

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: Allison Iannacone

PTA Members/Parents: Jill Massari, Julie Lagano, Jody McLean, Doreen Russell, Cheryl Plumb,
Sarah DiPinto, Tascia Carr, Brian Rogers, Laura Siebold, Dean Fabrizio,
John Karpowich, Annette Lifrieri, Lori Gregory, Janet Grillo, Catherine
Pollock, Dodi Hesse, Mary Pearson, Gracie Sassano, Sandra Miller, Sue
Kenney, Jennifer Mottolese

Meeting was called to order by Lisa Hughes at 7:00 PM and the Pledge was recited.

Item: Wellness Committee Letter

Lisa Hughes briefly discussed the Wellness Committee letter of recommendation submitted to Mrs. Colello recommending food-free elective parties. All committees were reminded that when any new ideas or plans are introduced or in the case of any budget adjustments, the chair of each committee "shall present a plan of work to the executive committee for approval." Lisa suggested all committee members review the Committee Guidelines which are posted on the website.

A note of clarification regarding this issue: Mrs. Colello has recommended that all birthday party celebrations be food free. Any other celebrations in the classroom are to be coordinated by the room parents and will continue to follow the Trumbull Public Schools Board of Education Policy.

Item: Approval of September 21st 2009 Meeting

Minutes were approved without discussion.

Item: Treasurer's Report

Jannise presented the budget. Currently, there is \$16,905.53 in the checking account and \$16,653.98 in the savings account. Gift wrap is the only outstanding payable at this time. Jannise stressed the importance of using the Middlebrook PTA tax exemption status when making purchases. So far, Middlebrook PTA has paid \$105.50 in unnecessary taxes. A copy of the tax exempt number and/or card is available in the PTA room.

Item: Principal's Report

Mrs. Colello informed members that a letter from the Board of Education is being sent home regarding recommendations for flu prevention. She emphasized the importance of keeping sick children home for a minimum 3 days if diagnosed with the flu.

Currently, some activities in the school include fire prevention and student council elections. The Town of Trumbull is in the beginning stages of formulating the budget for the 2010-2011 school year.

Item: Teacher's Report

Ms. Iannacone reported that teachers are being encouraged to become members of the PTA. Also, Sensitivity Day is Thursday October 22nd. Sensitivity Day is geared for 4th graders, however; each grade level will participate by having guests in the classroom reading stories pertaining to sensitivity.

Item: Wellness Committee Guest Speakers

Laura Seibold discussed nutrition with the group. Topics covered included the importance of reading labels, discussing food choices (Food Pyramid) with our children, involving our children in the preparation of food, eating seasonable foods and the subject of child obesity. Laura also discussed the importance of vitamins and nutrients in our diet (Vitamins D, A and C; magnesium, potassium, zinc, etc.).

Sarah DiPinto discussed food allergies. She introduced the “PAL” program (Protect a Life) to the group. Currently, an increase of over 3,000 school children in CT with life threatening allergies has been reported.

The Wellness Committee is scheduled to speak to the classes in November regarding these topics. Date to be announced.

Item: Committee Reports

- Board Of Education Liaison: Nothing new to report
- Father’s Club: Halloween party on Friday the 23rd. Volunteers needed for set-up on Thursday the 22nd at 7:00 PM and Friday the 23rd at 3:30.
- Gift Wrap: Currently, there are \$13,500 in gift wrap sales, \$1700 in jewelry sales and \$225 in donations. Approximately \$7,700 of revenue was generated for Middlebrook PTA. Delivery of items is scheduled for November 2nd; will confirm.
- School Photos: Photos recently went home. Retakes are scheduled for November 19th.
- School Store: Sales are going well, Miriam is in the process of turning over stock in an effort to obtain new inventory including “green” products. Volunteers are always welcome to work at the store. Great opportunity to see your children during the school day!
- Yearbook: Yearbook is going well. All parents are encouraged to submit any pictures taken during school events as are they are gathered. Please don’t wait as certain pages have due dates for submission.
- TPSLD: Sensitivity Day is scheduled for Thursday October 22nd in which the 4th graders participate in stations geared towards sensitivity awareness especially concerning those with physical and/or mental challenges. Special guest readers will visit other grades. A reading schedule is available. Discussion is encouraged at home as a follow-up regarding your child’s experiences at this event.
- Holiday Boutique: Progressing well. Looking for donations for raffle baskets as well as wrapping paper and/or bows.
- TAY: Dance around the World event scheduled for Middlebrook on October 30th. Professional dancers and musicians perform in costume for approximately 45 minutes.
- After School Enrichment: Volunteers are needed to assist in taking attendance and in making phone calls to parents of children who forgot their notes. It was stressed that parents need to send a note into school EACH DAY that the child is to participate in a program. It is time consuming for volunteers to call families for permission when notes are forgotten. The board discussed perhaps changing this process for next year emphasizing that children will be sent home on the bus if a note is not brought into school the day of the activity. Further discussion is needed on this subject.
- Membership: Currently, Middlebrook PTA membership includes 245 members, 140 families and 29 teachers. All were encouraged to pay dues as not to interrupt PTA email blasts. Any past-members who have not renewed their PTA membership will be removed from the PTA email blast list.
- PACT: The week of October 26th, Middlebrook will celebrate Red Ribbon Week promoting healthy choices. Each day, the nurse will make an announcement relating to a topic on healthy choices. Monday the 26th is “wear red day” and Friday the 30th is “crazy sock day.”
- 5th Grade Activities: A brief meeting is scheduled after the next PTA meeting (November 23rd). All who are interested are encouraged to attend.
- BINGO: Scheduled for Friday, November 13th.

- Artsonia: Set to launch after the New Year. All who are interested in this committee please contact Janet Grillo.
- GOTV: Board of Education debate was cancelled. The Board of Finance debate is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th at Madison Middle School 7:00 PM. First Selectman's debate will be aired LIVE on the Trumbull ED channel on Thursday October 29th at 7:00 PM.
- Reflections: Theme this year is "Beauty is." Theme and contest details will be introduced to students on the 4th, 5th and 6th of November. Suggestions were made regarding promoting this contest.
- Spirit Wear: An online spirit wear web-based service will be launched which will offer a variety of customized items containing the Middlebrook logo and "green" themed items. A percentage of all items purchased will go to the Middlebrook PTA. No shipping fee on items ordered. Items will be delivered to students at school. Bulk orders are available. There is an initial set-up fee for logos etc. A motion was made and passed allowing the committee funds (under \$100) to cover any costs associated with the one-time initial set-up fee(s).
- Book Fair: Book Fair is November 17th and 18th. A motion was made and approved to offer 20% savings on items purchased. This year's theme is "Destination Book Fair."

Item: Other Business

- Friday Night Lights "Middlebrook" night is November 6th. Students free, adults \$5. Contact Lisa Hughes for details or check website for flier.
- School Directory went to printers. Will be printed on recycled paper.
- Custodial appreciation week is the week of October 26th. See display in the lobby.
- "Manner boxes" were purchased by the PTA. They are located throughout the school to remind the children of their "Middlebrook Manners."
- Fundraising ideas were briefly discussed – tabled until the next meeting.
- The addition of academic links to the PTA website was discussed. All agreed that the links would be beneficial.
- Chat with Mrs. Colello on November 5th at 9:00 in the Media Center
- The fall edition of the Middlebrook Messenger newsletter is set for release on November 6th. If you are interested in adding an article, the deadline is November 2nd. Please contact Michele Karpowich for details.
- Catherine Pollock asked for suggestions regarding computer donations. If anyone knows of an organization which takes computer donations, please contact her.

Tabled Items: Junior Achievement, fundraising topics (business links, corporate donations, etc)

Recorded and submitted by Cynthia Andrzejewski

Next PTA Meeting
November 23rd 7:00 PM
Media Center