

Middlebrook  
**PTA**  
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## October 20, 2011 Minutes of Board Meeting

- I. **Call to order, Room 106, Middlebrook School at 9:17 am.**
- II. **Minutes** from the September 15, 2011 meeting approved.
- III. **Principal's Report – Julia Harris** Welcome. This week is Team Read Week and we are giving out bookmarks and celebrating reading. On Halloween there will be a fire drill so students need to dress appropriately (warmly). Next week is Red Ribbon Week - the Drug and Alcohol Free Pledge Program. It is a fun program to raise awareness among students in regard to drug, alcohol and substance abuse. Monday homebase will announce Red Ribbon Week to the students, Tuesday will be red sock/shoe day, Wednesday will be red shirt day, Thursday will be red hat day, and Friday red pajama day. Red T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants will be on sale in the cafeteria. Also for sale in the cafeteria will be baked goods to support the Youth to Youth Program. A letter will be sent to parents explaining, "As part of a community-wide effort sponsored by Positive Directions and the Task Force to Combat Underage Drinking, we will be administering a Youth Drug and Alcohol Survey to a random sample of our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during one class period on November 9, 2011". This is an on-line survey that is anonymous and confidential. This survey allows us to monitor trends over time. Parents can decline their child's participation. Results will be available in Spring or next Fall and will present comparisons among local communities. Last year's survey concluded the most protective factors in prevention are parental influence and homework. A great enrichment program called Poetry in Motion, in collaboration with the Wilton Library, will offer students the opportunity to perform their poetry at the library. Flyers will be posted in the school and at the library for more information. The Stop 'n Shop A+ Rewards Program is under investigation for possible future participation.
- IV. **President's Report** (Beth Johnson) Gary Richards will attend Middlebrook PTA meeting on November 17, 2011 to discuss the Strategic Plan and Budget. Beth Johnson and Kimber Felton are reviewing the Middlebrook PTA Bylaws and will present them at the next meeting.

They will then be up for review for 30 days and a vote to accept will be taken during January's meeting.

- V. **Teacher Representative – Rob Foley** Thank you for having me. Please see attached report.

VI. **Officer Reports**

- a. **Vice President** – (Stacy Crameri) Memberships are still coming in we are at 305. We have some ideas on how to increase the staff membership. Right now it is 54 out of 135. There are 251 family memberships out of 800 families. We will concentrate on the Fundraising Appeal for now. Many people are not aware that fundraising and membership dues are allocated to different items and become confused when asked to contribute to both at the same time. Efforts to increase memberships will begin again after the New Year. All Board Members need to be members of the PTA.
- b. **Treasurer** – (Lisa Benison) Motion to approve budget. Approved.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Wilton Youth Council** (Nancy Gany) Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 12:00, Parenting Book Group Series with Susan Bauerfield held at the Wilton Library. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> in a series and the topic to be discussed is: Getting to Calm: Cool-Headed Strategies for Parenting Teens and Tweens by Laura Kastner, Ph.D., and Jennifer Wyatt, Ph.D. An evening session will also be offered – date is being confirmed. Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the Library: Connecting with Your Kids: Learning the Language of Teens. Presented by Dr. Barbara Greene a clinical psychologist who specializes in the treatment of teens and their families. She is co-author of Teenage as a Second Language – A Parent's Guide to Becoming Bilingual. Copies of her book will be available for sale and signing after the presentation. Events will appear in the school newsletter and flyers will be posted around town. More information can be found at wiltonyouth.org.
- b. **Special Education Representative** (Francesca Monro) Wilton High School's Top Inclusion Models Club members are now available to assist at Middlebrook functions. Their goal is to help everyone become included when participating in social events and activities. They are trained in peer interventions that deal with discrimination, exclusion, and special needs. Contact is Jory Higgins.

- c. **Directory** (Pamela Hovland)      Directory is sold out. We sold 700 and gave 100 to Middlebrook staff. Corrections are available on-line. The PTA is looking into the possibility of printing directories from the information in Just Between Friends as an alternative form of directory for 2012–2013. No decisions have been made. Discussed having an information session to clear up confusion concerning Just Between Friends enrollment.
  
- d. **Hospitality** (Joann Logiurato)      Blue Ribbon Ceremony Reception on November 30, 2011 from 4:00 – 5:30. Students will perform background music. Invites have been extended to BOE Staff, media, Middlebrook Staff, First Selectman, Trakside Director, Central Staff, PTA, and State Representatives. Upcoming events are: Veteran’s Day November 8<sup>th</sup>, Winter Solstice (parents donate desert type items) and the Bus Driver’s Luncheon. More information will be posted in the Middlebrook Newsletter.
  
- e. **Activity Nights** (representatives not present)      7<sup>th</sup> grade night (Oct. 21) went well, great time, broke even.
  
- f. **Fundraising** (Bev Hermann)      Direct Appeal Letters received a good response - \$11,500 raised so far with 241 donations out of 850 families. Reminders will be sent out through e-mail and school website. QSP is available on-line for those wanting to renew last year’s subscriptions.
  
- g. **Science Fair** (Victoria Madden)      Not present.
  
- h. **Book Fair** (Debbie LaFond)      Not present. Book Fair will take place November 30 – December 7<sup>th</sup>. Teacher gift certificates and wish lists will be available.
  
- i. **Reflections** (Patti Sylvia)      Reflections committee reps from all schools met with PTA Reflections Council Chair. This year’s theme is “Diversity Means.....” Changes this year: (1) Including Special Education Teachers to the e-mail blast regarding Reflections. Normally went out to Team Leaders, Art & Language Teachers and Administrators. Decided to include SPED teachers because children with special needs may be very artistic but may lack the ability to report home events from school. SPED teachers have the most interactions with the parents and act as case managers for the children. Also, they are not normally included as part of the team/core/color meetings; (2) having 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners for each category; (3) Instead of trophies, giving prizes such as gift cards. Information regarding Reflections has been posted in the Middlebrook Messenger. Posters will be displayed throughout the

school. Collection bins will be placed inside the Main Office in December. Due date for all projects is January 5<sup>th</sup>. The event/showing will take place at the Wilton Library mid-January.

- j. **Weekly Messenger** (Heather Wilcauskus)      Keep sending announcements for posting.

**VIII. New Business** (none)

**IX. Adjournment at 10:10 am.**

Respectfully submitted, Sharmaine Barone, Secretary