

Manzanita FFO Meeting: May 8th, 2026

Welcome & Call to Order at 8:23am by Bri Volpe

Approve Minutes from April-1st: Kristin Michels, 2nd-Jessica Papariella, all approved

Horseshoes & Poos: shared

Principal's Report-Rob Henikman

- Strategic priorities: collaborative inquiry teams (CIT) to increase student achievements. Discussed how CIT works, and what each grade/specialist focused on this year. Set goals for CIT moving forward.
- What is new next year? Applying for the A+ award

Treasurer's Report-Brenna Rheinheimer

- Giving teachers a deadline for classroom funding worked amazingly. Will do again in the future.
- 5th grade trip in the red, mostly due to the cost of the third bus which was not budgeted for. Budgeted for third bus for next year's trip. Bring up costs for trip at back to school night at beginning of next year for parents to start paying as soon as possible. Early bird incentive for paying early. More scholarships this year than in the past.
- **Accept Financials**-1st: Tina Ienna-Balistreri, 2nd-Jessica Papariella, all approved
- Explanation of proposed budget for next year.
 - Want to start year with around 20k in our checking for next year, currently sitting at around 50k.
 - Budget where running in the red by around 15-20k for next year. Proposed buying new playground equipment.
 - Increased budget for principal staff meals.
 - Increased budget for FFO paper donations.
 - Rob says after next years 5th graders leave, class sizes will be decreased so cost of trip will be lower, because we'll no longer need three buses. Where is the tipping point? To be discussed as it comes.
 - Ballots provided for approved budget at each table.
- **Staff appreciation update with Celeste McBirnie**
 - Biggest change this year was celebrating special days of recognition: custodians day, secretary day, etc.
 - Challenges with costs increasing this year. Community donated to help with staff appreciation in May.
- **Student enrichment program with Maggie and Jessica**
 - Family evening of the arts created a surplus for the specialists. "Use it or lose it" by end of the year otherwise it goes into the pot for next year. Silent auction worked better than the raffle last year.
 - Potentially moving from donor snap to zeffe for next year.
 - Only remaining field trip is multi-age to La Encantada. No cost associated with this trip.
- **Volunteer coordinator with Kristin Michels**
 - Working on committee chairs for next year.

- Still need a co-chair for back to school rodeo.
- Still need a co-chair for desert dash.
- Grade level reps still needed: kinder, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.
- Honey and Celeste will co-chair 5th grade promotion under the stipulation that we cannot setup day of.
- Yearbooks out and distributed to teachers by Kristen and Melissa. Discussing auctioning off yearbooks at the art event next year. Potential yearbook class for students next year. Emmy to make a sign for next year.
- 5th grade promotion needs cleanup help
- **Community Schools report-**
 - CARE signups are open for next school year.
 - Summer registration is still open and available.
 - Opened a Kinder+ for Canyon View and Sunrise. Two spots left for MZ.
 - Starting hiring process for CARE next year.
 - Expanding the intramural program for next year. Schools playing each other in sports programs, etc.
- **Foundation Report**
 - Teacher of the year was this past Sunday at Hacienda Del Sol
 - Students who nominated the teachers read the forms for the teachers.
 - One table short of selling out.
 - Ticket prices will need to be raised for next year.
 - Erica Sarnoff will be the new point person.
- **Family Evening of the Arts with Isabel Corres-Sohrab**
 - Worried the evening would be empty without cultural competent, but overall the event went very well.
 - Silent auction went very well. Possibly next year have each class make an art piece for it. Experiences were the most popular items.
- **Garden Committee with Julia Elitzer and Julia Insel**
 - Garden market with students and parents on 15th.
 - Liz is helping find grants for garden.
 - Goals is for garden to be monetarily self-sustaining.
 - Used sales from 1st grade to fund the garden for 3rd grade.
 - Could use morning help on the 15th.
- **Buddy program: Kristin Michels**
 - Huge success! Not enough new students to link with existing students who signed up.
 - EFFT will work through pairing with counselors.
 - Communications will go out June 1st.
 - As more new students come in, pairing will continue.
- **Community support night at Sugar Skulls game**
 - District decided we didn't go through the right process to advertise that to our community.
 - Should be approved on Tuesday by governing board.
 - Will get \$10 for each ticket to FFO of choice.
- **Voting for new EFFT and Committee members**

- Marketing coordinator position to be created for next year. Will be Dana's role.
- Riisa Mandel coming on as Treasurer for next year.
- Tina Ienna-Balistreri taking over SEP for Maggie Schmidt
- Jessica Papariella staying in Field Trip position.
- Kristen Michels for Volunteer Coordinator.
- Grants chair position created, to be headed by Liz Troger
- Honey Pie to be secretary instead of Vice President Elect
- **Thank you to outgoing board members:**
 - Marci Petti, Maggie Schmidt and Brenna Rheinheimer.
- Thanks to group from Rob Henikman
- Grants Chair Position explained by Liz
 - We qualify for "quite a few" grants.
 - Searching every day for new ones.
 - Will be contacting specific committee chairs about applicable grants.
 - Looking forward to collaborating.
 - Every penny counts.
 - Garden is a main goal for grants.
 - Call for all to check for employer matching programs.
- Raytheon, Bank of America, TEP, etc. all do employee matching.
- May have to apply for several of these over the summer.
- **Year in review from Bri**
 - 800 parents, 75 staff members.
 - Parent survey to be sent out for FFO feedback.
 - Staff survey to be created and sent out for FFO feedback.
 - SEP video to be posted so everyone can see where all the money went.
- Edukits up and running.

Important Upcoming Dates

- 5/11-5/15: STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK!
- 5/13: Kindergarten Playdate for INCOMING Kinder Families at 2:00 p.m. on the Manzanita Playground
- 5/14: Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at 7:30 am in the Manzanita library
- 5/15: PLANT SALE & GARDEN MARKET in our Beautiful Garden!
- 5/18: 4th Grade Walk & Talk at 7:35 am
- 5/20: LAST DAY of SCHOOL, 5th Grade Promotion at 8:30 am, and Half Day Dismissal at 11:30 am
- 6/9: EduKit best pricing deadline
- 6/10-6/27: EduKit extended online ordering

Meeting Adjourned at 9:47am