



Middleton PTO General Minutes

Sept. 10, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. - Middleton Elementary Media Center

Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Approve Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes from the May 14, 2024 PTO General Meeting were distributed for attendees to read/review
 - b. Lavinia Finnerty moved to approve the minutes
 - i. Katie Rock seconded the motion
 - ii. All in favor said, “aye” (no attendees opposed the motion)

3. Celebrations
 - a. Staff Appreciation
 - i. PTO served lunch from Davanni’s and presented funding/reimbursement procedural overview to teachers on their first official day back in the building
 - b. Open House
 - i. Event was well attended
 - ii. 350 cups of Kona Ice were served
 - c. Culver’s Night
 - i. First Culver’s Night of the school year (hosted by fifth grade) appeared to be a success based on crowd size
 - d. Lunchroom
 - i. Lunch has been running smoothly due to phenomenal kitchen staff and lunchroom volunteers
 - ii. Hoping to continue with lunchroom volunteers throughout the school year

4. Walkathon
 - a. Fundraiser will kick off on Monday, Sept. 16
 - i. Letter with details will go home with all students that day
 - b. Fundraising window shortened by a week (two weeks this year vs. three weeks last year)

- c. Funds raised will go towards staff appreciation, teacher support, grade-level support, field trip support, and goal areas such as literacy, math and science
 - i. Enrollment is down this year, which impacts income
 - ii. Hopeful that shortened fundraising window will help maintain momentum of donations
 - iii. Also hoping to realize larger profit by switching to a fundraising platform with with fewer/lower fees
 - iv. Excited to see what we can do as a community
- d. DJs from last year will be returning for this year's event on Sept. 27

5. Budget

- a. Previous PTO Board had approximately \$24,000 in checking account last spring with a year-end spend-down Target of about \$14,000
 - i. Some expenses have carried over into this current school year
- b. Budget is dynamic without knowing what we will raise for Walkathon
- c. To date this school year, PTO board has done a good job of recognizing staff while being conscious of budget
- d. Decisions have been made to not renew subscriptions like Brain Pop due to increased cost
- e. Question about differences/deviations from previous year's budget explained as follows:
 - i. Last year started with a higher cash flow
 - 1. Carry over from 2022 Walkathon, which was particularly successful due to it being the first fundraiser and first PTO event coming out of the pandemic
 - 2. 2023 Walkathon was less successful due to general rising costs
 - ii. Special funding requests approved last year also impacted this year's budget
 - 1. Examples include purchase of Decodable Readers and Book Break books for the Media Center
 - iii. Other changes from last year that impact our budget
 - 1. Movie Nights have been discontinued
 - 2. BINGO Nights will now be run by Student Council
- f. If proposed budget plays out as expected, there will be a deficit of approximately \$4,000
- g. Kyle Koisti moved to approve the 2024-2025 budget
 - i. April Prunty seconded the motion
 - ii. All in favor said, "aye" (no members opposed the motion)
- h. Brief discussion about fundraising, in general
 - i. Suggestions/comments included:
 - 1. Ensuring fundraising goals are clearly communicated to engage families
 - 2. Pushing messages about employer matches

3. Exploring possible interest of a large company to match the total school goal amount for future fundraisers
 4. Stepping away from focus on individual fundraising incentives that pull top fundraising students from class for a special event
 5. Revisiting experiential goals (something like the Gaga Ball Pit from a couple of years ago), when budget permits
6. Extracurriculars/Community Offerings
- a. More Community Education offerings being held at Middleton than there have been in recent years
 - b. Girl Scouts/Cub Scouts
 - i. Hosted tables at Open House and have signs at front entrance
 - ii. If needed, PTO can help connect anyone interested with appropriate group contacts
 - c. LEGO League
 - i. Middleton K-5 league is looking for additional coaches; contact Katie Rock if interested
7. Board of Volunteers
- a. For those interested, there are a lot of opportunities to get involved/volunteer
 - b. Signing up for the Board of Volunteers does not obligate you to volunteer, but members will be contacted first about upcoming opportunities (including lunchroom volunteers)
 - c. Information will be posted in the Your Middleton PTO Facebook group soon
8. Admin Updates
- a. Technology
 - i. iPads are starting to be issued to K-2 students and chromebooks are being issued to third-fifth graders
 - ii. Change for this year: technology devices will not be going home
 1. Devices are no longer needed for e-learning/snow days
 2. Technology protection plan has been discontinued
 3. Devices will have protective cases and be stored on technology carts at school
 - b. Book Break
 - i. Virtual author visits facilitated by Bay Shock & Michelle Simons (Media Specialists)
 - ii. Exposes students to a wide variety of authors (more so than past in-person author visits)
 - c. Transportation
 - i. Bus Rider IDs

1. For those still needing a Bus Rider ID card, there is a list of more to be printed
 - ii. My Ride K-12 App
 1. Not currently available, but Transportation intends to have this app ready for parents to use starting with the 2025-2026 school year
 - d. Picture Day
 - i. Scheduled for Sept. 26
 - ii. Volunteers will be needed
 - e. "Camp Middleton"
 - i. First few days of the school year used to build community and learn procedures & routines
 - ii. Team-building emphasized in each classroom (e.g., extra recess, books about inclusion, morning meetings, teachers greeting each individual student, etc.)
 - f. Brain Break Training
 - i. Jenna Downs and several other staff members recently attended training that they hope to implement in building
 - g. Gaga Ball
 - i. Instructions are being reintroduced in PE classes
 - ii. Pit will be open at recess starting the week of Sept. 16
9. Open Discussion
- a. Your Middleton Facebook Group
 - i. Requires individuals requesting membership to answer specific questions
 - ii. Prospective members must also be verified by referencing current class lists in the office
 - b. School Directory
 - i. Messaging will be coming soon about enrolling in School Directory (or updating existing listing info)
 - ii. Info in School Directory from last year will roll off starting Oct. 1
 - c. Volunteer Sign-up Platforms
 - i. Suggestion to look into new Evite SignUp Sheets as a possible alternative to SignUpGenius