

# Middlebrook PTA Meeting March 15, 2012

## MINUTES

- I. Call to Order - Media Center, Middlebrook School @ 9am
- II. Approval of February 16, 2012 meeting minutes: Heather Wilcaukas moved, Jennifer Davatzes second.
- III. Principal's Report - Julia Harris: CMT testing finished, now in process of administering make-ups. Led by the language arts department, Middlebrook celebrated Read Across America-Pass Along a Good Book Day during SSR on March 2, in celebration of what would have been Dr. Seuss's 108<sup>th</sup> birthday. Students donated over 3,426 new or gently used books to support literacy and love of reading. The books were donated to School Volunteer Association of Greater Bridgeport area, and the United Way of Fairfield County for the Read to Grow Program. Student Government all set for 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Adaptive Sports Center Soccer Tournament on March 26-30. This is a perfect example of student generated and run fundraiser. Middlebrook will be represented at the 2012 Western Region Middle School Festival on March 16 and 17 at Western CT University in Danbury. 18 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus students, 4 jazz band students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and 4 concert band students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade have been selected to perform. 15 students will represent Middlebrook at the Science Olympiads March 17, including events of anatomy, bottle rocket, mission possible, awesome aquifer, and meteorology. March 21 will be 16<sup>th</sup> annual Career Awareness Day. Students have been studying career clusters based on CT state standards in developmental guidance classes and now have the opportunity to learn more from 65 local presenters. This event is not possible without support from the Wilton Education Foundation. March 29 will be the World Language Assembly rescheduled due to October snowstorm. "Sucari" presents the music of Latin America through interactive songs and games in Spanish. This performance reflects state standards for world language. This program would not be possible without your support through the QSP

fundraiser. Janet Nobles will be organizing talent show, most likely the Friday before April break.

IV. President's Report - Beth Johnson

Bylaws approved by State PTA and will be posted on Edline for 1 month. Vote to approve will be at next meeting 4/12/12. All PTA positions: please review accuracy of your job description for future reference. Tax rate increase: BOE meeting 3/22/12. BOF public hearing on BOE budget is Monday 3/26/12 7:30 at Middlebrook. Please vote (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May). Heather Wilcaukas to verify time/location of meeting. 2.1% increase in budget will translate to equivalent increase in mil rate. There is a graphic organizer of budget breakdown on Edline.

V. Teacher Representative - Rob Foley

Thanks for tea in mailboxes! MB student government hosting adaptive PE activity. Shifting from testing to team activities.

8 Green: Will be starting our team project in which students will create a documentary on immigration.

8 Yellow: Headed to Philadelphia on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

8 Red: Will hold a "Joint Session of Congress" to debate a proposed bill calling for community service as a requirement for a high school diploma.

7 Yellow: Will be kicking off their Change Agents Unit next week.

7 Red: Will be starting their Tolerance of Differences team project next week.

6 Green: Will be starting a poetry unit and will be presenting their work at a special team meeting after they finish the unit.

6 Yellow: Will hold their "Mysteries of Egypt" day on Friday March 30<sup>th</sup> where they will present their museum artifacts.

The school wide Three-On-Three tournament was a huge success with approximately 60 students participating over 2 weeks.

VI. Officer Reports:

- a. Vice President - Stacy Crameri: 323 members, down 23 from last year. Still a couple of board members who have not joined. \$2700 net to PTA through donations and membership in membership drive.
- b. Treasurer - Lisa Benison: Financials provided. Hospitality may have some outstanding receipts. \$400 custodial invoice outstanding from 6<sup>th</sup> grade activity night.

VII. Committee Reports:

- a. Wilton Youth Council Nancy Gany: Task Force to Reduce Underage Substance Abuse is meeting this Thursday with Dr. Richards, school principals, and other invited individuals for a presentation by Archie Swindoll the researcher, to present on the new survey data. The data is out, but has not yet been made public. The task force intends to use the data for social norming in a powerful way; i.e., instead of saying that 60% are using alcohol, emphasis will be placed on the fact that 40% have chosen not to use. Follow up efforts will include a committee to organize a Community Conversation with a panel and discussions to be held in the spring. Information will be posted on Positive Directions' website.
  - i. WYC is still in need of volunteers, especially in the areas of marketing, fundraising, and some leadership roles. Please contact Joanna Copley at [jlcopley77@aol.com](mailto:jlcopley77@aol.com) or 834-0053.
- b. Nominations - Michelle Doggett: Please forward names.

- c. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner Dance, Janye/Callie: Theme was approved. Food committee and Entertainment have booked food and DJ. Decorations are in process, all committees working. Looking for creative people to work with decorating committee to help design areas. Need help decorating before and cleanup after, date is June 8.
- d. Hospitality Teacher Appreciation May 1-3 breakfast, lunch, dessert plans all in place.
- e. Spiritwear: still working with rep to decide what items to sell. A few changes are in the works such as boys' shorts style, location of nameplates, etc.
- f. Science Fair: Four students presented their research at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Science. Alex Scaperotta received 3<sup>rd</sup> honors in 8<sup>th</sup> grade life science for his investigation on "The Power of Suggestion: Flavor." Jessica Kobsa took home 2<sup>nd</sup> honors in 8<sup>th</sup> grade life science for her study on "The Great Plains of Change." Mishil Nana was awarded finalist 1<sup>st</sup> honors in 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical science and went on to garner the Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford Junior Project Award. Mishil also placed in the top 10 for 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical science in the Dominion's Millstone Power Station Physical Science Award for his project on "Material Density vs. Angle of Refraction." Kevin Moya was awarded finalist 1<sup>st</sup> honors in 7<sup>th</sup> grade physical science and placed in the top 10 of all middle and high school students in the CT Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority Alternative/Renewable Energy Award. For the overall fair award, Kevin placed 2nd for 7th grade physical science in the Dominion's Millstone Power Station Physical Science Award for his project on "Improving Efficiency of Solar Energy: Effect of Magnification, Tilt-Angle, and Temperature on the Power Output of a Silicon Solar Cell". Kevin was asked to compete in the Broadcom MASTERS national invitational science competition for middle schools in Washington, D.C. later this year.

g. Special Education - Patti Sylvia/Fran Monro: For disability awareness month TIM is promoting a "Spread the word to End the Word" campaign on March 22 at the HS. We have a pledge that students will sign saying that will not use the R word and then we will hand out a fortune cookie with a inclusion message in it and a sticker with our R logo on it. Then after school on that day we will be having a bake sale at Village Market to raise money for Kathie Snow (a motivational speaker on disability and inclusion) who we are bring to the district April 4 and 5th. Final dates are yet to be determined. There will be an evening session open to the public on one of those days. At the bake sale they will also be asking everyone to sign the r word pledge. So please ask everyone to go to the VM and get to buy a great treat and sign the pledge! Also planned for disability awareness month is daily announcement at the HS with a different, short message each day with a fact about disabilities over the PA system. We talked about doing this at MB too.

h. New Business None brought.

VIII. Old Business: School Directory will continue to be printed and sold as in years past. Online/e-versions are being looked into as we struggle to find means to gather information, password protect it, and protect the funds raised through sales of the hard copies. No district wide directory is planned as the principals/presidents of the various schools are struggling to come to agreement over the various aspects of size, etc. "Baby steps" to streamline production are being investigated because currently each school has an independent system/file/format/etc. PTA Council is addressing this issue amongst the schools.

IX. Adjournment