

Middlebrook PTA Meeting April 12, 2012

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order - Media Center, Middlebrook School @ 9am
- II. Approval of March 15, 2012 meeting minutes: Heather Wilcaukas moved, Lisa Benison second.
- III. Principal's Report - Julia Harris: Poetry in Motion at Wilton Public Library - March 23 and 24, 2012 Heather Candels 8th grade English teacher and published poet spent countless hours reviewing the poems and working with the Middlebrook and WHS students on edits. Twelve Middlebrook students participated in the two nights of poetry, music, dance and art evening. Regie Gibson who is responsible for performance training comes to Middlebrook each year to work with the 8th grade students during a poetry unit. Regie's visits have been funded by QSP.
 - On March 29 we held the Tech Expo at Middlebrook School. It was exciting to see how the students are using technology in the classroom. I learned some new apps for my Ipad from a third grader! Tim Ley, our technology IL with Lori Ellis, our media specialist, organized the successful event for Middlebrook.
 - On April 2, we celebrated the Eighth International Student Art Exchange. This year our students exchanged artwork with students in Austria, the Bahamas, and Nigeria. During the International Art Show our music students performed selections from those countries and two high school students performed dances from the cultures. What a memorable evening!
 - We are all looking forward to the Talent Shows tomorrow. Janet Nobles has done an outstanding job of auditioning all of the students and planning for the event. There will be three shows and parents are invited to watch the performances.

- **Grade 6** Talent Show will be from 10:36 until 12:06. **Grade 7** Talent Show will be from 12:30 until 2:00, and **Grade 8** will be from 8:25 until 9:55.

IV. President's Report - Beth Johnson

Bylaws - Vote to Approve as Revised 3/8/2012: Lisa Benison moved to approve, Heather Wilcaukas seconded the motion, and the amended bylaws were approved.

- V. Teacher Representative - Rob Foley: 8 Green just completed their Immigration Documentary Unit. Some students played their documentaries at the Tech Expo. 8 Green students are working on creating a favorite character from To Kill A Mockingbird. 8 Yellow had a great trip to Philadelphia. Mrs. Rubin had her baby, and Ms. Evans is her replacement. 8 Red is in the middle of making a digital booklet for all the memorials found here at Middlebrook. This will be posted to the school website when complete. 7 Green is looking forward to their trip to the United Nations and then to Chinatown for Dim Sum on Tuesday, April 24th. 7 Yellow is in the middle of their Change Agent Meal so keep your eye out for some historical figures roaming the hallways today. 7 Red is beginning their WWII Unit and will be reading Anne Frank and The Summer Of My German Soldier. 6 Green is preparing for their annual Greek Festival. Students will be presenting Greek comedies and tragedies as well as fables on April 26th. 6 Yellow is looking forward to their field trip to the Bronx Zoo on Thursday, April 26th. 6 Red will be kicking off their Independent Student Project after the April break. The research will be presented at the Closing House on June 11th.

VI. Officer Reports:

- a. Vice President - Stacy Cramer: No report.

b. Treasurer - Lisa Benison: Waiting for 1 more custodial bill; has received 1 bill so far for 8th Grade Dinner Dance.

VII. Committee Reports:

a. Wilton Youth Council: Wilton's Community Conversation will be held on Wednesday, April 25th, 7 - 9 pm, at Trackside Teen Center. The results of the *2011 Survey of Wilton Youth & Parents on Underage Drinking and other Risky Behaviors* will be discussed. The event is open to all parents and community members and students in the 7th thru 12th grades. Pre-registration is requested (203-834-6413 or margaret.creeth@wiltonct.org.) Parent Connection will host an evening event on May 15th from 7 - 9 PM (venue to be determined). Our goal is to host a Transitions session for parents of 8th graders who have children moving up to Wilton High School. We are attempting to put together a panel of guidance counselors and social workers (from both schools), HS students and a professional speaker, Chris Brown, a psychologist and founder of The Parent Compass. If the panelists are unavailable due to other commitments (we are waiting to hear back), then Parent Connection will hold an event with Chris Brown on a relevant parenting topic, perhaps tied to the survey findings.

b. Nominating Committee: There are still some key openings. Parent-at-Large, Box Tops, Directory, 7th grade representative for dinner dance, 6th grade activity night, Weekly Messenger/website updates, and news/annual Middlebrook Messenger are all open. If you are someone you know are interested, please contact Dottie Jankowski, dcjankowski@aol.com or Michelle Doggett laceydogg@aol.com

c. 8th Grade Dinner Dance: No report.

d. Hospitality: Teacher Appreciation events will be held May 1-3. There will be a breakfast May 1, Lunch on May 2, and desserts on May

3. Food donations will be accepted for the breakfast and desserts, and a traditional salad bar will be provided for lunch.

e. Special Education: Kathie Snow spoke at the WHS on disability and inclusion. She spoke to about 600 students, parents, and administrators. Her presentation was videotaped by Michael Gordan and we hope to be able to view it is completed. TIM, Best Buddies, Peervention, and PAB all worked together to sponsor Kathie Snow's presentation. The "Spread the Word to End the Word" campaign went well.

VIII. New Business: None.

IX. Adjournment