

## MIDDLEBROOK PTA MINUTES 3/16/17

- I. Call to Order - 9:04 a.m. in 7Y104. In attendance were: Laura Rowley, Maria Wilcox, Chandra Ring, Kim Lynn, Jen Acerra-Markey, Sayls Magnusson, Nicola Davies, Ginna Yerrall, Kim Rogg, Lauren Feltz, Robyn Notaro, Sharon Kress, Ashley Gentilozzi, Vanessa Elias, Bill Gerundo, Christin Wallace
- II. Visiting Author for 2017-18 – Margaret Peterson Haddix has been invited as visiting author for May 14-15, 2017-18. There is a \$2,000 fee for the visit, plus travel expenses. Robin Notaro asked for \$3,000 for this program. The PTA has traditionally given \$5,000 to the library each year, paying for visiting author and remaining funds used to purchase books for the library. Ms. Haddix will do 3 presentations (1 per grade). Maria Wilcox made a motion to provide \$5,000 to the MD Library next year. Jen Acerra-Markey seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- III. Approval of 2/16/17 minutes - a motion to approve was made Ginna Yerrall and seconded by Kim Lynn. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. Teachers Representative – Ashley Gentilozzi
  - a. 6 Red has been using FLEX time rehearsing skits from around the globe. These international stories will be performed by each of the 6 advisory groups in our international drama festival this spring. Originally designed to be performed during World Language week, it will be delayed but the students have loved planning this team event.
  - b. 6 Yellow:
    - i. Permission slips have been sent home for the upcoming field trip to the Yale Art Gallery and Thali Too Indian Restaurant in New Haven. We're looking forward to the trip on Wednesday, April 19th!
    - ii. Students in writing classes are wrapping up their research based information books on various social and environmental issues and sharing ways that they can make a positive difference in the world.
    - iii. In Spanish classes, students are having fun learning about prepositions through the completion of a Dónde está Pacquito? (Where's Waldo?) poster.
  - c. 7th Grade:
    - i. Writing Workshop, students recently completed their poetry unit with creating unique books of poetry and then performing in a Poetry Slam. On 7 Yellow, a representative from each class will be reciting a poem in front of the whole team tomorrow during the team's Poetry Slam.
    - ii. RW, students have just completed their work with MacBeth and just completed writing original sonnets mimicking Shakespearean Sonnet Number 18.
    - iii. Spanish classes students recently presented Spanish videos of themselves doing chores at home. They had the chance to "boss" each other around as well as be the "victim" who had to do the chores

- iv. Social Studies students just finished up a unit on the Middle East by creating Public Service Announcements on the biggest issue currently facing the region. Then, students began the Europe unit with a discussion on the effects of the refugee crisis on the EU, the causes and effects of WWI, and how it led to WWII.
  - v. Algebra students are studying factoring. In pre-algebra students are starting a unit on area and perimeter of polygons and circles, and in Math 7 is in the midst of a unit on area and perimeter of polygons and circles.
- d. 8 Green
  - i. In Ms. Ruopp's RWW class students are learning the art of persuasion and how much advertisers utilize this in the industry. Students are writing persuasive ads on the most ordinary objects, like pencils and erasers, to showcase their ability to write persuasively.
  - ii. In Mrs. Festa's science class students are studying Newton's Laws of Physics and just completed the Shipping and Sliding lab in class. This lab examined the affects of various surface materials on friction and inertia.
- e. 8 Yellow:
  - i. French students celebrated Mardis Gras with visitors from WHS's French Club, and both French and Spanish classes are gearing up for World Language Week (Mar. 27-31) in a couple of weeks.
  - ii. Math classes will be taking the MAP test next week.
  - iii. RWW students recently completed an independent reading unit on plays and will be starting Shakespeare, as well as taking their 3rd (and final!) reading MAP test, next week. In honor of March Madness, there is a Best Book Bracket--only 8 out of 35 students' brackets made it past the first round!
  - iv. Science students will be building bridges next week and then testing them for strength.
  - v. In social studies, students are engaging in a series of rapid-fire debates, pitting historical figure against historical figure to determine who was most influential in the abolitionist movement.

#### V. MB Guidance Counselor – Bill Gerundo:

- a. Career Awareness Day is a coordinated effort between MB Guidance and WEF. The planning process for this March event begins in October annually. Students see 4 speakers, each speaker presenting three times.
- b. Kids choose one job in each of the 4 clusters of job types to see speakers in.
- c. Planners must be prepared for last minute cancellations from speakers.
- d. This is a wonderful day for students and nobody wants to see it cancelled; however, the school calendar does not allow a time to reschedule. There is MAP testing, field trips, planning for next year that make the timing an impossibility.
- e. The students and presenters alike greatly enjoy this day. Students have an active involvement in the day.
- f. Parents asked if there was the potential for a make-up day to be scheduled in the future. Logistically, this is not feasible.

#### VI. Principal's Report – Lauren Feltz

- a. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students won Scholastic Gold Medal for Short Story.
- b. There were 4 MB students that took projects to the state Science and Engineering Fair. Anika Bhagavatula moved onto the finalist round.
- c. There are 2 Girl Scouts working on a Music and Memory Program, working with dementia patients locally. They are collecting iPods and over-ear headphones to play music from the patients' past.
- d. MAP testing begins Monday.
- e. There will be more Brown Bag lunches scheduled. Long-term, they will take place roughly every 6 weeks. As a result of some hot topics, the first few will cluster as follows:
  - i. 3/20/17 11:30-1pm with the K-8 Math Coordinator
  - ii. 3/27/17 11:30-1pm with the Humanities Coordinator
  - iii. 4/3/17 11:30-1pm with coaches

#### VII. President's Report-Laura Rowley

- a. Harish Subramanian placed first in the state in the Middle School Literary competition for his piece "Who Am I?"
- b. Yearbook deadline is 3/17/17. Orders can be placed online and extra copies will not be purchased.
- c. Many PTA positions are open for the coming year. Please reach out to discuss if interested.
- d. The last day of school will be June 23, 2017.
- e. SOARing Ahead is traditionally the night prior to the last day of school.

#### VIII. Officer Reports

- a. Vice President-Mary Jones: no membership change
- b. Treasurer-Maria Wilcox – all looks good at present
  - a. The Science Fair should come in right on budget.
  - b. A reminder was sent to teachers about the \$200 team grants.
- c. Parent At Large-Kim Lynn
  - a. Students in grades 8-10 will take the PSAT in 2017-2018 in the fall and spring rather than MAP. This is slightly more expensive and slightly less time-consuming.
  - b. The Board of Finance meets Monday at MB to discuss the Board of Education Budget. Now is the time to share your opinions with the Board of Finance, in person or via email.
  - c. WHS was awarded a 5 as a CT School of Distinction.

#### IX. Committee Reports

- a. Box Tops - Kim Rogg – The contest was a huge success. A recent submission of \$780.10 was sent, bringing the total for the year to \$1,108.40. This is the first time MB has raised more than \$1,000 with Box Tops.
- b. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner Dance – June 9, 7-10PM. If you have an 8<sup>th</sup> grader that wasn't here in kindergarten, you should send in a picture of them.
- c. Special Education – Carolina Corrigan:

- a. The PAB has a new website <https://www.pabwilton.com/>
- b. April is Disability Awareness Month – working on a “Spread the Word to End the Word” campaign.
- d. WYC- Vanessa Elias:
  - a. College Frenzy program for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents has been rescheduled for April 18, 2017 at 12:30pm in the Wilton Library. Registration required. WYC hopes to make this an annual event.
  - b. How Much is Too Much? Will be March 28, 2017 7-9PM in the Wilton Library with Liz Jorgenson. Registration required.
  - c. Youth-to-Youth Color Run will return for the second year on May 4, 2017.
  - d. WYC was chosen as the beneficiary of the 3/30/17 Wilton Women’s Club Luncheon.

X. Bus Barn Lost and Found Bin – Asking for \$75 for replacement. Motion made by Laura Rowley and seconded by Jenn Acerra-Markey. Unanimously approved.

XI. Meeting Adjourned at 10:15am.