

Manzanita Elementary FFO Meeting Minutes

Date: November 7, 2025

Time: 8:15 AM

Location: Manzanita Elementary CARE building

Called to Order by: Bri Volpe at 8:15 AM

Welcome & Call to Order

- Bri Volpe opened the meeting at 8:15 AM.
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Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes: **1st – Rachel M.**
 - **2nd – Jessica P.**
 - **All approved.**
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Aviva Holiday Project – Olivia Bruntmyer

Overview of Family Children Services:

Aviva supports foster children and families through essential services including:

- Diapers, food support, Instacart assistance
- Beds, car seats
- General family needs

Funding Sources:

- Arizona tax credits
- Donations (including secondhand items)

Holiday Store & Kits:

- Event store held the **second week of December**
- Holiday kits include:

- Quilt
- Handmade items
- Stuffed animal
- Filled stocking
- Two store-bought gifts
- Puzzle/game and a book

Holiday Drive:

- Donations accepted now
 - Distribution scheduled **Dec 8–11**
 - Children may volunteer alongside parents
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Horseshoes & Poos – Bri Volpe

Principal's Report – Rob Henikman

Appreciation Postcards

- Added to the Principal's Breakfast.

District Update

- District has again earned **A Schools** designation.

Strategic Priorities & Discussion

- How school scores are calculated
- Areas of instructional strength
- Areas identified for growth

Manzanita School Improvement Goals

- **80% proficiency** goal in ELA, Math, Science
 - **Student engagement:** 91–93% of students feel engaged (survey)
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Mustang Bucks – Tina Ienna-Balistreri

- No new updates.

- Pending checks from EduKit, spirit wear, and dine-outs totaling approx. **\$1,000**.
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Treasurer's Report – Brenna Rheinheimer (not present)

- Field trip spending reviewed.
 - Motion to approve:
 - **1st – Rissa**
 - **2nd – Rachel Martin**
 - **All approved.**
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Student Enrichment Program – Jessica Papariella & Maggie Schmidt

Classroom SEP field trip orders:

- **Kinder:** Children's Museum
 - **1st Grade:** Village Farm
 - **4th Grade:** Science Museum
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Volunteer Coordinator – Kristin Michels

- Holiday Drive promotional post scheduled
 - Book Fair volunteer sign-ups active
 - Volunteers still needed for:
 - Board Games
 - Milers Club
 - Volunteer engagement is increasing
 - Volunteer Gratitude Lunch scheduled: **Monday, 11/24**
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Committee Reports

Community Schools – Ashley Glaser

- 3rd quarter proposals distributed
 - Quarter runs **Jan 5–March 30**
 - Tapas for Teachers childcare planned
 - Winter Break Camps upcoming
 - MZ Care Day planned before Thanksgiving
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Foundation Report – Juhie Parnami

- Bri coordinating Tapas for Teachers
 - **Contigo Silent Auction** open
 - **Teacher of the Year** nominations open
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Book Fair – Anita Strickler & Leslie Mokhtarian

- Strong volunteer turnout
 - **STEM Night: Nov 7, 5:30–7 PM**
 - Book Fair runs **Nov 10–14**
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Milers Club – Rachel Martin & Kristin Michels

- “It’s just WILD!”
 - Charm Day every Wednesday—volunteers needed
 - Budget approved for:
 - **Eegees’ treats**
 - **Trophies**
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Gardening – Julia Elitzer & Julia Insel

Board Games – Ana Maria Brode

- Additional volunteers needed
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Staff Appreciation – Emmy Marshall & Celeste McBirnie

- Focus on capturing more photos
 - No bundled staff appreciation events planned for November
 - School psychologist postcard project sent out
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Yearbook & Spirit Wear – Melissa Furrier & Kristin Michels

Dine Outs – Stephanie Zwaga & Katie Castillo

Old Business

- Desert Dash & Trunk-or-Treat reflections
 - STEM Night
 - Grade Level Reps
 - Art to Remember
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New Business

- District FFO Highlights
 - Gratitude Gathering
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Important Upcoming Dates

- **Nov 7:** Book Fair Kickoff & STEM Family Night @ 5:30 PM
- **Nov 10–14:** Book Fair
- **Nov 11:** Veteran's Day – No School
- **Nov 13:** Tapas for Teachers @ Contigo, 5:30 PM

- **Nov 14:** Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day @ 7:20 AM
 - **Nov 20:** School Picture Retakes
 - **Nov 24:** Gratitude Gathering Picnic Lunch
 - **Nov 26–28:** Thanksgiving Break – No School
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Next FFO Meeting

Friday, January 9, 2026 @ 8:15 AM