



It is the mission of the Mansfield Public Schools, in partnership with the Mansfield community, to ensure that each and every child develops the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential for civic engagement and personal excellence in learning, life, and work within our local and global community.

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting

April 20, 2023

Council Chambers 6:30pm

Board Members: Kathy Ward, Chair, Susannah Everett, Vice Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, Edith Allison, David Litrico, Katherine Paulhus, Jeannette Picard, Kelly Zimmermann

In accordance with PA 22-3, this meeting will be a hybrid meeting. The public may view the meeting live at <https://mansfieldct.gov/video>. Additionally, a video recording of the meeting will be available on YouTube at "Mansfield Connecticut Streaming Channel" within seven (7) days after the meeting.

Residents who attend in person may speak during the "Public Comment" portion of the meeting. Public Comment from those viewing the meeting remotely will be accepted by email at mboesupt@mansfieldct.org or by USPS mail to Mansfield Board of Education, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268, and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting). Please email mboesupt@mansfieldct.org or call 860.429.3350 by 4:00PM on the day of the meeting to receive instructions for how to view, listen, or comment live.

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 9, 2023 Regular Meeting (P. 1)

COMMUNICATIONS Emails from Jonathan Sgro; Shelby Fuerst; Stephanie and Garrett Kernozicky; the Trindade family

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA

INFORMATION, PRESENTATIONS, AND ACTIONS

- Superintendent's Report
- German Exchange Program
- Mansfield Middle School Field Trip Request (M)
- Mansfield Food Services Update
- Healthy Food Certification (M)
- Mansfield Middle School Roof Project Update
- Mansfield Elementary School Building Project Update
- The Board of Education recognizes the retirement of the following certified staff:
 - Elyse Poller, Teacher, Mansfield Middle School; effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year*
 - Nora Dickinson, Teacher, Mansfield Middle School; effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year*
- The Board of Education recognizes the resignation of the following certified staff:
 - Kelly Villar, Teacher, Mansfield Elementary School; effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year*

NEW BUSINESS (if needed)

PUBLIC COMMENT

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Mansfield Board of Education 2021-2026

Mission:

It is the mission of the Mansfield Public Schools, in partnership with the Mansfield community, to ensure that each and every child develops the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential for civic engagement and personal excellence in learning, life, and work within our local and global community.

Core Beliefs:

- **Lead with equity.** We believe that children must be supported to learn and develop in a safe, antiracist environment free from discrimination, bias, and prejudice against all people where conscious efforts and intentional actions ensure equitable opportunities.
- **Develop the whole child.** We believe schools have an obligation to teach academic and social skills while nurturing the emotional, physical, and behavioral development of all children.
- **Ensure active learning.** We believe students learn best when they engage in joy-filled, empowering, intellectually challenging, and personalized experiences that deepen understanding of the world while building academic and social-emotional skills.
- **Build partnerships.** We believe engaging families and the community as equal partners is necessary to fulfill the mission and vision of Mansfield Public Schools.
- **Prepare global citizens.** We believe schools must develop young people to be stewards of their community, nation, and the larger world around them by instilling the skills needed to contribute to a peaceful society and sustainable world.
- **Grow educators.** We believe that providing an environment that allows for inquiry, supports risk taking, provides for continuous learning, and attends to the whole person is as important for educators as it is for students.

Robert's Rules of Order General Guidelines

As outlined in the MBOE By-Laws, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Board unless otherwise provided by the by-laws. Following are some general guidelines from Robert's Rules and the By-Laws that should be followed to ensure efficient meetings and the rights of all members, aid decision-making and allow all to be heard.

1. During any discussion, a member must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
2. A member will not be allowed to speak a second time until all other members wishing to speak have been allowed to do so.
3. Members should refrain from speaking a second time unless they have a new point to make or need to respond to new information.
4. As a general rule during discussion, comments should be directed through the Chair to the whole Board, rather than to other or individual members. All discussion is with the Board as a whole. Questions of the Superintendent or other non-BOE members making presentations should be directed to that individual.
5. Private conversations can be distracting to those speaking and should be limited.
6. During discussion, the Chair should try to provide equal time to those in favor or against a given topic or motion.
7. A majority is more than half of the votes cast, not a majority of the Board. For example: if only 7 members choose to vote, and the result is 4-3 in favor, the motion is adopted. Members who abstain are "refraining from voting".
8. If discussion on a *motion* is lasting a long time, any member can "move the previous question" or "call the question". They must be recognized by the Chair in order to do so. This is not debatable, and a two-thirds vote is required to pass. If two-thirds vote in favor of ending debate, the Board ends all discussion on a motion and then moves to an immediate vote on that motion.
9. Committee reports that recommend action should be submitted in writing. This allows for clear understanding of recommendations.



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Mansfield Board of Education Meeting March 9, 2023 DRAFT Minutes	
Attendees:	Kathy Ward, Chair, Susannah Everett, Vice-Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary (electronically), Edith Allison, David Litrico (electronically), Katherine Paulhus, Jeannette Picard, Kelly Zimmermann
Absent:	

The public may view the meeting live at <https://mansfieldct.gov/video>.

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

Ms. Allison read the mission statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were no corrections and no objections to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2023, Budget Workshop. There was one correction and no objections to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023, Regular Meeting. Ms. Ward indicated the correction the February 9, 2023, Regular Meeting is she left at 9:38pm.

Mrs. Paulhus arrived at 6:34pm.

Ms. Zimmermann arrived at 6:42pm.

RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATIONS:

Ms. Ward and Superintendent Dart welcomed Leonard Lockhart, First Vice President, CAFE Executive Committee and Vice President of the Windsor Board of Education to present the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Bonnie B. Carney Awards of Excellence for Educational Communications. Mr. Lockhart described Mansfield's submissions and the unique honor of receiving three awards at once. Margaret Chatey, Communication Specialist, described the collaborative, behind the scenes efforts put into the district's various electronics and print communications and programs.

Ms. Ward and Superintendent Dart introduced Mansfield Middle School teachers Nora Dickinson and Robert Burrington, along with three 8th grade students – Melia, Lily and Kyosimire – who explained their collaborative projects: researching, designing and constructing 20 elevated dog beds and baking healthy dog biscuits. Mansfield Animal Control Officer Rachel Leek received the donations to be shared by the Mansfield and Ellington Animal Shelters. The students passed out biscuit goody bags to the Board and guests.

Ms. Ward welcomed Mansfield's 2022 Teacher of the Year and Connecticut's 2022 Teacher of the Year, Kim King, to present highlights and photographs from her year-long experience representing Mansfield to the Board.

Superintendent Dart thanked the Board for their hard work and leadership and gifted a plant to each member in honor of Board of Education Appreciation Month.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Allison reported the Transportation Committee met yesterday.

INFORMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIONS:

Superintendent Dart gave his monthly report which included upcoming events in the district including the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) calendar launch, Peace at Home workshops and activities at both MES and MMS.

Superintendent Dart shared the proposed 2023-24 MPS School Calendar with the Board for a second read. Motion by Ms. Allison, seconded by Ms. Everett to approve the 2023-2024 Proposed School Calendar. Vote: Seven members in favor with Mrs. Paulhus in abstention. Motion passed.

Superintendent Dart shared many updates and plans regarding MES as well as the MMS roof project.

Superintendent Dart recognized the contributions of Mansfield Elementary School teacher Marcie Rudge, who will be retiring at the end of the school year and celebrated at the June Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Rochelle Marcus, Co-President of the Mansfield Education Association (MEA), thanked the Board for its support and gave a shout out to MES teachers as well as Principal Laruen Rodriguez, Assistant Principal Becky Granatini and Superintendent Dart for their support as well.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Ms. Allison, seconded by Mrs. Picard to adjourn at 8:14pm. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jil Corso, Board Clerk



Jil Corso <corsoj@mansfieldct.org>

MMS German Exchange

Jonathan Sgro [REDACTED]
Reply-To: [REDACTED]
To: mboesupt@mansfieldct.org

Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 9:09 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mansfield Board of Education,

I'd like to provide a quick message of support for the German Exchange program at the Mansfield Middle School.

Both of my children participated in the program: one of them 4 years ago and the other within this past year.

It is a unique opportunity for middle-school aged children and one of the things that makes our school special.

It has helped my children grow, give them more self-confidence, and provide them with a world-view and understanding of other cultures.

I really can't overstate how special of an opportunity it is – both with hosting a foreign student and for our students to travel abroad.

It even has an impact on those at the school who are not directly participating – as bringing the foreign students into MMS for the 3 weeks, gives the entire student body many life lessons.

Please continue the program going forward.

Thank you,

Jonathan Sgro

57 Browns Rd

Parent of current 12th and 8th graders.



Jil Corso <corsoj@mansfieldct.org>

Support for MMS German Exchange Program

Shelby Fuerst [REDACTED]
To: "mboesupt@mansfieldct.org" <mboesupt@mansfieldct.org>
Cc: Nathan Fuerst [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 3:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Members of the BOE,

I am writing in support of the Mansfield Middle School German Exchange Program. My daughter [REDACTED] is in 7th grade and returned from Germany in March of this year.

The German exchange experience impacted [REDACTED] in the following ways:

- - increased her mental toughness as she had to overcome the anxiety of new experiences without the direct support of her family
- - allowed her to experience another culture in which she was allowed more freedom to walk/bike on her own and with friends
- - helped her form new relationships with other kids and adults (her German family feels like real family!)

From my perspective, I am so glad that she stepped out of her comfort zone and had an amazing trip! She returned from the exchange sharing German history, cultural differences and similarities between our families, thoughts on the school environment, recipes for new foods to try and much more! I would highly recommend the exchange for MMS children and families in the future.

Kind Regards,
Shelby Fuerst
1924 Storrs Rd



Jil Corso <corsoj@mansfieldct.org>

Letter of Support - BOE Meeting 4/20

Stephanie Kernozicky [REDACTED]
To: mboesupt@mansfieldct.org
Cc: Garrett Kernozicky [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 10:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Please see the attached letter in regards to supporting thoughts for the German Exchange Program that will be discussed at this week's board of education meeting.

Thank you,
Stephanie and Garrett Kernozicky

 **BOE Meeting.pdf**
61K

To the Mansfield Board of Education,

We are writing you in regard to the German Exchange Program. We are unable to attend the meeting on April 20th but would like to submit our thoughts on the matter.

The most recent town newsletter had multiple articles about other cultures and stated, "let's ask ourselves how much we know about each others' beliefs" and invited that we start talking to each other about our values. Though this is a good start, the opportunity to immerse into a culture and experience values can be much more impactful, especially at a formative age.

The German Exchange (GEX) program goes so much deeper. This program truly opens the door to a world that cannot be replicated through books or vacations and teaches our children so many valuable lessons. Therefore, it supports the core beliefs of the Mansfield Schools by preparing global citizens and ensuring deep learning. Our son had the opportunity to live in a home with a German family for three weeks. During this time he was truly immersed in a different culture. He experienced going to a German school and the transportation differences, went to a professional handball game (local sport), as well as tried the local food. He liked the döner kebabs so much that we are going to try to make them at home! Most importantly, he enjoyed the trust and independence. He talked about how German culture leads by example and social expectations versus threat of penalties. Though he experienced the differences in cultures while he was there, he also saw similarities. We think this is important, as it emphasizes we are all human beings.

He was excited for this opportunity, but also very nervous and apprehensive of the unknown. Often times, when we don't understand something, we are hesitant, close-minded, or defensive. If we remove that barrier, which the exchange program does, we see something with a whole new perspective. Overcoming his fear and having such a wonderful experience has translated to being more open and comfortable with other interactions since his return. He has faced new or tense situations more confidently. This experience has opened his eyes to see there is so much to learn and explore. He now wants to plan a European tour!

We would strongly encourage you to approve the continuation of the German Exchange Program. It would be wonderful if there were additional programs available to other areas as well. These are the times to immerse our children in other cultures before biases have become ingrained. Let's allow our kids to truly learn and transfer those skills and experiences for the future.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie and Garrett Kernozicky



Jil Corso <corsoj@mansfieldct.org>

MMS German Exchange program

Ricardo Trindade [REDACTED]
To: mboesupt@mansfieldct.org
Cc: [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 9:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear
Mansfield Board of Education,

We are writing to strongly encourage you to allow the German Exchange (GEX) program to continue at MMS.

Our child, [REDACTED], was lucky to participate this year and it's no exaggeration to say that it was a fantastic growth opportunity for her. Although she had traveled internationally before, the GEX allowed her to experience an immersion in another culture. She got a first-hand view into how people from other cultures live their day-to-day lives, an experience that she otherwise would never have. She went into the experience expecting to meet stereotypical Germans, and she found that they are actually very relatable and we have a lot in common with them. She grew as a person.

Part of the experience was a day trip to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, which was a powerful reminder of what can happen when people don't demonstrate equity. This visit was a much more powerful history lesson than any classroom.

A big part of the overall GEX experience was for the children to manage their own schedules and make sure to keep up with their school homework while also participating fully in the experiences offered in Germany. This helped build discipline, confidence and good time-management. The children were very well prepared and supported on this trip by the two teachers who went with them, Ms Hunter and Mr Goffinet. They had months of weekly meetings to prepare logistics of the trip as well as emotional preparation for 3 weeks away from friends and family.

This experience helped [REDACTED] *develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential for civic engagement* as a citizen of the world. It is an experience that we recommend for any middle-school child who has a strong interest in this experience and the discipline necessary to manage their own time.

Again, we are strong advocates for this program. It has been a wonderful experience and we are thankful to Mansfield Middle School for offering this opportunity.

Thank you,

The Trindade Family

42

Monticello Lane

Storrs

Mansfield