

## Manzanita FFO Mtg: Feb 6<sup>th</sup>

**Attendees:** Rob Henifman, Bri Volpe, Heather Northey, Kristin Michels, Brenna Rheinheimer, Jessica Papariella, Jen Kozik, Riisa Mandel, Julia Elitzer, Liz Farrugia, Julia Insel, Molly Bates Johnson, Ana Brode, Matt Landau, Ashley Glaser, Bryan Amador (IT)

Welcome & Call to Order – Bri Volpe @8:20am

Approve Minutes from January – 1<sup>st</sup> Jessica, 2<sup>nd</sup> Heather, all approved

Horseshoes & Poos – Bri Volpe, Heather Northey, Liz Farrugia, Julia Elitzer

Principal's Report – Rob Henikman

- Appreciation cards for staff member or teachers (will be delivered today)
- Strategic priorities – Focus on “Community Building”
  - Nine goals related to SIP, Goal 8: Community relationships
  - Cultivating sense of belonging and inclusiveness
  - MZ specific: increase the number of opportunities for students
  - List of student opportunities (20+), 20% of those are new from last year (“Big school, little feel”)
  - Goals are to increase community engagement, participation, opportunities for families to be part of one of the groups
  - Staff finishing up 2<sup>nd</sup> round of updates that is sent to the district and the governing board
  - Attendees expressed appreciation about the sense of community and responsiveness of Rob with questions

Mustang Bucks & Treasurer's Report – Brenna Rheinheimer

- Classroom and SEP funding increased this month
- Last month the 5<sup>th</sup> grade camp check was sent out
- No updates to mustang bucks
- 2025 vs 2026: number of fundraisers this year is the same as last year (**Fun Run in 2026 took the place of Read-a-thon in 2025**); increased amount of donations this year versus last year; the number of fundraisers has not increased this year, but the donations are larger
- Accepting financials: 1<sup>st</sup> Riisa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jessica, all in support

Student Enrichment Report – Jessica Papariella

- Maggie reminded faculty to use remaining SEP funding, due date is April 3<sup>rd</sup>

- If funding is not used, it will go into a larger fund that will be distributed via google form and staff
- Kinder has field trip Feb 13th to assisted Pete the Cat in May
- 1<sup>st</sup> Fox in Feb
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Desert Museum and Shamrock Farms
- 3<sup>rd</sup> botanical in a couple weeks, Bisbee/Karchner in May
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pima air and space in April

#### Volunteer Coordinator – Kristin Michels

- Hoedown dance – sign up for tickets (link is on the google form), will send out donor snap link
  - Need help sorting tickets on Thursday (morning 8:00am in conference room or the library); the
  - Check backpacks for tickets

#### Committee Reports

##### Community Schools:

- Starting to plan Q4, anyone interested in teaching classes, will be open on March 13<sup>th</sup> registration opens March 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am
- Rodeo Break Catalina campout (4-8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Spring Break: going to Lake Roosevelt (opens march 11<sup>th</sup>)
- Finishing up summer registration opens march 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am
- New website for parents to sign up, rolls out this summer (would be a good to create your new account; is up on the website now)

##### Foundation Report/District Report

- TOY is May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Hacienda del Sol, taking sponsorships
- Teachers announced end of February, presented a check from \$45,000 for new teachers
- Openings for district board if interested

##### Miler's Club – will run up spring break

##### Gardening

- Farmer's Market was successful, about \$200
- Have been requests to support additional programs

- Kid-led for and donations accepted but not requested
- Working with curriculum and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will plan their garden, native versus non-native, desert adaptations,
- Donation for pavers for the garden, TBD happen over the summer

#### Staff Appreciation

- Jan: peaceful space for staff to recharge, wellness shots, avo toast, Pure Love Juice, and reed diffusers
- Feb: community potluck BBQ (sign-up sheet coming for more details)
- Staff Appreciation co-chairs are thankful for the FFO and community support
- Have a monetary link for people who want to donate \$\$ and can't donate stuff
- Molly Bates Johnson can help with BBQ for January

#### Yearbook & Spirit Wear

- Yearbook pictures
  - Need all grad-level candid pix within the next week or two
  - Scroll through parent square
  - New google form link to submit pictures per event/folder
  - Label 5<sup>th</sup> grade tributes

#### FEOTA

- 1pm meeting on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> next planning meeting
- Reach out to join the committee (Isabel Corres, Devon Inglee)

#### Cultural Night

- Will be separate from arts nights
- Highlight all the cultural communities at Manzanita
- Families are volunteering and engage with booths, crafts, dances, etc.

#### Old Business

- Parent Night: Soulspace (a wellness group) spoke in terms of reducing digital and turned into an open Q&A for parents to engage and discuss with each other about best practices; want to improve on attendees for next time (highlight on transition on how to prep for middle school). Marketing could help for next year – identify conversations parents want to have.

- Fun Run: did take the place of the Read-a-thon (voted on last year) and opted for this to work with the company to take off the load from the FFO; Mustang Bucks is for each student's scholastic experience at the spring fundraiser is for everything else that we pay for (staff appreciation, etc.); really enjoyed the fun run itself (maybe have other activities while kids aren't running)
  - Marketing needs to be better and compare to Read-a-thon (parents didn't understand, wasn't aware it was replacing, needed more info **"what", "when", "where", "why"?**)
  - Culminating event that parents can come to
  - Kids wanted to do "bigger" laps (is that possible with company)
  - Orange Grove Color Run at the same day – coordinate with them next year? Color Run is every two years.
  - Read-a-thon: donations challenging because kids get prizes depending on how much parents donated; anytime you partner with a company they will get a cut (Fun Run also takes a cut)
  - "Cover fees" for credit card donations Manzanita – that was confusing for parents, disconnect between what we're getting
  - Change timing so maybe around spring break versus January
  - Easier to ask parents/grandparents for "reading" money versus "running" money
  - A lot of "running" activities
  - Could we combine read-a-thon and fun run? Incentives for read-a-thon (maybe make some adjustments)
- Valentine's hoedown
  - Wrist band will include 5 tickets (rb float, glow item, bandana, pizza, and papa johns, beverage, snack)
  - Photo booth, horseshoe craft, DJ, ASO
  - Set up at 1pm on Friday
  - Need to email HS teacher leaders & OG honor society

### New Business

- District FFO
  - Working on enrollments and getting families to register
  - Job fair starting tomorrow
- Next FFO meeting

- Next meeting on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Presentation by OG principal (will be in the library)
- Motion to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> Riisa