

June 6, 2019 PTA Meeting
Library Learning Commons

- I. Call to order at 9:04am. In attendance: Jackie Shaw, Annemarie Aronowitz, Lauren Feltz, Chandra Ring, Hillary Morrissy, Donna Arnold, Kim Hall, Jen Acerra-Markey, Ginna Yerrall, Nicola Davies, Laura Rowley, Amy Gettler, Christin Wallace
- II. Approval of May 2019 Minutes: Ginna Yerrall made a motion to approve the May minutes; Jen Acerra-Markey seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- III. Teacher Representative -- not present
- IV. President's Report:
 - a. Slate of Executive Board Officers: Voting on the Executive Board as put forth by at the May 2019 Meeting.
 - i. President - Hillary Morrissy
 - ii. Vice President - Donna Arnold
 - iii. Treasurer - Amy Gettler
 - iv. Parent-at-Large - Kim Hall
 - v. Secretary - Chandra Ring
Kim Hall made a motion to approve; Jen Markey seconded. Motion approved.
 - vi. Hillary announced Chandra Ring as proposed President to be voted on at the next PTA Meeting (September 2019), at which point Hillary Morrissy would resign. This vacates the Secretary position, which will need to be filled.
- V. Principal's Report - Lauren Feltz: Wrapping up the year with tons of big projects taking place and Closing Houses are recently completed. Soaring Ahead and the 8th Grade Dinner Dance are upcoming. Thank you to the PTA for a lovely luncheon recently and also for the grants that have been funded.
 - a. It was brought to attention that there is a mandatory summer math packet for outgoing 8th graders that one team has not distributed in recent years. This starts students off on the wrong foot if they do not get it. Lauren will follow up on this.
 - b. Closing Houses -- seems to be some frustration and confusion about expectations of Closing Houses at Middlebrook (6th and 7th grade evening programs) and if it is needed, especially on the 7th grade level. Lauren had posed the question if they could do away with it and can handle it one of two ways -- could try not doing it next year or every team could have an event to celebrate student learning at some point in the year. There's a disconnect with only a small group of presenting students. Maybe parents should be invited in once annually for something each team wants to highlight and celebrate. Traditions are very important at MB as is some level of team autonomy.

There's a lot of work getting Closing House ready. Lauren raised this Tuesday with the Leadership Team for discussion on changing the format.

c. Lauren will sell house T-shirts that raise \$ for WEB program. One thing they'd like to do is be able to have parents pay for shirts online, something the PTA is able to do but Middlebrook is not. There's a transaction fee attached to that. Possibly it could pass through the PTA but Lauren would do the work for it.

VI. Officer's Reports:

a. Vice President - Laura Rowley: Stop & Shop has the checks raised this year. This amounts to \$2329.54 coming straight to Middlebrook, used for various happiness fund items.

b. Treasurer - Jackie Shaw: Currently the PTA has roughly \$77,000 with a reserve of \$20,000 that we keep on hand at all times. Expect to end the year with roughly \$6-8,000. Roughly \$4,000 in dinner dance expenses to come in still. Ice cream social and Soaring Ahead expenses also remain outstanding. All team grant money expects to be spent. 2018-2019 Gifts and Grants will all be spent by the end of the year. Fiscal year ends June 30, 2019 so must pay all expenses related to this year by that date. Please submit any reimbursements prior to that date. If anyone has made purchases that you aren't planning to submit for reimbursement please share anyways for budgeting purposes. If you have a receipt can write donation letter.

c. Parent-at-Large Kim Hall: Covers meeting from 5/30/2019

1. A new Teacher and Administrative evaluation processes are being proposed. Once federal government got involved student scores became a metric to evaluate teachers, but having test outcomes become a high stakes teacher performance metric is fraught and has not shown gains in student performance. The studies that show when teachers set goals, student achievement improves, however, that research precedes legislation and hooking evaluation to goals leads to teachers lowballing - thus overall student achievement since this happened hasn't shown growth. Teachers don't see connection between test scores and how to improve practice because scores don't tell you how to improve practice. Now, states have been given back responsibility. NY and FL have removed link between teacher evaluations and students' standardized test results. MI (25%), NJ (5%) and MA have lowered impact. CT has decided not to take advantage of any of the flexibility options of ESSA. That said, Each local district must have a committee in charge of implementing, here it is called PEAL (Professional Evaluation And Learning Committee) and is made up of teachers, administrators and members of WEF). PEAL prefers what new research says which is shared in his presentation deck. 30% decided to do Pilot program to test it alongside state program - even though it was a lot more work for teachers/administrators. More wanted to, but didn't choose all the extra work of doing both evaluation systems. 30% of Pilot Participants did survey (survey results are not on board docs, but 100% preferred pilot and 95% felt it would positively impact student performance. They felt it

would improve peer teamwork, student feedback and personalized professional learning. Presentation deck available on board docs. PEAL wants to present this to state as an alternative to the state for approval.

2. Continuing Ed funds - reviewed situation, recommended usages and recommended steps of how to handle on a go forward basis. Memo with key information available on BoardDocs.

3. HR Update: Reviewed goals and outcomes for the year. Deck available on board docs

4. Personnel: Margaret Sheehan retiring from Middlebrook (World Language) at the end of this year.

5. For each of these topics - you can find more information on: board docs (<https://www.boarddocs.com/ct/wilton/Board.nsf/vpublic?open>)

VIII. New Business: Peg Sheehan is retiring and Tom Koch will remain engaged administratively but move to the new Genesis School at Trackside.

VIX. 9:32am meeting adjourned.