MIDDLEBROOK PTA MINUTES 4/19/18

(Approved 5/17/2018)

1. Call to Order - 9:04 a.m. in 8G136. In attendance were: Hillary Morrissy, Chandra Ring, Vanessa Elias, Laura Rowley, Jen Acerra-Markey, Ginna Yerral, Lisa Finn, Lauren Feltz, Tara Peterson, Cristin Wallace, Jackie Shaw, Jackie Jackson, Carolyn Lyon, Yim Lai, Nicola Davies, Lauren Yoon, Salys Magnussen, Fran Kompar
2. Approval of 3/15/18 minutes - a motion to approve was made Jen Acerra-Markey and seconded by Ginna Yerrall. Motion carried
3. By-Law Approval – Remove mention of PTA Council. Allow positions to be shared (co-positions). Nicola Davies made a motion to approve, seconded by Laura Rowley. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Principal’s Report – Lauren Feltz
   1. 8th grader Jimmy Luce won 1st place in a CT Law Day essay.
   2. Lucas Koutsoukos won his division in the Geography Bee.
   3. Debate is bringing 54 kids to the last debate of the year this Saturday. Scores cumulatively in the top 5% in CT and qualified for regionals this Saturday.
   4. Michael Gordon is presenting to the Association of Music Teachers on digital portfolios.
   5. Student Government is planning Spirit Week. (Monday – Wilton Pride; Tuesday – students dress as teachers and teachers as students; Wednesday – Movie Character Day; Thursday – Jersey Day; Friday – Team Color Day)
   6. Team Change – school climate group has done a lot of work. They asked students to take an anti-bullying pledge. Names and school pictures of those that signed were hung up.
5. Teacher Representative’s Report – Tara Peterson
   1. Thank you for the lunch in the LLC on March 27- great food, opportunity for us to relax, see teachers we don’t normally see. We are so appreciative of this opportunity and the efforts it took to make it happen.
   2. For 6R, 6Y, 6G: The sixth grade teams are going to the Yale University Art Gallery to visit several exhibits pre-selected by our art department this week. All three teams are raising funds for our charity walk-a-thon on Friday, April 27.  Students on each team presented charity ideas and the students selected the causes to rally behind. We are looking forward to a sixth grade assembly (also next Friday) entitled "Chariot of the Sun", where we will witness stories about the heroes, gods, and monsters of Greek mythology.
   3. For 7R, 7G, 7Y: The 7th grade Beyond Me Holocaust multi-media show is rescheduled to April 23th. All three 7th grade teams will be attending the University of Hartford Holocaust exhibit.
   4. 8RED is writing investigative journalism articles that presents two sides to a social issue in writing. They’re investigating Supreme Court cases in preparation for the Great Debates in social studies and selecting

"tough texts" to read in reading

e. On 8Y, two students were moved after hearing about the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela on the news and organized a team fundraiser; the team raised nearly $500 for a good cause, and the students earned some rewards for the charitable efforts, including a "No Homework Night" on team and a teacher quiz bowl.

1. The Soaring Ahead Poetry Contest is currently going on; submissions can be sent to Mrs. Rubin.  Winners will have their poems printed in the Soaring Ahead program.
2. 8 Green: Writing Workshopis starting an exciting journalism unit. Students are using their powers of observation to create newsworthy stories about events that impact their lives in the world around them. In pre-algebra we are wrapping up a unit on solving systems of equations.  In algebra, we are in the midst of a unit on operations with polynomials and factoring.

In Science we are just beginning a new unit looking at Genetics and Diversity.  It is a most exciting unit, as there is so much in the research world that pertains to this topic!

1. President’s Report – Hillary Morrissy
   1. Coming to the end of PTA Season. New positions will be voted in during the May meeting.
   2. Nominating Committee is reaching out to fill open roles and get ready for next year.
   3. Met with Mr. Bulenzi (World Language Chair) and he asked the PTA to assist with the Food Competition. It has become so big they are seeking additional support. The PTA will form a committee to assist with volunteers and student prizes.
2. Officer Reports
3. Vice President – Laura Rowley:
   1. Membership: 4 new members (3 parents; 1 teacher) for a total of 366 members.
   2. Stop & Shop Rewards program has 214 registered cards and has brought in $2093.43 this year. Team Change students are talking about getting a table at Stop & Shop next year to solicit more registrants. This money goes to school climate work, such as Someday Wishes.

1. Treasurer – Jackie Shaw
   1. Financials look good. Not a lot of change from last month. Income remains the same – we should get a very nominal amount still from Mobile Arq. Large outstanding expenses include the 8th Grade Dinner Dance, Soaring Ahead, Hospitality, Zero Waste, Ice Cream Social. After all of the PTA Program expenses we’ll have about $34,000. We’ll meet with Gifts & Grants applicants in a few weeks then bring results to the PTA May Meeting.
   2. Many of our programs take place in June. The fiscal year ends June 30, so expenses must be turned in immediately.
   3. We are working on the 2018-19 budget so please pass along any feedback.
2. Parent At Large – Lauren Yoon
   1. Board of Finance Meeting to discuss the Board of Education and Board of Selectman’s Budgets had lots of discussion. The proposed Board of Education budget was reduced by $500,000.
   2. Thursday prior to Spring Break the Board of Education invited a representative of the DMC to discuss the report. DMC apologized for the report not being used in a way intended by the town. It wasn’t intended as a 2 million dollar cut but reallocation. The mischaracterizations of their report has changed how the DMC now writes reports.
   3. Many students and parents spoke out regarding retiring teacher Mr. Rhodes.
   4. May 1 at 7:30pm at the Clune Center is the Town Meeting. Budget cuts can be proposed from the floor and voted upon at this meeting.
3. Committee Reports
4. 8th Grade Dinner Dance – work is well under way planning this event. Candy will be pre-bagged this year. May add a dessert bar as well. Invitations will include the dress code. 8th grade and kindergarten pictures are posted side-by-side. We’ve had 109 students move to Wilton since kindergarten.
5. PAB voted to become a SEPTA
6. Box Tops: Planning to kick off a competition in the next couple weeks. Hoping that the prize can be a homework free night for the winning color. Lauren Feltz will ask teams.
7. WYC:
   1. There’s a vaping talk tonight for parents and kids at the Little Theatre.
   2. April 24 there’s a follow up to Managing Digital Devices with Susan Bauerfeld and Chris Parrot. Registration is online.
   3. April 30 Lenore Skenazy is speaking on Free Range Kids at 10am at the Wilton Library. Her talk will be recorded and shown that evening at 7pm.
   4. Color Run registration is still open. The event is May 3. Looking for volunteers.
   5. WYC is looking for a new fundraising chair
   6. 2023 Class Projects has their class picnic June 1 5:30-8pm at Merwin Meadows. They’re working on a website and facebook page.
   7. Free Play Task Force – Big Block Party Weekend. Town has selected June 9-10 and September 15-16 as dates. Neighborhoods can pick their own dates. Let It Grow has great ideas for parents and teachers.
8. Hospitality – 1st week in May is Teacher Appreciation Week. Tuesday will have desserts, coffee, smoothies and healthy snacks. Wednesday will have a catered lunch in the LLC and Friday will have a bag lunch.
9. New Business:
   1. Ice Cream Social – these are scheduled for the ½ days and is typically when yearbooks are signed. It was asked if there was an opportunity to move them earlier with the lateness of school ending. Lauren Feltz said this would cut into teaching time when all the kids are there. It was asked if Yearbooks will be available sooner. The function of the Ice Cream Socials has been to sign Yearbooks. When do 8th graders sign Yearbooks? Also, desire to keep Ice Cream Socials on the half days as keep joy on the ½ days for kids that are there. 6th and 7th grade Awards Ceremonies also take place on the half days.
   2. The Friday of Spring Break when school was added had 40-45 kids on the biggest teams. This offered lots of time to connect with teachers.
   3. Fran Kompar – Director of Digital Learning wants to celebrate the success brought on by the LLS Staff and Volunteers in the Chromebook rollout this ear. There will be summer learning take home for grades, 5, 6 and 7 students. It’s a transition opportunity for 5th graders and will be connected to summer reading. Summer is a time for fun, pleasure and life-long learning. Chromebooks will be available for summer take-home. 8th graders aren’t part of this program because the high school is a bring your own device school. There is a K-12 overdrive for the first time and work is being done on a book catalog of recommendations for summer reading. Students in grades 5, 6, and 7 will bring Chromebooks home over the summer unless parents opt their children out. This helps the schools with maintaining the devices and helps with digital citizenship. On May 3 there’s a Hands on Workshop from 9:30-11am and 7-8:30pm at Cider Mill to help with understanding Google Classroom and navigating the website. Gaggle will be turned on Chromebooks over the summer, as it is now. By sending Chromebooks home over the summer digital learning can continue, shows faith in the students as digital citizens and allows kids to return with Chromebooks rather than re-issuing them in the fall. If they are plugged in they will also update automatically and will allow access to resources available all year. Summer resources will be on the WPS website, but there may be some unique apps and resources not available on another device. There will be a summer learning meeting on June 5 from 9:30-11am and 7-8:30pm.
10. Meeting Adjourned at 10:27am.