/Target, etc. Estimated at a price of \$9.99/cube.
 - Conversation was brought up about speed cubes as an option that is more durable and used for competitive settings. Mrs. Graff and Mrs. Waters are going to review this as an option as well, in lieu of some or all of the cubes to purchase.
 - Dr. Travis Mineard confirmed with a previous teacher that a substantial amount of Rubik’s cubes had been used for a project 4-5 years ago, and they may be housed in the Elementary gifted room right now.
- ❖ Dr. McMahon – Eric McElvenny Assembly
 - Grant request totals \$2,000 for two days of Eric McElvenny speaking to all High School students. Eric’s motivational presentation was attended by Dr. McMahon, and she feels

his inspiring story and positive outlook on life and challenges would be a great benefit to Mars Area High School students. The cost is \$2,000 s for the presentations at the High School. The High School would have two assemblies, one for 9th and 10th grade and one for 11th and 12th grade, on the same day in the 2026-2027 school year. During discussion, Dr. McMahon mentioned she is also exploring bringing Mr. McElvenny in to speak to the staff but did not include the cost to do so in her grant request. Board members mentioned such cost could be fundable by the Planet Foundatin. Dr. McMahon informed the Board that the staff assembly would fall at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year during a teacher development day.

Teacher Grant Presentation Discussion

- ❖ LePrea Reading Lab Materials
 - While it was agreed these materials would greatly benefit the students in the Mars Primary school, it was discussed that these materials fall into the category of curriculum that should be part of the building budget.
 - It was also noted that these materials are replacing current materials and therefore do not have new and innovative qualities that are outlined as part of the grant requirements.
 - Kelly Dunn moved to not fund the grant request. Beth Ziegler seconded the motion. A unanimous vote for denial was obtained.

- ❖ Rubik's Cubes
 - A brief discussion among the board was held regarding the usefulness of the Rubik's cubes across many initiatives, such as indoor recess, geometry, and graphing.
 - Request they confirm the amount of viable Rubik's cubes in existence at the Elementary School and decide which style they want to use before ordering new ones.
 - Beth Ziegler moves to approve the Rubik's Cube grant request pending the determination of what cubes they can find in the elementary school and what style to use. Grant fulfillment price to be determined once number of cubes and type are selected. EITC funds would be utilized. Jennifer DiCuccio seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous by all board members to pass.

- ❖ Eric McElvenny Assembly
 - The board discussed the benefits of the speaker to the high school students and staff. Speaker not scheduled until September/October 2026, and would utilize general funds for funding of the \$4,000.
 - Beth Ziegler moves to approve the grant as presented and to add additional funds to cover the cost of the presentation to the staff in an amount not to exceed \$4,000. Vickie Zaccari seconds, and the board agrees unanimously.

President's Report – Presented by Beth Ziegler

- ❖ Nothing to report

Treasurer Report – Presented by Kim Vandall

- ❖ \$112,000 CD was renewed for 6 months through NexTier Bank. The September agenda item will be added to discuss the permanent investment of these funds.

Scholarship Report – Presented by Vickie Zaccari

- ❖ Vickie has hired Just In Thyme catering for the awards celebration evening and received an invoice. The awards evening will be held on May 13th in the high school auditorium.
- ❖ All scholarship winners have been selected and will be sent to the guidance office this week. Winners were selected based on a points system by readers.
- ❖ Redaction software was successful in its first use for application redaction of all essays, transcripts, and acceptance letters.
- ❖ Vickie will be writing presentation notes for each award and the presenter of the evening.
- ❖ The North Catholic student on the Swim and Dive team selected as the recipient of the Swim and Dive twill be invited to scholarship night at Mars, as they are a joint organization.

Fundraising Reports – Presented by Beth Ziegler

- ❖ 2 Scoreboard spots still available for sponsors at the MAC.

EITC Report – Amy Riggio

- ❖ No new business

Technology Report – Presented by Jeannie Irwin

- ❖ Nothing to report

Communications Report – Presented by Jeannie Irwin

- ❖ Nothing to Report

New Business

- ❖ No new business

Jennifer DiCuccio motioned to adjourn the meeting, which Kelly Dunn seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **MONDAY**, May 18, 2026, in the Mars Area School District Admin building board room.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kelly Dunn