

Middlebrook PTA Meeting September 20, 2012
MINUTES

- I. Call to Order - Media Center, Middlebrook School @ 9am: Beth Johnson
- II. Approval of June, 2012 Minutes - Aileen Senneff, Ann McCann moved, Sharon Kress second. Minutes approved.
- III. Principal's Report - Julia Harris: Welcome back! Thank you for all that you have done to help us prepare for the opening of school with the mailing of the first and only paper Middlebrook *Messenger*, the lovely Chinese luncheon during the walkthrough, the development and distribution of the Student Handbooks, the ordering and distribution of the gym clothes and spirit wear, the planning for the new fundraising efforts, and all of your valuable feedback.
We have enjoyed seeing all of you at the recent open houses and look forward to seeing the 8th grade parents at Open House this evening.
Reggie Gibson, the National Champion Slam Poet, visited the 8th grade students on Tuesday. He met with them in the 8 Y team room. The students were enthralled with his presentation and so were the staff! This event would not be possible without the PTA fundraising efforts last year. Thank you!
Did you know that we are celebrating Constitution Week with announcements each morning, and we will celebrate International Peace Day on Friday with an extended homeroom for a special video and the hanging of the peace tags in the front lobby?
The PTA Fundraiser Kick-off will be held on Thursday, September 27.
Our lockdown drill is scheduled for Friday, September 28.
The Math in Focus Parent meeting will be held on Thursday, October 4 from 7-8:30 pm in the media center.
Coffee with the Principal on "How to Navigate Power School Parent Portal and edline.net" will be held on Thursday, October 11 from 9 - 11:00 in the media center.
"Internet Safety" in November if the presenters are available. If you have other topics of interest, please do not hesitate to let us know.
- IV. President's Report - Beth Johnson: The school year is off to a good start, thanks in part to all who worked on PTA projects throughout the summer. These projects include (but aren't limited to) Nominations, August Messenger, Fundraising, Spiritwear, budgets and year-end financials, Photo-Day, and Hospitality events at the start of the school year. The PTA Council has a vacancy in the role of President. They are operating with the Secretary and Treasurer currently running the meetings together. An applicant for PTA Council President must have prior PTA Council position experience, per the bylaws. Per CT PTA requirements, the President and Treasurer of all unit PTAs must attend training and we will attend on Sept. 25th.

V. Teacher Representative - Tara Peterson: Thank you for the back-to school luncheon, and for the iPads, Macbook, and Apple TV. 6 Green is making tie dye shirts for team day, and have named themselves the "Shamrocks". 6 Yellow has transitioned into Middlebrook well and have voted on the "Lions" as a team name, with "learning is our mane priority" as their motto. 6 Red has decided on the "Phoenixes" as a team name and is working on their "Who am I?" posters. 6 Red also won the Tug of War and got the "Tuggie" award. 7 Green is working on 6 word memoirs. 7 Red is working in an online text on religions of the world. 7 Yellow is studying change agents. The 8th grade is preparing for open house tonight.

VI. Officer Reports:

a. Vice President - Stacy Crameri: We have 580 members already, 542 families, 38 staff. Including membership price with first directory purchase seems to have been helpful.

b. Treasurer-MariaWilcox: Our budget is in good shape, our reserve is covered. Our philosophy going forward will be whatever money comes in should go back out to support the school. Dottie Jankowski moved and Bev Hermann seconded approval of the budget.

VII. Committee Reports:

a. Wilton Youth Council: Parent Connection Presentation:

"Connecting with Your Kids: Learning the Language of Teens, Part II" Tuesday, October 2nd from 7 - 8:30 PM at the Wilton Library. Barbara Greenberg, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist who specializes in the treatment of teens and their families. She is co-author of *Teenage as A Second Language-A Parent's Guide to Becoming Bilingual*. Parent Connection brought Dr. Greenberg to speak to Wilton parents in December 2011 and attendees overwhelmingly confirmed they want her back. Please join us for what will be an informative and interactive presentation. Admission is free and reservations are highly recommended. Please register at www.wiltonlibrary.org. Parenting Book Discussion Series: Wilton Youth Council's Parent Connection will once again partner with psychologist and Wilton mom, Susan Bauerfeld, to sponsor a parenting book discussion series. We had a great turnout last year and are pleased to offer this to parents again this school year. There will be three to four discussions in the series over the course of the school year, which will be held at the Wilton Library's Rimer Room in the mornings from 10:30 AM - 12:00 noon. The first discussion will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 and the book is: *The Price of Privilege: How Parental Pressure and Material Advantage Are Creating a Generation of Disconnected and Unhappy Kids* by Madeline Levine. The

series format will include an overview/outline of the book and its major premise along with practical suggestions for how to apply the principles and time for questions/discussions. Admission is free and reservations are recommended. Please register at www.wiltonlibrary.org.

b. Hospitality: We have added a new member, Nalini Hague. Reiki restaurant donated lunch during back-to-school week. Next hospitality events will be Veterans Day November 12 and then Winter Solstice. The bus driver breakfast will be in January.

c. Fundraising: Bev Hermann: Innisbrook gift wrap fundraiser is in progress, or families can opt out and make cash donations. We can earn up to 50% of sales from Innisbrook. There are bracelets and pizza party incentives, as well as pig races. If we raise \$30,000 we will get an ice cream party.

d. Nominating: Michelle Doggett: We have no needs right now, but are seeking 5th grade parents who are looking to be involved next year.

e. Directory: Carolyn Murtha: Final open house tonight. After tonight, directories will be available at the front booth.

f. Photographer selection process for 2013-2014: the photochairs from Middlebrook, Wilton High School and Miller-Driscoll are discussing and selecting between Coffeepond and Lifetouch.

i. 8th grade class photos: Do we want to continue to provide at \$6 each, or \$2000 total? Discussion led to the conclusion that the PTA should no longer pay for this photo but the families and students should be given the option to purchase the photo. We should ask CoffeePond what alternatives we have for changing our contract which requires the PTA to pay for the 8th grade panoramic class photo for this year

g. Activity Nights: we need volunteers for 7th grade on October 19 (since changed to October 26th) and 6th grade on October 12.

h. Science Fair: Victoria Madden and Ann McCann: This year's science fair will take place on February 5, 2013, with a snow date of February 7th. There may be a need for PTA funds to cover copying costs. Kevin Moya was in the Top 100 in the National Fair for the 2012 science fair.

i. Weekly Messenger: Robin Paradis: We are finished with Just Between Friends, all PTA communications are now on Edline.

j. Volunteers: Sally Healy: Doing well.

k. Sports/Spiritwear: Patti Sylvia: \$3400 raised so far. Probably need two people for this job next year. Nancy Hasenaur has been a big help. About a third of the sixth grade ordered; mostly girls. Patti needs some advice on designing the team shirts. Dottie Jankowski mentioned that Patti did this job all alone, and it was our first year back with spiritwear, so many thanks to Patti on a job well done.

l. Reflections: Patti Sylvia: this year's theme is "Magic of the Moment". We are trying to increase promotion and participation.

VIII. New Business: none brought.

IX. Adjournment