

Middlebrook PTA Meeting Minutes

Monday September 21st 2009

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

Faculty/Staff Attendees: Mrs. Frillici, Mrs. Balzano

PTA Members/Parents: Michele Karpowich, Lori Lewis, Sujata Koduru, Jennifer Motttolese, Doreen Russell, Elizabeth Yorulmaz, Dawn Paskevicz, Annette Wolson, Kim Rudich, Sandra Miller, Lori Gregory, Amy Leo, Kelley Mallozzi, Jody McLean, Dodi Hesse, Dean Fabrizio, John Karpowich, Elsa Worth, Sue McElroy, Annette Lifrieri, Cathy Fritea, Sarah DiPinto, Wendy Delales, Kate Prezioso, Donna Ortoli, Laura Siebold, Meg Smith, Mari Aljoburi, Virginia Green, Miriam Wardzala, Mary Pearson, Yvonne Henry, Janet Grillo, Gracie Sassano, Kathy Crystre, Robin Bova

The meeting was called to order at 6:40PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Copies of the agenda and budget were distributed.

Topic: Volunteers Needed for the Media Center

Mrs. Balzano invited anyone interested in volunteering in the Media Center to contact her. Volunteers are always welcome. Commitment level is flexible, anywhere from one to two times a month, to once a week. She also thanked the PTA for sponsoring Literature Week which falls just before April break. Literature Week includes various activities revolving around literature including author visits.

Topic: Minutes from May 11, 2009

Cindy Andrzejewski presented the minutes from the May 11th 2009 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. The minutes were approved without discussion as written.

Topic: Middlebrook PTA 2009-2010 Budget

Jannise Castaldi presented the budget to the board. Current checking balance is \$4,514.18, current savings balance is \$16,653.98 and total cash balance is \$14,681.82 as of September 21st 2009. The budget was approved as presented without discussion.

Topic: 3rd Vice President's Report (Principal's Report)

Mrs. Colello informed the board that the opening days of school went smoothly with no major incidents. The children are adjusting wonderfully.

An additional 2nd grade class was added reducing the class sizes to roughly 17/18 children per class. A second kindergarten class was also added reducing the class sized to roughly 16 per class.

The building is in great shape. There is a head custodian named Mike Murzin. They did a great job working hard all summer to prepare the school for September.

The children did great on the CMT's (Connecticut Mastery Tests). Parents are invited to attend a meeting on September 23rd at 9:00 in the Media Center to discuss the results.

Back to School night went well with a great turnout.

The flag raising ceremony was on Friday the 18th. The flag pole was painted over the weekend and looks great.

Mrs. Colello informed the attendees that there is a child attending Middlebrook with a life-threatening peanut allergy. Cross contamination is of huge concern, so it was recommended that parents/children make a choice to **not** bring peanut butter for lunch. While peanut butter is available for sale in the cafeteria, it is placed in a different location and children wishing to purchase peanut butter sandwiches must now request it from the staff. Children who have peanut food items will now be asked to sit at a “peanut table” where the cafeteria staff could monitor hand-washing by providing wipes as to prevent cross contamination as best they can.

The Wellness Committee sent Mrs. Colello a recommendation letter requesting that all “non-elective” celebrations be food-free. A non-elective celebration could include birthday celebrations and various holidays. While district policy allows for food celebrations, Mrs. Colello is requesting moving away from food at these types of celebrations. She reminded the group that if the celebration is curriculum based, in other words, part of the course of study such as the stone soup in the first grade or the 3rd grade countries expo luncheon, the non-food recommendation is exempt. She suggested that room parents coordinate all celebrations, which may or may not include food, so they are consistent, appropriate and safe. Mrs. Colello reminded all that the proper way to address any policy changes regarding food exemption is to reach a consensus among the Middlebrook community.

Mrs. Colello discussed and clarified the proper interpretation of bullying. Bullying is targeted and intentional harassment of some sort over a period of time. Bullying is not necessarily random misconduct or inappropriate behavior. It was recommended that all parents echo these differences at home with their children.

Topic: Teacher’s Report

Mrs. Frillici thanked the PTA, on behalf of all the teachers/staff, for a terrific luncheon and for all of the bathroom supplies. She also thanked the PTA for the coffee supplied in the faculty lounge. She expressed appreciation to the parents for supporting all the teachers during the transition into the new school year. The children have adjusted very well.

Topic: Introduction of New Executive Board Members

Lisa Hughes introduced the new board members allowing each an opportunity to introduce themselves. She also introduced John Karpowich explaining his role as the Board of Education liaison. Lisa also introduced Dean Fabrizio as Co-President of the Father’s Club. Anthony Mancini is also Co-President of the Father’s Club.

Topic: Committee Reports

Gift Wrap: Jodi McLean and Kelly Mallozzi reminded the board that gift wrap is a big fundraiser for the school. There is a new on-line process for ordering. It is going well but encouraged all parents to get their orders in. The fundraiser has been extended to October 5th.

Room Parents: Jannise Castaldi noted that the room parents meeting was held and parents have been chosen for all grade levels.

School Photos: School photos are Tuesday the 22nd and there are sufficient volunteers but if anyone wants to come down to help, feel free.

School Store: School store is trying to “go green” this year and has opted to stop selling trinkets and toy- type items. PTA, parents and staff are encouraged to purchase items from the school store for celebration prizes. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Miriam Wardzala or Jennifer Mottolese.

School Enhancement: Meg Smith commented on how terrific the school looks and a special thanks to all those who helped weed and water over the summer. A special thanks to Janet Grillo and her family for supplying mulch and soil to the school.

Junior Achievement: Liz Gross requested anyone interested in becoming a JA volunteer to contact her. Commitment level is roughly 1 hour a week for 5 weeks in the spring.

Yearbook: Dawn Paskevicz reminded the group that photos for the yearbook are needed for all grade levels. If you take any photos while visiting your child's class, please email them to her. If you are interested in volunteering for the yearbook, a meeting will be held on Friday the 25th at 1:30 at her home.

Publicity: Contact Annette Wolson if you are interested in having any Middlebrook news items published in the Trumbull Times. Articles must be submitted by the Friday prior to the week of publication.

Topic: Other Business

Lisa Hughes gave a special thanks to all of the various committees and its members who helped the students transition into the new school year. Those committees mentioned were Wellness, Spirit Wear, Welcoming, School Enhancement, Room Coordinators, and all those involved in the 1st grade lunches, kindergarten meet and greet and the kindergarten bus rides.

A "Get Out The Vote" representative is needed to represent Middlebrook School in the upcoming election. If anyone is interested, please contact Lisa Hughes.

Red Ribbon Day is in October. It is a week long event promoting healthy living. If anyone is interested in helping with this event, please contact Lisa Hughes.

Kim Johnson will be preparing a Middlebrook Family Directory available for download by request. A notice will be distributed this week with details.

Stop & Shop A+ Bonus Points go into effect October 9th. Kim Johnson will be sending home a flyer explaining to everyone how to register their Stop & Shop card online to earn A+ Bonus Points for Middlebrook School. Middlebrook is already registered with Big Y and Target (Target credit card holders only). A flyer will be going home explaining how these programs work.

Wipes have been purchased for all the kindergarten classrooms to help those classrooms clean and safe! Thank you Mrs. Colello!

Check out the Middlebrook PTA website at <http://middlebrookpta.com/> for an updated calendar of events, news and a Board Member and Committee listing.

Want to add something to the next PTA agenda? Contact Lisa Hughes.

Recorded and submitted by Cynthia Andrzejewski

Next PTA Meeting
October 12th 7:00
Media Center