**PIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

1. **Welcome**  - *Margie Rafferty-Criscione*
2. **Update on the Kortney Rose fundraiser** *- Mrs Gillette*

Mrs. Gillette disclosed the *Kortney’s Cash for the Cure* fundraiser in our schools raised $10,312 during the fall service learning opportunity to fund pediatric brain tumor research, a 28% increase over the 2017 total of $7,424. Mrs. Gillette was very appreciative of the engagement by the entire school community, including the Parent Information Council. The top three elementary classes were Ms. Conniff's 2nd grade class at River Plaza, Mrs. McGraw's 5th grade class at Lincroft and Mrs. Ford's 3rd grade class at Navesink. The top four schools raised 49% of the money donated by the school community. At their December 5th Board meeting, the Board recognized the top 3 elementary schools, River Plaza, Lincroft and Fairview, as well as Middletown North as the top secondary school, along with the top three top classes. Mrs. Gillette also visited the top class in each elementary school to present a trophy.

1. [**Update on Middle School Schedule Implementation**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1RoQaHXEwvQvu6fzPHon-kOMI_Mksz29uDKDwiG-vRPs/edit?usp=sharing)**-** *Mr. Scarano, Mr. Olausen and Mr. Currie* (see slides #14-17 for specific information on the middle school schedule)
2. **Update on Elementary School Homework Extensions - How is the transition to middle school working?-** *Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Zupancic, Mr. Scarano, Mr. Olausen and Mr. Currie*

Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Zupancic shared that the purpose of *Classroom Extensions* is to engage families in the student learning process with choice of days and activities to complete throughout the week/unit of study/month, etc. This allows for hand-in-hand time management planning with the student and the parent.

The word “homework” is often associated with teacher assigned work that is due on a daily basis. *Classroom Extensions* seek to broaden the learning process by connecting school and home with embedded student choice, personalization of learning, and student interest at the forefront. Flexibility allows for families to coordinate their weekly activities with time for supportive learning time at home.

Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Zupancic discussed examples/types of district *Classroom Extension* activities: DreamBox, Fundations activities (K-2), nightly reading (non-negotiable), sight-word activities, Raz-kids, etc. It was noted that parents should not provide too much help to students with DreamBox activities. Dreambox activities are intended to be completed independently, so that they accurately reflect the student’s skill set and understanding. Families are encouraged to grow students’ personal interests at home. Supporting student SPARK projects is one way in which this can be accomplished.

Principals will be providing further communication/explanation to parents, at upcoming PTA/PTO meetings, that there are expectations for students to complete *Classroom Extensions* in a timely fashion and the appropriate ways in which families should be involved with these activities.

Mr. Scarano, Mr. Olausen, and Mr. Currie shared that the transition to sixth grade comes with the need for some natural adjustments. Homework is one expectation that students often need time at the beginning of the year to adjust, as the demands shift from elementary to middle school, and again when they enter high school and college. The sixth grade *Study Skills* course is being rewritten this Spring. Additional consideration is being given to the topics of time management, organizational skills, etc. to support students with the transition to middle school. Middle School principals will continue to work with community teachers to ensure that they plan and structure expectations for homework accordingly and within Board policy/regulation requirements:

Grade Avg. Length of Daily Assignment

Kindergarten- second Up to 30 minutes\*

Third Up to 45 minutes\*

Fourth-Fifth Up to 60 minutes\*

**\*The above times include nightly reading expectations**

Grade Average Daily Homework

6-8 1 to 1½ hours

9-12 1 to 2 hours

Parents are again reminded to contact their child’s teachers and/or guidance counselors, when appropriate, to discuss concerns or questions about homework demands, time students are spending on completing nightly homework or *Classroom Extensions*, and possible individual accommodations that may be necessary.

1. [**Update on 2019-2020 Budget Process**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1vq89zG58_Ie81Vkc2Qu7uZd5eRr6ZaABINt1S5PpHoI/edit?usp=sharing) - *Mrs. Amy Gallagher, Dr. George*
2. **MTFODL**

* **Understanding Autism Presentation**, January 8, 2019, 6:00PM-7:00PM at High School North. Presented by the Middletown Office of Student Services. Presentation will discuss the district’s programs, fundamental strategies and characteristics of students with autism. Link to flyer: <https://www.middletownk12.org/Page/11252>
* **Pre-school Open House**, January 16, 2019, 6:00PM-7:00PM at New Monmouth Elementary School. Link to flyer: <https://www.middletownk12.org/cms/lib/NJ01912805/Centricity/Domain/47/Middletown%20Preschool%20Open%20House%20Flyer%202019.pdf>
* **Slam Dunk Autism Challenge** – January 19, 2019 at HS North is a competitive basketball conference event. Fans can choose which games to attend. Students with disabilities participate in running the event. This is a fundraiser for the district that benefits students with disabilities.

1. **Board of Education** - *Pam Rogers*
2. **Old Business -** Please donate to the discretionary fund. It’s used to remember the district secretaries at Christmas and at the end of the year.
3. **New Business -** Prom dress donation discussion for the Memorial Sloan Kettering prom night. More details to follow.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

Possible topics for discussion are:

* Brookdale liaison program update
* Suicide prevention program update
* Can there be a common platform for communication for all the district schools?