

Middlebrook  
**PTA**  
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**November 17, 2011 Minutes of Board Meeting**

- I. **Call to order, Media Center, Middlebrook School at 9:15 am.**
- II. **Minutes** from the October 20, 2011 meeting approved.
- III. **Principal's Report – Julia Harris** Welcome. Theory in Action posters have been posted throughout the building. Thank you to my assistant Karen LaMantia for executing all the revisions on the Wilton Public Schools Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2013. The Veteran's Day Assembly was wonderful. Extend personal invites to the Blue Ribbon Induction Celebration and thank you to Joanne for all her time and work on this celebration. Also a thank you to all staff who participated in filling out the extensive forms and applications for the National Blue Ribbon application. The application will be posted on Edline along with videos of the awards assembly and the official photograph. It was a humbling experience to meet and talk with other Blue Ribbon recipients. Discussed having Rich Colangelo speak at a Principal Coffee on Internet Safety and Bullying.
- IV. **President's Report** (Beth Johnson) - Bylaws have been reviewed and a draft will be posted on Edline. Will be voted on in January's PTA Meeting.
- V. **Teacher Representative – Rob Foley** Thank you for having me.  
  
8 Green traveled to Philadelphia (8 Red went last week, 8 yellow I believe is going in the spring)  
8 Green kicked off their annual coat & blanket drive to benefit the Bridgeport Rescue Mission Shelter  
The rest of eighth grade is trying to return to a sense of normalcy after the crazy weather  
  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Will be reading a Christmas Carol & looking forward to the performance in Middlebrook's auditorium  
  
6 Green raised \$2,153.00 for Ridgefield Operation Animal Rescue; and Sixth graders are preparing to take a preliminary National Geographic Bee Exam

## V. Officer Reports

- a. **Vice President** – (Stacy Crameri/read by Beth Johnson) Four new memberships. Now have 260 families and 54 staff PTA memberships. Reminder that all board members need to be members.
- b. **Treasurer** – (Lisa Benison) Dues paid, taxes have been paid, all numbers current as of two days ago.

## VI. Committee Reports:

- a. **Fundraising** (Bev Hermann) Have extended fundraising deadline due to snowstorm and power outages. Will be wrapping up this week. Total donations are \$19,721.00. Our goal is \$20,000. Forty-two percent of families donated. In January will present thoughts on what to do for next year's appeal. Thank you for all your support.
- b. **Wilton Youth Council** (Nancy Gany/read by Beth Johnson) The mission of Wilton Youth Council's Task Force to Reduce Substance Use Among Youth is to reduce the use and abuse of substances, including prescription medication, among Wilton's youth. The TF is currently working with Positive Directions and Wilton Public Schools to administer surveys to parents and students about risky behavior. The survey was administered to MB 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and to WHS students in 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade this week. Participants are anonymous and answers cannot be traced back to students. In the next couple of weeks, parents will be asked to also complete the on-line survey, which will be accessed using Edline. Results of student and parent responses will be analyzed and presented in the Spring 2012. The TF will compare results with those reported from the previous survey (conducted in 2007).

Parent Connection will present Connecting with Your Kids: Learning the Language of Teens on Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. at the Library. The featured speaker is Dr. Barbara Greenberg, a clinical psychologist who specializes in Becoming Bilingual and is the co-creator of the interactive website [www.talkingteenage.com](http://www.talkingteenage.com). 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 [www.wiltonyouth.org](http://www.wiltonyouth.org).

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 matters to you, WYC wants to talk with you! For more information, kindly contact Joanne Copley at 203-834-0053 or [jcopley77@aol.com](mailto:jcopley77@aol.com).

- c. Special Education Representative** (Francesca Monro/read by Beth Johnson) Although I was not at the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity night in October, my husband, Bob, attended as the parent representative for Top Inclusion Models. Feedback from TIM's and parents attending the event as well as Middlebrook students was very positive. I received a very positive e-mail from Nancy Hasenauer regarding the event. She said, "I just wanted you to know from a Dean's perspective that I thought Friday nights' 7<sup>th</sup> grade Activity Night was a huge success. How lucky for all our 7<sup>th</sup> graders that the Top Inclusion Model High School students came prepared to the event with their kind hearts, tremendous smiles, electric dancing shoes, athletic prowess, and most of all their time to care about kids on so many levels! Thank you so much for facilitating this terrific group of WHS students for our events at Middlebrook. We look forward to collaborating on more events like this with TIM and the PTA. Please keep us in mind when planning future events." Feedback from members of the Wilton Special Education Parent Advisory Board on this event was that we need to publicize the work of TIM more to make parents aware of who these HS students are and the good work that they do and the potential they have as positive role models for our younger students. Also, as these Middlebrook students move up to the HS we want to encourage them to become Top Inclusion Models as well.
- d. Hospitality** (Joann Logiurato) Blue Ribbon Ceremony Reception on November 30, 2011 from 4:00 – 5:30. Invites have been extended. Joanne has done a great job organizing the event. Upcoming events are: Winter Solstice Celebration on December 13<sup>th</sup> (volunteers needed to donate desert items) and the Bus Driver's Luncheon at Comstock. More information will be posted in the Middlebrook Newsletter.
- e. Activity Nights** (representatives not present) 7<sup>th</sup> grade Activity Night went well, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Activity Night well attended. Once again thanks to Nancy.
- f. Science Fair** (Victoria Madden/read by Beth Johnson) We are on track with the Science Fair. We have had two extra help sessions and

have extended the submission deadline to December 6<sup>th</sup>. Middlebrook School is registered for the State Science Fair in March. Anne and I met with Julia Harris and Kendra Norman last week.

- g. 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.
- h. Reflections** (Patti Sylvia) E-mails have been sent out regarding “Diversity Means...” our theme for the National PTA organized art competition. Posters have been hung throughout the building and in December we will have a bin in the Main Office. Forms are available on Just Between Friends.
- i. Nominating** ( Michelle Doggett ) Discussed moving forward with Sportswear sales for next year’s incoming class of 2012 by offering t-shirts in team colors with the Wilton Warrior logo on front and graduation date on back. Will create a mock-up for the February PTA meeting. Will begin selling after teams have been assigned in August. Gym outfits will be sold for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders if a volunteer steps forward. As PTA Board Members please review your job descriptions to see if there is anything that needs to be updated. We will include these in the information for the incoming group.

**VII. Special Guest – Dr. Gary Richards – Superintendent** Discussed Wilton Public Schools Strategic Plan 2010 – 2013. Explained Strategic Plan Theory of Action, The Six Strands of the WPS Strategic Plan, Middlebrook Progress Review Team, Highlighted Year 1 Results, Discussed Strategic Plan Year 2 Goals, Community Involvement Year 2 Focus Areas for Middlebrook, Technology Year 2 Focus Areas, Academic and Social/Emotional Needs Year 2 Focus Areas, and Curriculum and Instruction Year 2 Focus Areas.

**VIII. New Business –** Project 2016 for current 8<sup>th</sup> graders has begun organizing. They started with a parent party that was a huge success with over 130 attendees, a movie day fundraiser, Wendy Slater will be selling stadium chairs, and a website for 2016 is in the process of being set up. E-mails will be sent to parents encouraging participation in the parent portion of the Youth Drug and Alcohol Survey sponsored by Positive Directions.

**IX. Adjournment at 11:00 am.**

Respectfully submitted, Sharmaine Barone, Secretary