

Middlebrook PTA Meeting

February 21, 2019

Lauren Feltz's Room

1. Call to order at 9.08am

In attendance were Hillary Morrissy, Laura Rowley, Amanda Patania, Annemarie Aronowitz, Ginna Yerrall, Lauren Feltz, Nicola Davies, Jackie Shaw, Kim Hall, Jen Acerra-Markey, Pat Mullhall, Lauren Yoon.

2. Approval of January meeting minutes: Motion to approve made by Ginna Yerrall, seconded by Annemarie Aronowitz.

3. Teacher representative report.

6 Green: We are excited to have Ms. Singer on 6G to teach math until Mrs. Valentine returns from maternity leave. She was previously part of the Extended Team, so has been getting to know the students through flex throughout the year. She has made a smooth transition so far!

6 Yellow: The sixth grade students are continuing community service efforts in either our school or our town this quarter.

7 Green: The team is in the beginning stages of our *Power of One* teamwork currently taking place during FLEX periods; we have had a ton of nominations for our *Inspiration of the Week* board

7 Red: Our student run Acts of Random Kindness group organized a celebration of multicultural special days. Students had a great deal of fun sharing family traditions and tasting foods ranging from chicken curry to Irish soda bread! Academically, students are seeing connections between classes, including writing an argument in science and learning about the culture of Senegal. Students enjoyed the recent Shakesperience visit, and look forward to reciting sonnets.

7 Yellow: The students utilized FLEX time to write individual reflections and goals related to being in the middle (school year) of the middle (middle school years) of the "middlish" (about the middle of public school years).

8 Green: student recognition system that we have had for two weeks now. The 8G GREAT students of the week. We are so proud of our kids and we are happy to celebrate students' good qualities.

8 Red: We are working closely with parents and students to generate the best possible freshman schedule for every student. After the wonderful work done by our first group of Student Advisory Council members, we are helping prepare our second semester Advisory Council members to step in and carry on. We are supporting and guiding students towards increased independence as we engage in their final semester at Middlebrook.

8 Yellow: Students on 8Y have been learning about Westward Expansion and the circumstances that led to the Civil War. Reading classes have been reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which they will have a Socratic Seminar on next week and write literary essays about in Writing. World Language students have been studying vocabulary, and the international food competition is slated for March. Science classes have been learning about climate and resources, and math classes have been working on various theorems, formulas, and/or equations.

4. Principal's Report

7th grade social studies holocaust unit starts next week. Parent event planned for 6pm on day Judith Altman is presenting.

Excited about box top competition and no homework night

5. Hillary Morrissy - President's Report

Recruiting for next year's board and open positions. All exec board positions are open except for Parent at Large.

Block Schedule – 8th graders will receive information on this soon.

6. Laura Rowley – Membership.

3 new parent membership and one extra teacher. We are at 354 members

7. Jackie Shaw – Treasurer

Money to CM for Scott Driscoll safety presentation

Science fair came in slightly under budget

Shakespeareance paid for

Will have \$40K at the end of the year for gifts and grants

8. Kim Hall - PAL

Budget – Documents are all online, budget presentation was lightly attended by parents

1.35% increase in budget for next year

21st Feb BOE will vote on the budget

3/25 Monday is the BOF public hearing on the BOE budget at MB auditorium

Regionalization update – unanimous rejection of the regionalization by the Board.

Bell Schedule – Upcoming presentations

Alternative school – Genesis – 25 students initially by referral. Meeting unmet needs. Catch kids before the failure point. Voting on it at BOE meeting tonight.

5-year capital plan – first one ever.

New graduation requirements – increase in number of credits.

9. Committee Reports

a) Boxtops about \$300 have been submitted so far. Plus \$100 in discovered boxtops at the library.

b) 8th Grade Dinner Dance – 2 meetings held. Next meeting on March 15th 9.30am. Going to the PGP hut next week. Currently last day of school is set to be June 14th. Date for dinner dance is likely to be 7th June unless we have another 5 snow days.

c)WYC – Community Conversation on 25th has been cancelled due to low registration.
7th grade Class Projects kicking of Feb 27th Comstock meeting 12 noon and 7.30pm
Thursday March 7th Wilton library the physiology of addiction, drug addiction on the brain, more information on WYC FB page or webpage.

10. Meeting adjourned at 9.56am