

Manzanita FFO September Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2025 · 8:15 am

Attendance: Rachel Martin, Allison Theony, Ana Maria Brode, Kristin Michels, Leslie Mokhtarian, Tina Ienna-Balistreri, Riisa Mandel, Megan Gralla, Heather Northey, C.J. Pomerantz, Jamie Yoder, BreeAuna Glenn, Anita Strickler, Marion Martin, Liz Farrugid, Katy Skjerping, Julia Elitzer, Dana Goldstein, Briana Volpe. Brenna Rheinheimer

Welcome & Call to Order

- **Called to Order By:** Bri Volpe
- **Time:** 8:17am

Approve Minutes

- **Motion to Approve:** Heather Northey
- **Seconded By:** Honey Pie
- **Approved:** Yes

Horseshoes & Poos – Honey Pie

- **Discussion Points:**
 - Families shared things that are going good and bad

Principal's Report & AI Presentation – Rob Henikman & Lynn Pence

- **Highlights/Updates:**
 - Mr. Henikman spoke on “horseshoes.” Everything at the school is going well, assessments are almost done, PE week at school was a huge success (increase parent engagement and investment in students learning).
 - Lynn Pence-AI Implementation in the CFSD
 - AI is a tool in the toolbelt. Students have protective access to learn how this can be a tool. Administrators have been trained for over a year on what is safe and ethical. Lots of data was used on the impact of AI in education to decide how the implementation and guidelines to execute. This will be a supplemental resource that teachers can use to

help teachers and students get to the standards. CFSD will use Google's Gemini for AI support. CFSD monitors information going in and out. Conmigo and Canva AI are also AI tools that teachers and students can use.

- **Questions Raised:**

- How is the chat bot being monitored? If there is anything inappropriate it will flag the teacher immediately. (It is very sensitive to anything of question.)
- Did you build Gemini from nothing? YES! CFSD created the information- IXL, Wonders...
- Implementation or a workshop for young minds on where, how and why AI comes from? Based on current standards, to bring in learning of this. Digital citizenship-4th and 5th grade have already received this lesson. The other grades will receive this as well.
- Time is at the teacher's discretion.
- How can they access it from home? Need to login to the student's google classroom.
- Results from the survey that went out last year? Can't share information. Students were "naive" to using AI for the most part. Not to be ill willed in use. Parents were mostly on the positive side of implementation. Most families were in support of learning under the safety of the school, instead of on their own. Understands that this makes parents/families scared and nervous about the implementation.
- Mr. Henikman-mostly teacher use it right now. It's already implemented in most items students are doing right now. Google searches-Gemini, already built into Conmigo.
- Suggestion to have a parent class on AI to help parents to implement AI at home with their student(s).

Mustang Bucks – Tina Ienna-Balistreri

- **Status/Report:**

- A little over \$25,000-less than \$3,000 for our goal
- Going to reach our incentives! Otter Pops for top two grade levels
- Reach Goal by Giving Tuesday-All school field day

- **Decisions/Action Items:**

- Asking for donations for our Silver Mustangs
- Side note: looking for a DJ for trunk or treat

Treasurer's Report – Brenna Rheinheimer

- **Voting on Financials**
 - Accept: Kristin Michels
 - Second: Rachel Martin
 - All in favor in accepting the financials
- **Notes/Action Items:**
 - 1st Grade and Kinder have put in for field trips

Student Enrichment Program – Bri Volpe

- **Update:**
 - 5th grade is sending out a Google Form to see interest in 5th Grade Trip because we might need another bus
 - Kinder and 1st have put in requests for field trips.
 - Teachers are putting in requests for classroom funding.

Volunteer Coordinator – Kristin Michels

- **Upcoming Needs:**
 - Silver Mustangs: Looking for a volunteer or two to come during lunchtimes
 - Board Games: Heather Northey will take over! Board Games will start after Fall Break
 - Grade Level Reps: 2nd, 3rd and Multiage-create community within the grade level
 - Picture Day: September 18th- 7:30am-11:00am

Committee Reports

- **Community Schools – Ashley Glaser**
 - October 1st enrichment for Quarter 2 and will start October 13th
 - Half Days and Fall Breaks camps (registration starting soon)
 - Tapas for Teachers for childcare
- **Foundation Report – Juhie Parnami**
 - Great Beginnings and Tapas for Teachers Save the Date (November 13th)
 - FFO will support teachers who want to go
- **Desert Dash – Kelly Hamilton & Matt Landau**
 - October 18th
 - Posting this week for sponsorships-\$100 to get on the banner, instagram and website
- **Miler's Club – Rachel Martin & Kristin Michels**
 - Miler's shirts are here

- Monday and Wednesday at lunchtime-Starts September 15th
- Sign up on Parent Square to volunteer
- **Gardening – Julia Elitzer & Julia Insel**
 - Always looking for volunteers
 - Looking for teacher's involvement in the garden
- **Staff Appreciation – Emmy Marshall & Celeste McBirnie**
 - No update
- **Yearbook & Spirit Wear – Melissa Furrier**
 - Spiritwear will cut a check-around \$3,000
 - Photographers for Yearbook: Grade Level Reps-Honey Pie has volunteered to take pictures
 - Yearbooks are available to purchase-sales cut off on March 15th and there will be no extras
 - 5th grade dedications-1 current photo and 1 baby photo to submit- Dana Goldstein will take this over.
 - Looking for new yearbooks chairs for next year
 - Everyone has access to the google drive to put their photos in.

New Business

Elections

- **Treasurer Elect:** Riisa Mandel: Approved-Yes
- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Kristin Michels: Approved-Yes

Other Business Raised:

- Riisa spoke on Tour de Tucson: Tour de Tucson pairs with non-profits, riders or runners if they want to support Manzanita. Riders/Racers receive a discount and a fundraising page. We receive 10 free passes to the fun run or 5K. Putting together a raffle basket to one of the racers that chooses Manzanita. September 20th-event called loop-to-loop, going to have a stand to recruit riders for Manzanita.

August Highlights

- Kinder Coffee and Kleenex well attended
- \$135.64 made at Ice Night at Jeremiah's
- 20+ volunteers helped clean up the garden
- Over 250 parents joined PE
- Over 280 grandparents signed up for lunches
- Barre3 community workout today!

- 15,000 view on Instagram

Important Upcoming Dates

- **9/5:** Mustangs & barre3 Tucson Foothills Community Workout @ 11:45 am
- **9/8–9/19:** Silver Mustangs Grandparents Lunch Weeks
- **9/15:** Miler's Club Starts!
- **9/16:** September Dine Out @ Fentonelli's (11:30 am–8:30 pm)
- **9/18:** Picture Day 📸
- **9/20 & 9/27:** Fun Fit Family Saturdays @ 8:00 am (Lower Field)
- **10/3:** Principal's Breakfast for 1st, 2nd, & Multiage @ 7:15 am

Next FFO Meeting

Friday, October 3, 2025 @ 8:15 am

Adjourn

- **Time Adjourned:** 9:50am

