MIDDLEBROOK PTA MINUTES 5/18/17

1. Call to Order - 9:03 a.m. in 7Y106. In attendance were: Laura Rowley, Kim Lynn, Kim Rogg, Maria Wilcox, Hillary Morrissy, Lauren Feltz, Mary Jones, Ronni Sayewitz, Nicola Davies, Ginna Yerrall, Jen Acerra-Markey, Lauren Yoon, Vanessa Elias, Yim Lai, Ashley Gentilozzi, Sayls Magnusson, Christin Wallace, Jackie Shaw, Natalia Ramirez
2. Approval of 4/20/17 minutes - a motion to approve was made Kim Lynn and seconded by Kim Rogg. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Principal’s Report – Lauren Feltz
   1. MB is currently wrapping up testing and has many exciting things going on.
   2. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is very meaningful for all.
   3. 6th graders loved the Chariots of the Sun storyteller. He provides an excellent example of what can be done as a presenter.
   4. 7th graders enjoyed Birds of Prey, an awesome example of what can happen when one finds their passion.
   5. 8th graders excelled at the Music Adjudication.
   6. Concerts recently took place at all grade levels. This was Mr. Meade’s last concert.
   7. Kathy Torre is moving on.
   8. MB recently welcomed rising 6th grade parents at multiple events.
   9. MB will continue to work on communication.
   10. Enrollment information was moved online this year.
   11. Today students have 2 opportunities to give feedback. MB sets many purposeful goals based on this feedback:
       1. The first is an anonymous survey open to kids and parents today. It will remain open at least a week.
       2. The second is not anonymous so that follow up can take place with the students. The last set of results showed a difference on building relationships between what students said and what teachers thought. Currently looking at how to help if a student is not strongly connected to a teacher or another adult at MB.
4. Teachers Representative – Ashley Gentilozzi
   1. All the teachers would like to thank the PTA for the wonderful food for appreciation that was offered to us! We truly enjoyed all of the delicious food and would like to extend our gratitude to all of you!
   2. The students at Middlebrook recently had the author assembly by Kwame Alexander which was provided by our wonderful PTA. Mr. Alexander was fantastic and kept the students engaged with his poetry, music, and his inspiring message of persistence.
   3. Grade 6:
      1. Six Yellow raised $5057.00 for the St. Francis Foundation through the Grade 6 Walk-a-Thon service project.  The director of the foundation visited the team last Friday to thank everyone and share how the donations will be used in various ways to help hospital patients.
      2. In 6th grade  writing and social studies classes, students are finishing up argumentative essays and enjoying debating their topics.
      3. Students are preparing to lead conferences with their parents celebrating their many accomplishments this school year.   The student led conferences will take place during Closing House on June 13th.
   4. Grade 7:
      1. 7th graders recently participated in the Birds of Prey presentation offered to us by the PTA. The students were so engaged and entertained by James Eyring from the PACE Environmental Center. We all learned so much about the birds of prey.
      2. 7 Green screened a movie called Every Three Seconds as part of the Power of One unit. We were the first school group to see it, and the Executive Producer was here as we screened it!
      3. 7 Red is presently involved in an end-of-year culminating project called ADOPT (Accepting Differences Of People Today.)
      4. Students are learning about people of different cultures and creating their own scrapbook of their research.  It is an interdisciplinary project including Social Studies, French, Spanish, Reading and Writing.
      5. 7th grade closing house will be on June 14th.
   5. Grade 8:
      1. We are wrapping up the year with our Capstone Project, focusing on Social Justice / Common Good.  The students will be preparing Ted Talks for their topics to the team.   We are also planning our field trip to Lake Compounce, which will be investigating amusement park physics.  All 8th graders will celebrate our graduation at Holiday Hill in Cheshire, Ct. on Monday, June 12th.
      2. A number of 8Y students successfully performed in the 2nd Annual Shakespearefest; students are now embarking on their final independent reading unit (social justice) of the school year.
5. President’s Report-Laura Rowley
   1. Received a nice thank you from Mr. Nicsaji on behalf of 7 Red and from 8 Green teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week.
   2. Thanks to Hillary Morrissy, Maria Wilcox and Amy Palma for their work on the Book Fair. It was well timed with Kwame Alexander’s visit.
   3. Thank you to the Hospitality Committee for their work on Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week.
   4. Open positions for next year include:
      1. One volunteer for the Science and Engineering Fair
      2. 1-2 people for Reflections
      3. Nominating Committe
      4. Fundraising Committee
   5. 6th Grade Parent Orientation took place recently. I spoke about the PTA and Spirit Wear forms were distributed.
   6. The Gifts & Grants presentations took place Monday. Students took part in the process as well.
   7. Stop & Shop A+ Program: This was our first year participating and we earned about $1,500 from October 1-March with roughly 140 participants. You do not need to re-register annually.
6. Officer Reports
7. Vice President-Mary Jones: 376 members
8. Treasurer-Maria Wilcox – no report
9. Parent At Large-Kim Lynn: Board of Education budget passed at town vote.

1. Committee Reports
2. 8th Grade Dinner Dance – Invitations have gone out. The event costs $25 to the MB PTA and tickets will be sold at lunch next Monday-Wednesday. There is usually around a 95% participation rate. It will be buffet style with a nautical theme. Still openings for 7th grade parents to chaperone.
3. Soaring Ahead will be June 22 in the field house. Each student is permitted 4 guests.
4. Box Tops: last submission is May 19. We’ve raised $1,100 this year.
5. Ice Cream Social: June 21 for 6th grade and June 22 for 7th grade. This event is only for students but will need volunteers.
6. Special Education – Carolina Corrigan: PAB has wrapped up for the year. Working to improve school climate at MB. Top Inclusion Models came to lunch. Website is pabwilton.com
7. WYC- Vanessa Elias:
   1. WYC was the very lucky recipient of the Wilton Women’s Club luncheon fundraiser of $40,000. This will be used for an additional layer of programming, a 2-year initiative targeting substance abuse.
      1. Social workers in grades K-12 will be trained by Susan Bauerfeld on How to Talk so Kids Will Listen, How to Listen so Kids Will Talk. They’ll then be able to offer this training to parents.
      2. DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) Training will be added to Health Classes for grades K-12 and will be looking for trickle-down effects
   2. There will be a Community Breakfast with Peter Gray on Free to Learn on November 14 or 15 discussing how kids’ mental health declines as free play declines.
   3. Michael Fowlin will be back around November 1, speaking on Civility.
   4. WYC will host a Social Media and Gaming talk for parents with Chris Parrott and Susan Bauerfeld.
   5. Lauren Feltz discussed that with Ready Access at MB next year, the school will have lots of information for parents to keep students and parents on the same page.6th graders will have a Digital Literacy course. 7th and 8th graders will do work on this topic as well since they will not have taken the class.
8. Retirements: As a thank you for their service, the PTA purchases a book for each retiring teacher so that they can live on in the library.
   1. Mr. Meade: taught for 29 years in the Music Department. The library will receive *Who Were The Beatles?*
   2. Mrs. Candles: taught 30 years in the English Department. The library will receive *For All of Us, One Today*.
   3. Mrs. Jaffey: taught 25 years in the Speech Department. The library will receive *Impressionism*.
9. New Business:
   1. Gifts and Grants:
      1. Annual requests (long-standing assemblies and the like) were all fully funded except for Shark Tank. The $300 team grant for next year can be used towards this and then it will be fully funded.
      2. One Time Requets:
         1. Project Adventure: Ropes course funding has never come from the Board of Education and touches all MB students. Over time equipment needs replacing and the standards change.
         2. Visiting Author: Declined as it was already approved in March.
         3. Outdoor Learning Classroom: annually completes projects to enhance this space.
         4. Onstage/Backstage: This group does all the AV for shows, providing a benefit to the entire MB Community. They need cables and walkie talkies.
         5. Chimes: currently Ms. Kelly uses an old set that was given to her. Her request gave two options of different sizes. To fund as many requests as possible, we are funding the smaller set.
         6. LLC Flexible Seating: LLC will use the overage from the $5,000 previously approved for the visiting author to fund this.
         7. Art Hanging System: This is a pilot for smaller shows and works with the rails at The Clune Center.
      3. The PTA has $20,000 available to spend. The total from projects outlined above leaves $1,470 left to spend on flexible seating around the school. This seating can engage the core muscles and help students stay focused. MB would also like some higher desks and is looking into ways to do this.
      4. Laura Rowley made a motion to approve $20,000 for grants as listed plus the flexible seating. Kim Lynn seconded the motion. Motion carried.
   2. Playground: Parks and Recreation is responsible for the maintenance of the playground equipment at MB. The equipment there currently maximizes the existing footprint.
   3. Zero Waste Initiative: Heather Priest is working with Wilton Go Green on this initiative for all Wilton Public Schools. She is seeking funds to purchase and screenprint the Wilton logo onto reusable sandwich bags at a cost of $1,670 for 800 sandwich bags. These would be sold for $4 each. MB would purchase these bags and allow CM and MD to sell them as well with profits returning to the initiative.
      1. Kids need to buy into this project. The current 7th grade curriculum in Family Consumer Science focusses on this.
      2. Lauren Feltz will ask Heather Priest do to an MB TV Interview to be shown at teambase.
      3. Bags will be sold at the walkthrough and at Open House.
      4. Laura Rowley made a motion to approve $1,670 for the purchase of 800 reusable sandwich bags. Kim Lynn seconded the motion. Motion carried.
   4. Voting in Officers for 2017-2018: Laura Rowley made a motion to approve the slate of nominees. Jen Acerra-Markey seconded the motion. Motion carried. Executive Board for 2017-2018 includes Hillary Morrissy (President); Laura Rowley (Vice President); Jackie Shaw (Treasurer); Chandra Ring (Secretary); Lauren Yoon (Parent-at-Large)
10. Meeting Adjourned at 10:21am.