

MIDDLEBROOK PTA MINUTES 2/16/17

- I. Call to Order - 9:04 a.m. in Media Center. In attendance were: Laura Rowley, Maria Wilcox, Chandra Ring, Margot Levy, Kim Rogg, Ginna Yerrall, Jenn Acerra-Markey, Nicole Stacy, Nicola Davies, Mary Jones, Laura Schwemm, Lauren Feltz, Sharon Kress, Laime Hattenbach, Ashley Gentilozzi, Sujata Vermuri, Salys Maguson, Carolyn Harter-Lyon, Victoria Kantor, Beth Caswell, Surbhi Madhavaw,
- II. Approval of 1/19/17 minutes - a motion to approve was made Laura Rowley and seconded by Kim Rogg. Motion carried unanimously.
- III. Principal's Report – Lauren Feltz
 - a. Began sending Tuesday Newsday weekly email updates. These will continue most weeks.
 - b. Roughly 120 students participated in the Science and Engineering Fair, our largest fair ever. This was rolled out at the Team level. Thanks to our chairs, Sujata Vemuri and Ritu Malik, and WEF, event sponsor, for this wonderful event. Anika Bhagavatula won Best in Fair for the second year in a row.
 - c. Math Counts Club had 10 kids participated in an event at Fairfield University and now move on to University of Hartford on March 11.
 - d. Debate Club hosted 63 teams on January 28 in a very smoothly run competition. MB took 4th place at the event.
 - e. There will be Cub Scouts collecting used iPods and headphones next month. They'll put music from dementia patient's youth on them for patients in Wilton for a program called "Music in Memory"
 - f. We are midway thru the month of Box Top Collections for our color with the most to win a night free of homework. This competition ends on 2/24.
 - g. Following up on the homework conversation from last month, there is continued work on the questions raised and on developing a document about homework at each grade level.
 - h. Date for first Brown Bag Luncheon is out. If there are specific people it would be helpful to have co-host these luncheons, please reach out with names so they can be invited.
- IV. Teacher Representative-Ashley Gentilozzi
 - a. 6G students became journalists and reported on important local events in Writing Workshop. They selected topics they felt were newsworthy and conducted interviews before reporting out to the team.
 - b. In Social Studies, 6G students are beginning their presentations on their research on southern Europe, past and present.
 - c. 6Y students are in the midst of an interdisciplinary research project connecting their reading, writing and social studies classes. For this "Make a Difference" project, students chose a social or environmental issue that they cared deeply for and had questions about. Since then, they have been collecting relevant information from different types of reliable sources using a variety of note-taking strategies. The purpose is for students to become thoroughly informed

about their issues in order to craft an informational chapter as part of a 6 Yellow Team book. In addition to the book, students will create social and environmental awareness posters to display in the team pod. Ultimately, the children will be able to explore options for taking action in order to make a difference in the world. Their contributions will lead into our plans for the sixth grade Walkathon service project in the spring.

- d. The 7th grade Reading Workshop classes recently had Shakesperience come and perform for their classes. The teachers wanted to thank the PTA for this wonderful opportunity for the students. After speaking with a few students, they told me that this performance made them more enthusiastic about learning about Shakespeare and made the learning accessible and fun for them.
- e. 7Y Spanish students are making connections with their learning from various team classes. They created storylines in Spanish connected with their focus books in Reading/Writing Workshop. Students also created earthquake preparedness brochures to connect with the learning in Science class.
- f. The 7 Green team just had a fundraiser for Heifer International that was completely run by students. The students were passionate, dedicated and very organized! We are quite proud of how they embraced the work.
- g. 7G had several students participate in the Middlebrook Science Fair and several even "placed" in their division.
- h. In Social Studies 7R finished up a unit on Africa and started a unit on the Middle East. Students are analyzing specific issues and conflicts in the region using a variety of secondary and primary sources including images, maps, and political cartoons.
- i. All 7th grade science students are building models of seismic safe buildings this month and testing them at our shake table.
- j. **8 RED SERVICE CLUB:** 8RED students and staff will soon be offering their services to the Middlebrook community at large doing "odd jobs" for teams and staff. We kicked this service project off with a very successful 'SERVICE STARTS AT HOME' work day where we performed room recoveries, Chromebook cart refurbishing, and alcove interior decorating.
- k. In 8Y, students just wrapped up a very timely unit on weather. RWW & Social Studies are teaming up for the 2nd half of February on a Protest Song Project to tie together music, lyrics, research and social justice. In French, WHS French Club members will be visiting French classes to celebrate Mardi Gras.

V. President's Report-Laura Rowley

- a. Thank you to our Science Fair chairs for incorporating this event into teams and classes in a wonderful way and for running such a successful event.
- b. Thank you to the MB Community for their generosity in supporting the Bergen family with an array of gift cards following a house fire.
- c. Yearbook sales thru the Yearbook Photography Club. Orders are due by 3/17/17 for June delivery.
- d. 143 people are registered for the Stop & Shop A+ program. Thus far, this has brought in almost \$1,000.00 this year to MB.
- e. There's lots of opportunity to volunteer next year if you are interested.

- f. The Art Department is looking for volunteers to do matting.

VI. Officer Reports

- a. Vice President-Mary Jones: 372 total members (1 new member)
- b. Treasurer-Maria Wilcox – all looks good at present
- c. Parent At Large-Kim Lynn
 - 1. We're currently in budget season, encouraging everyone to look at the budget presentation and Board of Education questions online.
 - 2. We do not have final numbers from the state yet, but have heard 2.4-4 million dollars in cuts from the state are potential. The town budget is voted on before we have state numbers.
 - 3. Many costs are contractually bound so a 0% budget encompasses many cuts from the school budget.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Box Tops - Kim Rogg – Deadline for the color drive for a night off from homework is 2/24/17. We've already collected \$440.80 from this month-long drive.
- b. 7th Grade Movie Night – about 75 kids attended this first-time event. These kids were shown Finding Dory, after voting from what to watch.
- c. Special Education – Carolina Corrigan:
 - a. The PAB will host Attorney Bet Gailor from CT legal services on March 30, 10am-12Noon at the Wilton Library. She will discuss ADA and Section 504.
 - b. The transition sheet and survey is being finalized in coming weeks for distribution to parents asap.
- d. WYC- Vanessa Elias:
 - a. WYC redid their website. Check it out at www.wiltonyouth.org
 - b. Delay Your Gray – 3/7/17
 - c. Youth-to-Youth Color Run will return for the second year on May 4, 2017.
 - d. Peer Connection – still time to register your 7th or 8th grader. Kickoff and all-day retreat will take place 2/25/17.
- e. 8th Grade Dinner Dance – had kick-off meeting. Continues to need volunteers.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 9:32 a.m.