

PTA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2015
9:20 a.m.

Attendees: Lisa Smith, Lisa Finn, Nicola Davies, Ginna Yerrall, Carolyn Lyon, Dr. Jen Mitchell, Johnna Reuter, Kristen Baldwin, Laura Rowley, Maria Koutsoukos, Jen Acerra-Markey, Catherine O'Keefe, Ellen Tuckner, Lauren Yoon, Melissa Kennedy

President's Report:

1. Gifts and Grants. Currently, there are none to present. Before the next meeting we hope to get some and we can vote on them.
2. Ginna posed the question, "Can we get the minutes sent to the school at large instead of just to the PTA members? Can we send an email blast? We need to send to room reps to get more parents involved. We can send minutes and agenda and offer coffee and doughnuts to attract more people.
3. Lana Tavin Energy Breaks did not happen. We attempted to contact her several times, but since it didn't happen, the money will go back to the general funds. We are looking into alternatives.
4. Motion made to give each teacher a \$100 grant. We were postponing the voting until there was a quorum.

Treasurer's Report:

1. We are currently waiting for the invoice for 5th Grade Fun Night. They wanted to hire a magician so a fee of \$5 was charged for each student. We made \$900. Once the bill comes in we anticipate that we will be even or a little money will have been made.
2. Some of the items are tentative. \$1900 is set aside for the funds for gifts and grants. Several questions regarding amounts of items were posed. Lisa would email Kristen regarding the items. For that reason, we tabled approving the budget.
3. Nicola had to leave; however, her vote was yes for the \$100 gifts and grants.

President's Report Continued:

1. A motion was made to give a \$100 teacher grant with an exception. The exception is the the teachers who received the new teacher grants will not receive an additional \$100. Carolyn Lyons seconded the motion. All approved. No abstentions.

Carolyn Lyons: Parental Concern regarding taking pictures

1. Carolyn expressed a concern regarding students that are on the no picture list. Her scenario was the she was at a field trip at Woodcock Nature Center with Miller Driscoll. Pictures were taken by their staff and by other parents. Woodcock posted pictures of the backs of kids, but it was possible to tell who the children were. Her children are on the no picture list. We need to have a clarification for picture privacy for school. Until there is a district policy, you may take pictures of only your child.

Before any pictures are used, teachers need to be sent the pictures and make sure that no one is on the no picture list and the pictures need to be approved. The current policy is that you can only take pictures of the backs of children so that they can't be recognized.

2. Dr. Mitchell will take this information to Dr. Smith.

Principals Report:

1. Student Leadership Team received their results back. The students presented to the faculty and will share their results based on their data. Would PTA be willing to hear a presentation at a meeting? Yes. They have tentative projects. This may help with attendance and add to the Helping Hands presentation. They are working on "What is true bullying and what is mean behavior? We need to come to an understanding of what it is.

2. There were 60 people to sign up for the Mindset Book Group and 40 people attended. The notes from it will be posted online. It was enjoyed by all. There will be a face to face meeting.

Grants:

We are looking to purchase Chromebooks and get a Chromebook cart. The hope is to have a chromebook cart or Ipad cart for each house.

Catherine O'Keefe:

Any questions regarding Dismissal Manager? It's very easy to use. There are no bad questions.

Question posed: When does the teacher get the final notice of the schedule? Answer: Between 12:30 and 2:00 there is a moment for each teacher to check email. After 12:30, everyone will know where and how everyone is going home. The teacher will communicate with the kids and busses will have the information ready. The default can change and can change for each day. Please email if you have questions. You still must use a note for an early pickup. There is a smartphone app for it. Dismissal Manager will give a more narrative of what needs to be done. If an app is found, email it to Lisa and she will send out an email blast.

Any Questions regarding the SBAC?

Teacher Report:

1. The teachers are excited about the \$100 grants and very appreciative.

2. Box Top collection went well. We received 11,000 box tops for a total of about \$1100 made.

3. Pictures are being taken outside. Thank you for Fun Nights, Field Trips, and 4th Grade Poetry in Motion. Poetry in Motion is a program that takes all kinds of poems and puts them to music and props.

4. Miller Driscoll Carnival is coming and being held this weekend and looking for volunteers.

5. Box Tops are double from last year to \$1100. We received a check for \$321.50 in December. The next check will be received in April and then the next one will arrive in October of next year.

Spiritwear:

Spiritwear and Field Day coming up. Make sure your child has their spiritwear for Field Day.

Parent Advisory Board:

This is Disabilities Awareness Month. We are talking about inclusion. They made the arrangements at the school entrance. April 24th is Spirit of Inclusion Day and students are encouraged to wear all house colors. There will be an article about it in Good Morning Wilton.

Dr. Mitchell: A statement will be drafted to send home to the parents explaining April 24th.

Secretary's Report:

Jen Markey made a motion to approve the minutes. Carolyn Lyons approved the minutes. All in favor. No abstentions. Motion passed.

Lisa:

Middlebrook Play structure will be put into place in April.

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming the week of May 4th. There are 3 events planned.

Middlebrook PTA:

There are several Middlebrook PTA positions available. Some are an urgent need. Weekly Messenger- similar to Hot Cider, Directory Sales – start the end of August. It's a 3 week job and you're done. 8th Grade Dance, Library Coordinator, Fundraising, Picnic, Volunteer Coordinator

There will be a blurb in the next Hot Cider listing the jobs and descriptions. You can pass on names to the Middlebrook PTA or send them to Lisa to send to them.

10:15 Meeting Adjourned