

Middlebrook PTA Meeting Minutes 3/17/16

I. Call to Order 9:03 am in Middlebrook Media Center. In attendance: Jacqueline Jackson, Pam Hickey, Kim Lynne, Maria Wilcox, Maria Coleman, Jeanette Calabrese, Vanessa Elias, Kim Rogg

II. Approval of Feb 18, 2016 minutes - motion to approve by Kim Lynn, Maria Wilcox seconded. None opposed.

III. Principal's Report- Maria Coleman

- A. Career Day was highlighted by over 10 members of the community, very successful!
- B. School Climate- MB "Hidden Gems" performance in the main lobby Fridays 7:45-8:15 am showcase of student's hidden talents.
- C. Jordan Sonnenblick was cancelled for today due to illness, will reschedule.
- D. MB reading teacher Tom Koch did a TED talk, proud of him!
- E. World Language week starts at the end of this month with an assembly. The event will culminate with a "Top Chef World Language" competition where students creating international dishes which include apps, main dishes and desserts on Wed 3/28/16.

IV. Teacher Representative- Jess Garcia

V. President's Report- Laura Rowley (given by Pam Hickey in Laura's absence)

- A. Today we are presenting our proposed, new bylaws. We are required to review our bylaws every few years. Using the national PTA guidelines and template, we made a revised set. These have been approved by CT PTA, and are now presented for review until our next meeting in April, during which we will vote on approving the new bylaws.
Main differences between the existing and proposed bylaws
 - a. All check *requests* over \$2,000 must be signed by Treasurer and President
 - b. Board can approve unbudgeted funds up to \$500/year [previously there was no dollar amount listed]
 - c. Our quorum for general meetings is now 8 [previously it was a simple majority of members present]
 - d. There are two entirely new sections: Articles XVII (Continuing Affiliation) and XIX (Whistleblower Policy). Continuing Affiliation ensures we stay in good standing by sending in appropriate documentation and fees on a timely basis. In addition it requires updating the bylaws every 3 to 5 years, and that the President and Treasurer receive training. None these requirements are really new, but are being clarified by inclusion of this section. The Whistleblower Policy clarifies actions to be taken in the event someone reports an ethics violation, and further encourages open communication.
- B. Funding Update: Scott Discoll cyber safety program made possible with funding support by Cidermill PTA (\$500) , Miller Driscoll PTA (\$500), and Wilton High School (\$1,000) for a total of \$2,000, thank you!
- C. Nominations – talk to Laurie Maggio about interest in a role for next year.

- D. March 28, 2016 BOE Budget Hearing 7:30 pm at Middlebrook- it is important for everyone to come out and make their voice known, babysitting is available!
- E. Gifts and Grants – we will vote on them in May. The kids will assist in presenting ideas for consideration, which is a great way to see the impact programs have on them.