

Middlebrook PTA Meeting Minutes 5/19/16

I. Call to Order- 9:07 am in MB Media Center- Present were: Jackie Jackson, Laura Rowley, Kim Lynne, Maria Coleman, Maria Wilcox, Pam Hickey, Sujata Vermuri, Mary Jones, Nicola Davies, Jessica Garcia, Vanessa Elias.

II. Approval of the April 21, 2016 minutes- a motion to approve was made by Jackie Jackson and seconded by Kim Lynne, approved by all.

III. Principal's Report- Maria Coleman

- A. We are honored to have so many parents who took the time to show their support for teacher appreciation week. The whole staff was extremely grateful. Leftovers went to the police department who sent a thank you note.
- B. It was a successful concert year here at MB. We had full audiences at each of the houses' respective performances. It was particularly compelling for the 6th grader parents to see their kids thrive and see how far they have come since starting middle school this year.
- C. We have an update on the outdoor classroom that the kids have been outside working and they have proposed a grant. The boy and girl scouts are clearing space for gravel. Next they will design a labyrinth with a wildflower garden.
- D. Maria was reporting back from last meeting that MB is part of the Fairfield Five per Chartwells manager Brian Reynolds. This group includes Wilton, Westport, Weston, Ridgefield and Newtown and shares best practices among them, particularly as it pertains to the high school, which does not participate in the federal lunch program. We are always looking to get organic food. We use fresh chicken and have switched to the natural Boar's Head brand for our meat and cheese in the cafeteria.
- E. Dean search is now complete and the district has hired Toby Kawulicz as our new dean. Tony brings years of pertinent experience and specializes in the use of positive behavior supports with a focus on students and collaborations. She will start in the fall.
- F. Maria announced that after three years as principal at MB, it is with mixed emotions that she is leaving in the fall. Her new position will be Director of Human Resources for the district. She feels it will give her the opportunity to have a broader perspective and more input. Thank you to the PTA who has helped both her and the school so much in her tenure here. She gave special thanks and flowers for Laura Rowley!

IV. Teacher Representative- Jessica Garcia

Sixth Grade

- Had a very successful walkathon on April 29th
 - 6G raised over \$4000 for American Cancer Society
 - 6Y raised \$3386 for Musella Foundation for Brain Tumor Research- they were also fortunate to have a grandparent of a 6Y student who works with the foundation come to share how donations would help patients and their families

- 6R raised \$1200 for Project Homefront
- Busy getting ready for closing house and wrapping up exciting interdisciplinary projects
 - 6G is assembling reflective portfolios for the team's Year in Review project
 - 6Y has preparations underway for the first ever student led conferences which will take place during closing house
 - 6R is currently in the midst of Independent Student Project- students are combining research, art work, graphs, timelines and creative thinking to form a wonderful presentations that will be shared at closing House
 - Closing house is June 6th

Seventh Grade

- In addition to continuing their work in the classroom, students and teachers in 7th grade are very busy with community and service outreach projects
 - 7G- working on Power of One Action presentations to be shared at closing house
 - 7Y- students have initiated 3 different activities to make a difference in the lives of others: 3-on-3 Hoops tournament fundraiser, an Autism awareness fundraiser and a fundraiser to purchase a "School in a Box" that they learned about during their trip to the UN
 - 7R- continues to work on ADOPT (Accepting Differences of People Today) where they are focusing on conflict and the role that fear and ignorance plays in the development of intolerant behavior. The project will culminate in scrap book creations that will be shared at closing house

Eighth Grade

- Very busy wrapping up curriculum and inching students closer to their high school days!
 - 8G - social studies working on current issues in immigration where students create their own bills to address unauthorized immigration in the US today
 - 8Y- students working on creative writing and letters to their future selves
 - 8R- students are performing scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
 - Lake Compounce physics trips quickly approaching- 6/2 (8R), 6/8 (8G), 6/9 (8Y)
 - Holiday Hill is Tuesday, May 31st
 - Inter-grade Capstone Fair is June 7th
 - Soaring Ahead is June 14th

We would all like to sincerely thank the PTA for all of the wonderful treats and meals that you made for us during Teacher Appreciation week- It was truly appreciated by all teachers. We are so fortunate!

V. President's Report- Laura Rowley

- A. Thank you- Teacher Appreciation Week went off nicely thanks to the Hospitality Committee and the teachers and staff all were so appreciative, with many notes of thanks shared.
- B. Gifts and Grants meeting on 5/9 was a success and it was good to see the students talk about how the different programs impact them.
- C. 6th Grade Orientation on 5/9 went nicely as the new students and their families prepare to join the MB fold. We may have some new volunteers from it too!

VI. Officer Reports

A. **VP- Pam Hickey-** no new news

B. **Treasurer-** Maria Wilcox

1. Financial projection completed for end of year results. We continue to have projected excess cash on hand of approximately \$17,000 to be spent on Gifts and Grants. This includes keeping a \$20,000 reserve on the books. \$20,000 is the amount of money needed to operate the MB PTA for one year.
2. Team grants communicated and/reimbursed to date are 6Yellow for \$188.06, 7Yellow for \$200.36, 7Green for \$264.44, 8Yellow for \$197.15 and 7Red for about \$200.
3. Still outstanding \$1,000 from WHS and \$500 from Miller Driscoll for Scott Driscoll presentation. Both has been notified of requests for reimbursement.
4. For Gift and Grant discussion see below. Total Gifts and Grants funds proposed \$16,590. Total Gifts and Grants spent thus far in 2015-2016 school year is \$10,893. Total is \$27,488. All gift and grant funding will remain in PTA bank account until the event occurs in the 2016-2017 school year. It will be presented in future financials as "restricted cash".
5. Only remaining past year grant amount is \$132.75 for Power of One. All other past year grants have been spent.
6. I handed out spirit wear orders to new 6th grade parents at 6th grade orientation. To date we have about 8 orders that will be ordered over the summer and fulfilled at meet the teacher day in September.
7. 2016-2017 PTA budget will be presented at the first PTA meeting in September.

C. **Parent-at-Large-** Kim Lynne reported, that as we all know, the BOE budget passed and there still needs to be a \$400k cut to the budget.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. **Nominating-** Laura reported there has been huge progress made on filling the PTA board for next school year, but we still need a few committees filled.

- B. **Box Tops-** The annual fundraising effort is behind in numbers compared with last year coming in at \$583 for the year, reported by Laura Rowley on behalf of Kim Rogg. Next year we will revisit ideas to tweak our strategy in this department.
- C. **Book Fair-** Sujata Vemuri reported it brought in \$5,728 of which the MB library gets \$1400. Going forward it would help if we got the high school reading list in advance of the fair and if we fine tune the schedule to avoid conflicts with the field trips that happened during the fair.
- D. **8th Grade Dinner Dance-** ticket sales start this week, the theme has been revealed to be the “Wild, Wild West” and the committee is doing a great job.
- E. **Soaring Ahead-** Vanessa Elias is getting the three dozen, allergy- free cookies and water for the event with a budget of \$450. Minimal decorations are needed.
- F. **6th Grade Social-** the ice cream has been ordered through Brian Reynolds at Chartwells and Jackie Jackson was asked to have the 7th grade social chairs do the same in the interest of time. Jackie will work with Laura Rowley to have an announcement calling all volunteers in the MB Messenger along with a sign-up genius link in the next few weeks for this 6/14/16 event.
- G. **7th Grade Social-** no new news
- H. **Science Fair-** Sujata Vemuri was happy to report that she now has too many volunteers for next year’s event but will keep all the volunteers in the loop to balance out availability of working parents and have all the logistics covered.
- I. **WYC- Vanessa Elias**
 - a. The Color Run was awesome in spite of the weather and will now be an annual event. There were 152 MB students and their families registered. The funds will support the WYC.
 - b. The Parent Connection Program is hosting two good programs for parents in the fall and they are asking for community help to sponsor these informative topics.
 - i. The Cyber Child: The Effects of Social Media with Chris Perrot
 - ii. The Price of Affluence with Dr. Sunita Luthar 10/21/2016 at 10 am in the Wilton Little Theater.

VIII. New Business

1. **Voting in New Officers-** a motion was made by Nicola Davies to approve, seconded by Jackie Jackson and approved by all.
 - a. President will remain Laura Rowley
 - b. Vice President will be Mary Jones
 - c. Secretary will be Chandra Ring
 - d. Treasurer will remain Maria Wilcox
 - e. Parent-at-Large will remain Kim Lynn
2. **Additional Outreach Funds Approval** - a motion was made by Maria Wilcox to approve an additional \$500 in outreach funds if needed for the remainder of the school year. Karen LaMantia would determine and communicate to the PTA if funds were needed. Motion was seconded by Laura Rowley, all in favor, none opposed.
3. **Gifts and Grants Approvals**

- a. Maria Wilcox made a motion to approve \$10,115 for student enrichment assemblies and workshops, with stipulation that PTA will hold funds due to the principal transition occurring next year. Seconded by Kim Lynn, all in favor, none opposed.
 - b. Maria Wilcox made a motion to approve up to \$750 for the Outdoor Classroom. Seconded by Kim Lynn, all in favor, none opposed.
 - c. Maria Wilcox made a motion to approve up to \$500 for the Artlinks Program Reception's food. Seconded by Kim Lynn, all in favor, none opposed.
 - d. Maria Wilcox made a motion to approve up to \$225 for Power of One materials for 7G, with understanding that its team grant will be used to make up the difference in requested amount versus approved amount. Seconded by Kim Lynn, all in favor, none opposed.
 - e. Maria Wilcox made a motion to approve up to \$5,000 for Visiting Author, with the stipulation that any author be approved by English/ RWW teachers and Media Center/Library, with final approval in the fall. Seconded by Kim Lynn, all in favor, none opposed.
4. **Dean Nancy Hasenauer's Retirement-** Nancy loved the brick the PTA purchased in her honor and was happy that one day her grandchildren will see it when they come to school at MB. There were heart-warming Dean Nancy stories that illustrated what a special dean she was and that she will be missed. As always, Dean Nancy shared some touching stories and choice words. A book, *The Giving Tree*, has been donated in her name to the MB library.
 5. **WYC** has requested funds to help in funding the two events highlighted in the committee reports. They have asked for \$250 toward the Social Media presentation and \$500 toward the Price of Affluence. The PTA will determine remaining funds this year and should be able to include \$500 in next year's budget for WYC programs.
 6. **Ambler Farm Day-** Maria Wilcox announced that this family event features music and promises fun will be held September 25, 2016. Volunteers are needed.

IX. Adjournment - 10:25 a.m.