

Middlebrook PTA Meeting Minutes **Monday October 19th 2009**

Executive Board Attendees: Lisa Hughes, Kim Johnson, Oz Yorulmaz, Jannise Castaldi,
Cindy Andrzejewski, Pat Colello

Faculty/Staff Attendees: Mrs. Frillici

PTA Members/Parents: Doreen Russell, Annette Wolson, Lisa Gruttadauria,
Virginia Green, Sarah DiPinto, Nell-Ayn Lynch,
Mary Pearson, John Karpowich, Anthony J. Mancini,
Bob Hesse, Catherine Pollock, Julie Lagano, Annette Lifrieri,
Dodi Hesse, Miriam Wardzala, Kate Prezioso, Jeanne Gibbs,
Dean Fabrizio, Jennifer Mottolese

Guest Speaker: Lindsey Lee

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Item: Approval of October 19th 2009 Meeting Minutes – Cindy Andrzejewski

The October 19th Meeting Minutes were approved without discussion.

Item: Treasurer’s Report – Jannise Castaldi

The current checking account balance is \$18,410.70. The current savings account balance is \$16,662.34. Currently, the only items awaiting payment are the book fair and gift wrap. The Treasurer’s Report was approved without discussion.

Item: Principal’s Report – Pat Colello

Custodial Appreciation Week went really well. There was a great display in the foyer as well as cards of appreciation from the students to the custodial staff. Both Ralph Iassogna and Steve Kenney were informed of the success of the event.

The book fair went really well.

The official launch of the Reflections contest took place with a demonstration of the contest by the Reflections Committee members.

Leo Th and Brady Lynch won the raffle for “Lunch with the Principal.”

For Veteran’s Day, Middlebrook was fortunate enough to have a Black Hawk helicopter land on the playground. It was an exciting event for both the students and staff. A special thanks to Doug Carr (Middlebrook parent) who arranged this amazing event! This event will be aired next week on Channel 17 at 4:30 PM.

Item: Teacher’s Report – Mrs. Frillici

Not much to report. It’s been a very active and busy month!

Item: Guest Speaker Lindsey Lee on “Bullying in our School”

During the month of October, classrooms were visited in an effort to promote bullying awareness. Key points addressed were:

- Different types of bullying: Physical bullying, emotional bullying and social bullying
- Most bullying occurs in the absence of authority, i.e. bathrooms, playgrounds, bus
- If your child doesn't know the difference between teasing vs. bullying, ASK!
- Fourth grade classes (Marini and Massey) explored the differences between assertive, aggressive and passive behaviors
- The ultimate goal is to have the children begin problem solving in these types of situations

Item: Committee Reports

Board of Education Liaison: As the year winds down, the Board of Education will begin to prepare for negotiations for the 2010-2011 school year budget.

Father's Club: Thanks to Oz for running BINGO for the first time! Help is needed for set up on Friday at 3:30. Doors open at 6:30 and as always, raffles are needed.

Movie night also was successful. The next movie night is planned for December 18th and it will be FREE. Students will vote on which movie they would like to see. This will take place in the cafeteria as the gym will be used to host another event that evening. Snacks will be sold in the foyer.

Gift Wrap: The PTA earned a profit of \$7500.00 on the gift wrap fund raiser.

Holiday Boutique: The Holiday Boutique is next week (Thursday and Friday). Volunteers are still needed. A sign-up sheet is available for volunteers. There will also be a bake sale if anyone is interested in baking an item to sell at the boutique (contact Karen Gorton). All raffle items and/or baskets may be left in the PTA room.

School Photos: Re-takes were taken and went well. Pictures should be available in 2-3 weeks.

School Enhancement: A special thank you to both Meg Smith and Janet Grillo who worked hard doing the fall clean-up in the Middlebrook gardens.

Yearbook: As always, continue to take pictures of all children at any events you are present for. They can be emailed to Dawn Paskevicz at dmpask@sbcglobal.net.

TPSLD: Meetings for this committee are held frequently. If anyone is interested in attending, fliers are available both in the main office and Lindsey Lee's office. All are welcome.

JA: Members were asked to begin thinking about the value of the Junior Achievement program as there is now a cost of \$1.00 per student. This topic will be revisited for a vote at a future meeting.

Reflections: There is a display in the foyer of the school detailing the Reflections contest along with examples illustrating past entries. The deadline for contest entries is December 15th 2009. Announcements are made daily to remind the students.

Wellness Committee: So far, there have been two Student Wellness Committee meetings (3rd, 4th and 5th grade members). There is one meeting a month in which a theme or topic is presented. In October, the theme was the environment. The students helped to collect 1,000 drink pouches so far. Terra Cycle offers 2¢ per pouch for the school. This program will continue until June 2010. The theme for November was nutrition in which the student members played “are you smarter than a nutritionist” to help promote healthy nutrition habits. The student committee members are responsible for relaying each monthly wellness message to assigned classes.

Newsletter: The most recent edition of the Middlebrook Messenger is now available on the Middlebrook PTA website.

Publicity: Thanks to Annette Wolson who has done a great job getting our Middlebrook events out there on both the Trumbull Channel and our local newspapers.

Book Fair: Sales for the book fair were approximately \$7,915.17. The exact amount which is profit is not yet known. Work has begun for the next book fair (May 2010). It was suggested that two people join the committee to help Mary and Miriam in an effort to teach new members the ropes when/if committee members step down from chairing this committee. If anyone is interested, contact either Mary Pearson or Miriam Wardzala.

Spirit Wear: Currently still waiting for graphics to be available before the website can be launched.

Item: New Business/Announcements

Lisa recommended a couple of guest speakers for next year. Internet Safety and a Tim Herbst were suggested guests. The group agreed these were good ideas. Lisa will firm up dates and inform the group.

There was discussion regarding the Cultural Diversity Tree in the lobby of the school. Currently it is bare and suggestions are needed as to finding a new “purpose” for the tree. This topic will be discussed again at the January meeting.

Fundraising ideas were discussed by the group. Suggested fundraising ideas were cash donations, links on our website offering percentage profits for the PTA, clothes donation drive, etc. It was suggested that some sort of spreadsheet or memo be prepared to help Middlebrook families understand the costs of PTA events, thus helping to emphasize the need for fundraising. Lisa and Jannise agreed to prepare an FYI of some sort which will hopefully illustrate the need for fund raising in order to maintain all the extra events sponsored by the PTA.

The Holiday Boutique budget will be tabled until the January 2010 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Recorded by Cynthia Andrzejewski