

Middlebrook
PTA
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January 19, 2012 Minutes of Board Meeting

- I. **Call to order, Media Center, Middlebrook School at 9:15 am.**
- II. **Minutes** from the November 17, 2011 meeting approved.
- III. **Principal's Report** – (Julia Harris) Good Morning everyone. Thank you to the phenomenal Hospitality Committee for the lovely Winter Solstice and Blue Ribbon Reception Events. Eighth grade students beginning High School registration process. Looking forward to the Science Fair. Thank you to Victoria for all of her work preparing for that and all the extra help sessions and behind the scenes work in preparation for the Fair. Coffee with the Principal on Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the Middlebrook Media Center to discuss Internet Safety. Presented by Senior Assistant State's Attorney Richard Colangelo, Sergeant Matt Brodacki, Weston Police Department with Rich Ross, School Resource Officer, Wilton Police Department, and Matt Hepfer, Director, Wilton Technology Department. RSVP 203-762-8388 x5272. Middlebrook School has received nine Scholastic Art Awards. We received more awards than any other middleschool in the state. A panel of 30 judges reviewed and judged submitted art-work from over 130 schools, totaling 1,500 entries. Middlebrook winning students are: Albert Cai, Sean Cunningham, Jeromy Digiacomio, Katherine Kandiew, Sadaf Khan, Dean Kim, Emelia Miller, Sarah Perry, and Julia Siewart. Winning categories were in design, drawing, film and animation, mixed media and painting. The winning art-work is currently on exhibit at the Joseloff Gallery at the University of Hartford. Awards will be presented Sunday, January 29th in the Lincoln Theatre at the University of Hartford. I saw some of the artwork and it is unbelievable what these students are able to do. It is a testament to our art teachers. January 26th at 7:00 in the Middlebrook cafeteria is the Public Hearing on the Superintendent's recommended budget.
- IV. **President's Report** (Beth Johnson) Bylaws had slight changes in formatting and an amendment regarding conflict of interest was added. Bylaws approved. After the Superintendent's Public Hearing there will be a joint PTA/PTSA on January 30th at Cider Mill from 9:15 – 10:45. It is a meeting for all parents to meet with the Superintendent to discuss the budget. The Board of Education will vote on February 9th. PTA council

considering proposals along with Coffee Pond Photography for 2013 student photographs. Also looking into revamping how the Middlebrook Directory is compiled. Just Between Friends is a viable option if everyone signed up. Council has a few positions to be filled next year: Budget Position which entails attending the Budget meetings and presenting to the Middlebrook PTA to keep them informed, and a possible Council position to be announced at a later date.

- V. Teacher Representative - (Rob Foley)** In March there will be a school wide 3 on 3 basketball tournament for charity – teachers vs students. This year the students will select the charity.

8 Green: Would like to congratulate Dan Jensen on winning the School Geography Bee. Students will have the opportunity to partake in a Mystery Writing Contest to enrich the experience of our Sherlock Holmes novel and...we are wrapping up the Great Debates.

8 Red: Also wrapping up the Great Debates and Sue Graybill will be hosting a tea party to enhance the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

8 Yellow: Also finishing up the Great Debates

7 Green: Would like to congratulate their Geography Bee Finalist Cole Lipsky

7 Yellow: Covering Shakespeare, volcanoes, Latin America, the 1960's, verb form, and the always enjoyable Probability.

7 Red: Working on their service project to support St. Jude's Hospital and are deeply involved with Macbeth.

6 Green: The students have selected an author to study for their Author Expedition Project which will start in early February and have begun their study of Ancient Egypt to prepare for their annual King Tut Tomb which will open before February Break.

6 Yellow: Just finished a calendar project to showcase "The Rhythm of Their Everyday Life" with illustrations in Spanish. They are also working on a poetry unit that will culminate in a Poetry Night in February.

6 Red: Students will be creating masks as part of their study of Ancient Egypt. They would like to congratulate Maggie Robertson, their representative in the Geography Bee. Students will soon be mummifying apples and completing a book on bacteria.

VI. Officer Reports

- a. **Vice President** – (Stacy Cramer) Reminder that all board members need to be PTA members. Membership up to 316, but still lower than last year. We will do one more big plea for the parents to send in their memberships. Next year we will have two categories: Individual Memberships and Additional Contributions. PTA Membership fees go to the Ice Cream Social, Fun Night, Hospitality Events, Principal Coffees and other events that benefit the children.
- b. **Treasurer** – (Lisa Benison) Financial sent out ahead of time. One item that was not on the budget that was new this year was The Blue Ribbon Ceremony. Wasn't budgeted in August because we did not know we were going to win. We spent \$749.15 and need a motion to approve the funding. Approved. We raised \$21,590.00 from annual appeal. Goal was \$30,000.00, which is approximately \$30.00 per student. Less than half of families participated. This money goes directly back to school for Enrichment Programs. An Allocation Meeting will take place in the Spring with all areas represented.

Committee Reports:

- a. **Wilton Youth Council** (Nancy Gany/read by Beth Johnson) Wilton Youth Council is currently planning the presentation of the results of responses to the recent survey about risky behaviors that was administered to Middlebrook 7th and 8th grade students and Wilton High School 9th to 12th grade students and their parents. Results will be presented in the Spring 2012.

Parent Connection co-hosted the third installment of the Parenting Book Group Series with Dr. Susan Bauerfeld on 1/10/12 at the Wilton Library. The book discussed was *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol Dweck, Ph.D. The next installment is scheduled for 3/20/12; book TBD.

Reminder that Wilton Youth Council is looking for a few volunteers to fill some key roles, including President, VP and Assistant Treasurer. Candidates would not have to jump in and fill the role right away, as the opportunity to shadow the existing volunteers is being made available. It would be great to have a couple of interested volunteers team together to fill the President and VP spots. If helping to promote the continued positive development of the social and emotional environment of Wilton's kids matter to you, Wilton Youth Council

wants to talk with you! For more information, kindly contact Joanna Copley at 203-834-0053 or jcopley77@aol.com.

- b. Science Fair** (Victoria Madden) Working out all the final details for January 31st Science Fair. Discussed how to get more students involved in next year's fair. Suggestions welcome. Four winners are enrolled in the State Science Fair in March.
- c. Fundraising Appeal** (Bev Hermann) Completed for this year. Discussing rotating to gift-wrap for next year's fundraising. Magazine renewals are available on-line. Discussed ideas presented by Pam Hickey (Cider Mill parent) and the Middlebrook philosophy of encouraging students to fundraise for those less fortunate than themselves so that they experience helping those in need, i.e. St. Jude's Hospital. Discussed specifying in next year's fundraising appeal that \$37.00 per child is the goal with the possibility that some parents will donate for more than one child.
- d. Reflections** (Patti Sylvia) Entrant winners are as follows: Visual Arts: 1st place – Jessica Kobsa and 2nd place – Maria Saldutti; Photography: 1st place – Erin Bronner and 2nd place – Jeromy DiGiacomo; Music: 1st place – Will Comer; and Literature: 1st place – Jeromy DiGiacomo. Discussed entry decline from past year's and the possibility of changing entry deadline to early December with the show at the Library in mid-December.
- e. Nominating** (Michelle Doggett) As PTA Board Members, please review your job descriptions to see if there is anything that needs to be updated. Dottie will get actual descriptions if you don't have one. We will include these in the information for the incoming group. Individual e-mails will be sent to Board Members requesting status for next year's positions. Hopefully all will continue on. Treasurer and Secretary are open positions needing volunteers for next year.
- f. 8th Grade Dinner Dance** - Will meet with Julia Harris to discuss theme, with Treasurer concerning budget, and will post in the Messenger requesting committee members and volunteers. Discussed Top Inclusion Models participating in event.
- g. Hospitality** - Winter Solstice, Blue Ribbon Ceremony, and Bus Driver Breakfast all great.
- h. Activity Night** - February 3rd is 7th grade Fun Night. Parent volunteers needed.

- i. Book Fair** - Was great with total of \$3,500.00. Large turnout during evening hours. Investigating other book sale options such as the Kindle. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered.

VII. Adjournment at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted, Sharmaine Barone, Secretary