MIDDLEBROOK PTA MINUTES 3/15/18

(unapproved)

I. Call to order 9.03am in Room 205. In attendance were: Hillary Morrissy, Laura Rowley, Carolyn Lyon, Jen Acerra-Markey, Lauren Feltz, Nicola Davies, Lisa Finn, Lauren Yoon, Vanessa Elias, Cynthia Dempster, Sharon Kress, Ginna Yerrall, Diane Maclean, Meire Mouracade, Cristin Wallace, Lara Pachalidis, Jackie Shaw.

II. Approval of the 2/15/18 minutes – a motion to approve was made by Ginna Yerall and seconded by Sharon Kress. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Presidents Report. A proposed new version of the bylaws is available on mbpta.org. Members have 30 days to review the amendments before voting to accept them at the April meeting. Amendments remove all mention of PTA council which has been dissolved; all board positions can now be held by two people i.e. co- presidents, co-treasurers, co everything. Nominating – Meire has been reaching out to current officers and committee chairs to see if they wish to remain in their role for next year. All members of the executive board staying on next year. Open positions will be publicized when we have heard back from current holders, this will start around the end of March.

IV. Teacher Report – Tara Peterson

1. 6 Green and 6 Yellow: The three sixth grade teams are taking a field trip next month, each on consecutive days. Students will be exploring artwork at the Yale University Art Gallery, followed by a team lunch at On the Border. Permission slips will go out next week.
2. The three sixth grade teams will be inviting students to have a voice in a team fundraiser. Student volunteers will present (or have recently presented) worthy charities that the rest of the team will vote to get behind in next month's walkathon.
3. Over the past few weeks Team 6 Red celebrated students' last writing unit with a publishing party. Parents and family members were invited in to spend the morning reading and discussing students' fantasy stories. Our team also held their second "Just Because" breakfast - each quarter teachers cook a breakfast for about 25 of the students on team, just because it's fun to spend time like that together. By the end of the year the whole team will have experienced it!
4. 7 Green: April 6th a committee of students on team have created a "Someday Wish Day" to grant as many wishes as possible!
5. Our ARK group (Acts of Random Kindness) are starting a fundraising campaign soon to raise funds for Heifer International. Instead of just donating money, they are structuring a way for students to "earn" money to donate. This is completely student created.
6. We are celebrating our Box Top win with a no homework night tonight!
7. 7Y Students have had a variety of opportunities to do presentations for assessment including: poems for a Poetry Slam, special report broadcast for Social Studies, warm readings of sonnets and Macbeth excerpts, real estate listing website presentation, and fossil project poems, songs, or other style presentations.
8. 7R Students are beginning their Holocaust unit in Reading Workshop, wrapping up their Europe unit in Social Studies, celebrating their poem in Writing Workshop, and the present progressive tense in Spanish classes.
9. 8Y: Students will be taking their second and final PSAT for the school year on Wed, 3/21
10. Students in Reading Workshop are creating graphic essays on one of the historical fiction novels that they read.
11. Students in Social Studies recently engaged in fishbowl discussions about the abolitionist movement.
12. Students in geometry are exploring quadrilaterals, following in the steps of the ancient Greeks; students in algebra are learning about exponents; and students in pre-algebra are exploring systems of linear equations.
13. 8 Red
    1. Learning about the Civil War era.
    2. Writing Literary Analysis essays and Call to Action letters.
    3. Reading historical fiction pieces.
    4. Studying weather.
14. 8G Pre-Algebra students are beginning a unit on systems of equations, and algebra students are in the middle of a unit on exponents.
15. Mr. Brown is doing well as the Reading teacher on 8 Green. They will finish their historical fiction unit next week and then move onto a unit on the Classics.
16. In science they are appropriately studying the weather and factors that affect it.
17. In Spanish class they are getting ready for World Language Week and the Foreign Food Competition.

V. Officer Reports

a) Vice President – Laura Rowley: Membership – Currently 362 members, 48 teachers and 314 members ii. Stop & Shop Rewards. There are 213 cards signed up with $1734.73 raised in total so far this year.

b) Treasurer Report – Jackie Shaw Previous expenditures for the 8th Grade Dinner Dance have been sent to the chair Nicola Davies. This month financials reflect expenditures from the science fair that we will get reimbursed for from WEF. $500 has been added to zero waste to cover additional unanticipated costs associated with compost collection.

c) Parent at Large Report – Hillary Morrissy and Nicola Davies covering for Lauren Yoon Budget talk continues, yesterday Dr. Smith delivered two budget presentations to parents, both were lightly attended. Hillary encouraged parents to attend to learn the facts on the budget. On March 26th in the Middlebrook Auditorium, the Board of Finance hearing on the budget will be taking place. Community members have a chance to comments to the Board of Finance. Key club at the high school are trying to organize babysitting during this meeting. Discussion around parents not feeling informed about this meeting taking place (even though it was listed for 2 weeks in the Middlebrook Messenger). Asked if rather than an email, a robocall or text message could be sent out to parents. Board of Education Meeting on February 8th covered an in-depth discussion on the ongoing issue of student achievement in pre-calculus.

VI. Committee Reports

a. 8th Grade dinner dance – planning is underway for this event which will be held on the evening of Friday June 15th. Increased focus this year will be on expanding entertainment options for the students. Last year there was a lot of wandering around and not that much dancing. Pizza / pasta food will be offered, followed by a stage hypnotist show, followed by music, games (minute to win it) and candy bar. Event will run 7 to 9.30pm. Still seeking someone to head up the clean-up subcommittee.

b. Special Education – Disability Inclusion Month. Top Inclusion Models are coming in from the High School to participate in mix it up lunch when everyone is encouraged to move their lunch table. Student leaders are doing this each Friday already.

c. W.Y.C. Narcan training was well attended. Lang’s Pharmacy are able to prescribe and dispense Narcan for you. How to talk so your children will listen are full for this year. There has been a call for an evening session, but when they are offered, people don’t sign up in advance to attend and there is a cost involved for scheduling these sessions. Suniya Luthar – presented her survey results, spoke teachers and with boards BOF, BOS. Please visit www.wiltonyouth.org to see parent summary. March 20th – Managing digital devices and content, March 24th follow up meeting it will be held at the library. Please check library website to register. Warrior Council – parent night 19th April on Vaping. Liz Jorgenson is leading the event. Lenor Skenazy author of Free range is coming on April 30th. Event will be held at the library Color Run is on May 3rd 3.30, all middlebrook staff and students are free to participate. Registration is open now, on WYC and in the messenger.

VII. Principal’s Report Lauren Feltz welcomed School Resource Officer Diane Maclean to meeting to talk with members about ongoing student and school safety. Officer Maclean talked about her role within the k-8 student population. She delivers lessons across many grade levels: From stranger danger in 2nd grade, 3rd grade peer pressure & bullying 4th grade internet safety. In 6th grade 3 days internet safety, content is adjusted each year to reflect new trends. In 7th grade 3 days drugs alcohol and tobacco, opioid epidemic and how we got there – from pain pills to addiction. Officer Maclean is now in her 3rd year in the role, she constantly reviews and updates content and messages, she relishes the opportunity the role has given her to meet students on a one to one basis and to let students know that the police are there to keep you safe, not get you in trouble. Officer Maclean spends 65-70% of time at Middlebrook and the rest at the lower schools. Ms. Feltz spoke about the 3.14 school Walkout. Numbers indicated that 640 students participated in the walkout. Behavior was exemplary, respect was demonstrated everywhere, whether students chose or did not choose to walk out. Statements made by the students will be made public in the future.

Upcoming end of the year dates:

5/18 Six Flags 8th grade adjudication trip

5/31 lake compounce trip 8red

6/6 lake compounce trip 8yellow

6/7 lake compounce trip 8green

6/12 holiday hill trip all 8th grade

6/15 8th grade dinner dance

6/22 award ceremony (during school)

6/25 6th grade ice cream social

6/26 7th grade ice cream social

6/26 soaring ahead ceremony 8th grade

6/27 last day of school

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 10.45am.