

## MIDDLEBROOK PTA MINUTES 4/20/17

- I. Call to Order - 9:04 a.m. in 7Y104. In attendance were: Laura Rowley, Maria Wilcox, Chandra Ring, Kim Lynn, Hillary Morrissy, Lauren Feltz, Ginna Yerrall, Lisa Smith, Stacy Crameri, Nicola Davies, Kim Rogg, Karen LaMantia, Heather Priest, Vanessa Elias, Carolyn Lyon, Jacqueline Jackson, Ashley Gentilozzi, Mary Jones, Lisa Finn, Margaret Santacroce, Yim Yan Lai and Meghan Lanese
- II. Heather Priest – Zero Waste Initiative:
  - a. In conjunction with Wilton Go Green, hoping to start a Zero Waste Initiative at MB and then institute district-wide. 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have a focus on sustainability and audit the trash from lunches each quarter. More than 50% of trash could be composted or recycled. There's a collaborative effort with iSTEM on ways to do this. 7<sup>th</sup> grade Health classes are building PSA's on this. Right now, we aren't set up to compost and recycle. Heather is looking at new waste bins to improve/control waste and hoping to have a Zero Waste Week in the fall. This would include asking parents not to use ziplock bags and to use Tupperware, educating students on what's recyclable, assemblies at all schools). For success, this needs to be a collaborative effort coming from parents, teachers, administrators.
  - b. Heather is looking at branding reusable sandwich bags and selling them in the fall to raise money for new bins. Adhesion labels for these bags would also be a good idea.
- III. Approval of 3/16/17 minutes - a motion to approve was made Kim Rogg and seconded by Kim Lynn. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. Teachers Representative – Ashley Gentilozzi
  - a. All 6th grade students will be taking part in their annual walk-a thon on Friday, April 28th. Each team voted to raise money for a specific charity. 6 Red voted for St. Jude's Children Hospital, 6 Green voted for the Make a Wish foundation, and 6 Yellow chose St. Francis Hospital Foundation.
  - b. The 6th Grade teams have been taking turns this week going on a field trip to the Yale Art Gallery where they are making many connections between what they have learned in art class and on team in World Language and social studies classes. They also have been eating lunch at Thali Too Restaurant
  - c. Team 6 red just began an interdisciplinary Independent Student Project. This project uses a student-selected topic to conduct advanced research over a six week period. Students add various components of research from social studies, math, reading, writing, and world language classes. There tremendous effort and interests are shared on team during the week of our closing house on June 13<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Next week, 6G students will proudly display their work at The Museum of the Americas, open to parents on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
  - e. 6 Yellow:

- i. As an extension of their Fantasy Unit in Reading Workshop classes, students are reading Greek myths and building their knowledge of the Greek gods and goddesses just in time for the Chariot of the Sun Assembly next week brought to the entire sixth grade with the help of the PTA. We are very grateful!
- f. Grade 7 students are getting ready to go on a field trip next week to Maritime Aquarium where they will be viewing an IMAX film on engineering marvels around the world and Barcelona Restaurant in South Norwalk!
- g. All 7th grade students recently wrapped up an interdisciplinary Holocaust unit. Students analyzed primary sources, film, and fictional pieces to understand how the 3 R's (remembrance, relevance, and responsibility) connect to the lives of 7th graders.
- h. All 8th grade students have been preparing for the CMT science exam to be given today. They have completed a review packet and a practice test to get them ready for the exam. Hopefully, this will refresh their memories for material that they had learned in 6th and 7th grade, as this is on the CMT test.
- i. On 8 Green, In SS class students are reading the historical fiction novel *Bull Run* by Paul Fleischman. The novel depicts the first battle of the Civil War from the point of view of sixteen different characters. The novel will be read aloud by students in the form of a Readers Theater.
- j. On 8 Red:
  - i. Students are memorizing and performing Shakespearean monologues of their choosing in conjunction with reading/acting out *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
  - ii. French students recently wrapped up presentations, and Spanish students
  - iii. Social studies classes recently composed essays on whether or not they believe the Civil War was inevitable
- k. School Climate: There will be survey going out soon to teachers, students and parents. This survey focuses on your experiences with our school during this school year

#### V. Principal's Report – Lauren Feltz

- a. Team of Special Education Mental Health professionals gave a presentation to teachers that had a great response and is being used as a resource.
- b. Look for CABA Awards winners, to be announced at the Board of Education meeting.
- c. 7R received a certificate for the fundraising for Heifer International as part of their Service Project.

#### VI. President's Report-Laura Rowley

- a. Received a nice thank you from Mr. Bulenze on behalf of the World Language Department for the assemblies and being able to host the Brazilian dancers.
- b. Mrs. Sheehan sent a thank you on behalf of 7 Red for the grant funding for the Beyond Me assembly to gain perspective on the Holocaust.

- c. Nominees for next year were distributed and the slate of officers will be voted on at the next meeting, May 18, 2017. We're in good shape for Committee Roles for the coming year. Positions turnover on July 1, 2017.

## VII. Officer Reports

- a. Vice President-Mary Jones: 3 new members, 376 total
- b. Treasurer-Maria Wilcox –
  - a. PTA Council – historically this group existed and over time became less active. This group has been dissolved and funds equally distributed to all 4 schools (roughly \$1,400 per school).
  - b. We're in good economic shape and have a reserve of \$20,000 (one year's operating expenses).
  - c. We have about \$15,000 of remaining funds earmarked for next year's gifts and grants. We are always earning for the next year.
  - d. We have about \$10,000 remaining after this. This should be spent and would be great money for a pilot or new program.
- c. Parent At Large-Kim Lynn
  - a. The budget put forth is flat from last year.
  - b. Residents can vote after the May 2 Town Hall or on May 6.
  - c. A no vote can mean the budget is either too high or too low. Last year the budget had a no vote but passed because less than 15% of eligible voters cast a ballot.
  - d. Lauren Feltz said that MB is making plans for next year in hopes of the budget passing. If the budget passes, MB will become a "Ready Access School", meaning there would be a Chromebook for every student and these could go home as needed. All students would have the same interface to work with. They will do information sessions on this change for parents.

## VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Box Tops - Kim Rogg – May 19 deadline for the last submission of the year.
- b. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner Dance – Planning is on schedule and invitations are set to go out. 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents chaperone this event.
- c. Special Education – Carolina Corrigan – no updates
- d. WYC- Vanessa Elias:
  - a. Privileged and Pressured Continued: How to Talk About Substance Abuse Use on Wednesday, April 26 10-11:30am at Clune Center. Registration required.
  - b. You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me, a One-Man Performance by Michael Fowlin, PhD will take place Monday, May 8 10-11am in the WHS Little Theater. Registration required. He spoke to High School students in December and was requested to return.
  - c. Youth-to-Youth Color Run will return for the second year on May 4, 2017, open to MB students, staff and families. Pizza, snacks, ice cream truck will be there.
- e. Spring/Summer Book Fair:
  - a. Takes place May 2, 3, 4

- b. On May 4 Kwame Alexander will be at MB as the Visiting Author. He's willing to autograph books so book sales are being facilitated for this purpose.

IX. Meeting Adjourned at 10:04am.