

**Middlebrook PTA Meeting
September 17, 2015 - Minutes**

I. Call to Order – 9:03 a.m. in the Middlebrook Media Center

- **Attendance:** Jacqueline Jackson, Kim Lynn, Maria Wilcox, Pam Hickey, Jessica Garcia, Maria Coleman, Janel Cassara, Nicola Davies, Marina Campbell, Laurie Maggio, Jeanette Calabrese, Sharon Burke, Kim Rogg, Laura Rowley, Vanessa Elias, Johnna Reuter, Donna Savage, Janine Kelly, Lauren Yoon

II. Approvals

- May 21, 2015 Minutes approved – motion by Laurie Maggio, seconded by Kim Rogg. All in favor.
- 2015-16 Budget approved – details in Treasurer’s report.

III. Principal’s Report – Maria Coleman

- Thanked PTA for Welcome Back Lunch on meet the teacher day.
- MB has 1,020 students, 21 new to district.
- Two open houses for 7th/8th graders were well attended.
- MB is getting a new TV studio thanks to the generosity of WEF. Ultimate goal is to have a morning show that will be projected into the classroom. Hoping to find a club advisor.
- No Idling campaign to start – Recycling club to assist

IV. Teacher Representative – Jessica Garcia

6th Grade

- Sixth graders have made a nice transition to MB and are settling into new routines and traditions
- All 3 teams have tie-dyed shirts with their respective team colors to wear at next Tuesday’s “Team Day”. This day is dedicated to building team spirit, collaborative skills, and group cooperation. There will be a game of tug-of-war at the end of the day
- All 3 teams also busy planning their upcoming field trip to the Bronx Zoo in October. Look for permission slips to be sent home next week
- Please look to Edline to find useful team and class information

7th Grade

- Had a great night at last night’s Open House
- 7Y and 7R report that the students are off to a great start. They have participated in team building and team collaborative activities to start the year and they are quickly picking up on team expectations and requirements.
- 7G has kicked off an introduction to their team theme, “Power of One,” and have created goals in the form of footprints that they hope to leave on MB throughout the year.
- All 3 teams have also kicked off an exciting new initiative called the Acts of Random Kindness (ARK) group. They have already participated in activities to honor World Peace Day and a lunch group will meet next week to paint peace rocks that will be distributed to new students and staff members as welcome gifts

8th Grade

- Also off to a strong start
- 8Y was happy to report that a collective 435 books were read by students this summer
- 8G has been working on a community photo collage to build team spirit
- 8R has been involved in having students explore their team theme of “Odyssey” and what students envision their odyssey to be in a creative way. A gallery of museum and live performance creations will be viewed by students next Friday on the 8R team
- All 8th grade teams are busy planning for their Philadelphia field trips – 8R on October 29th, 8Y on November 2nd, and 8G on November 5th. Always a busy, exciting day for all!

V. President's Report – Laura Rowley

- Thank you to all that helped over summer – messenger, spirit wear, directory, hospitality, new parent coffee, weekly messenger, school photo and everyone who helped.
- Vote in Parent-At-Large, Kim Lynn. Motion by Maria Wilcox, seconded by Pam Hickey, all in favor.
- Still in need of a Secretary and Fundraising chair.
- Turnover shop needs volunteers.
- New email for Messenger - middlebrookmessenger@gmail.com. Submit Wednesdays for inclusion.

VI. Officer Reports:

Vice President - Pam Hickey

- Thank you to Maria Coleman for the newly painted basketball courts.
- Thank you for the recess equipment - kids are using it.
- New members 344 Parents and 27 Teachers
- Donations from membership drive total \$1,030 versus \$545 last year.

Treasurer – Maria Wilcox

- Presentation & vote on 2015-16 budget – See attached for proposed budget. Historical information was given as reference to past expenses. Discussion of budget ensued. Motion to approve budget by Janel Cassara, seconded by Pam Hickey, all in favor.
- CPA Ellen Essman prepared the 990 tax form. Taxes filed, and Maria will send a copy to State PTA.
- Membership dues will be sent in before next PTA meeting. By the end of September.
- Insurance bill – looking for will pay it before next PTA meeting
- Will send notice to teachers regarding team grants and unused prior years gift and grant amounts to be used in current physical year.
- At 6/30/15 cash balance was \$25,847. Restricted cash was \$2,719.32 and for the following: library \$1,016.21; Outdoor Classroom \$410.23; Power of One \$750; Maker Space Materials \$310.19; Kinding Club \$232.69. This leaves PTA with available cash balance of \$23,127.68. Reserve = \$21,000 which leaves \$2,127 which represent money not used by PTA on 2014-2015 school year. Discussion was presented about what to do with this money. Possible places to spend money – visiting author or 14-15 G&G Mavens grant. Discussion tabled until further information presented.

Parent-At-Large – Kim Lynn

- No BOE update.
- Volunteer forms are to be given to Kim.

VII. Committee Reports:

- Nominating – Open positions – Fund Raising, Hospitality (needs more help), Secretary
- Fundraising – Letter will be sent to parents. Laura working on the letter. No other sales for fundraising. Since there is no chair fundraising, dollars will not be tracked by class/color. No “competition” between the colors. No money given to “winning” color / class
- Directory – Directory given out at 7th / 6th grade open houses. Process is being created to get directories to 8th graders since printing was not done by 8th grade open house
- Box Tops – Last year the school received \$944 in box top money. Keep them coming in!
- Spiritwear – New process using Jot Form did not work properly. If anyone knows of someone who did not get their order please have them contact Jeanette Calabrese or Maria Wilcox for a refund. The site was shut down. Maria Coleman said extra spirit wear was given as prizes at a school event which was a lot of fun. Spirit wear sold at open house was a success.
- School Photos – all went smoothly
- Hospitality – meeting Tuesday 9/22 – budget given to hospitality
- 6th & 7th Grade Activity Nights – DJ all set. Photo Booth being worked on. Only 1 set of fun nights this year going on in the fall. Both have coordinators. Planning has begun.

- Special Education – Parent Night 9/19 Friday at library between 6:30 to 8:30
- WYC -
 - i. Y2Y with Tanya Leonard is running again this year
 - ii. Peer Connections – Sign-ups are open 7th/8th graders
 - iii. Parent Connections – Mindful Parenting – reduce Stress on Oct. 5th and Oct. 6th
 - iv. Crisis Resource Directory is no on-line on WYC website – www.wiltonyouth.org
 - v. Task Force is working on survey results – will be presented this fall
 - vi. They need volunteers

VIII. New Business

- Nicola Davies talked about Odyssey of the Mind – National Competition of 5th through 7th graders. Cider Mill is doing it. Parent meeting is on Oct. 1st at Cider Mill. MB currently has a science fair which is similar to this event. Cider Mill does not. Maria Coleman believes that it is hard to have both a science fair and Odyssey of the Mind. MB to see how it goes with Cider Mill this year.

IX. Adjournment 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully presented.
Maria Wilcox
Treasurer, MB PTA