

PIC Meeting
Minutes for 4/3/2012
Co-Chairs Judy Saydah/Maria Wheaton

Judy Saydah/Co-Chair:

- We Relay to CELEBRATE the lives of those who have battled cancer, REMEMBER loved ones lost to the disease, and FIGHT BACK to put an end to the disease June 15-16, 2012 5PM - 7AM @ Middletown High School NORTH www.relayforlife.org/middletownnj or call 732 292-4263 . Inform your schools and inform your parent groups.

Dr. George/Superintendent:

- The start date for the 2012-2013 school calendar. Professional Development days are scheduled to begin prior to the first day of school so the teachers can implement strategies they learn during Professional Development days. The calendar varies from year to year depending on how the holidays fall. The PD days are scheduled as early dismissal days as opposed to the delayed openings that the district has currently scheduled for the 2011-2012 calendar year. The administration wants to provide continuity for the staff by having the session at the end of the school day. This allows for time for the staff to meet with specials teachers for feedback on grading and provides an opportunity for special education and child study teams to be meet, plan and prepare. The board of education is working with the administration to maximize the benefits offered through PD. In addition, PD at the end of the day allows principals the opportunity to extend the PD into a staff meeting for more time to fully in service staff on district and state initiatives.
- An increased need for supervision of staff since early dismissal PD sessions were not always widely attended in the past. Dr. George, Dr. Takacs and the B.O.E. are aware that this has been an issue in the past and are taking steps to insure staff attendance.
- The Parent Survey Results –Looked at as an opportunity to improve the schools. The district received 1,817 responses from all 17 schools. The administration and building principals will review data specific to their schools. The district is looking to support schools based on the data. The administration acknowledges that the survey does have limitations and will use the limitations to improve upon future surveys. The survey was not password protected so people could have filled out multiple surveys. Response rates varied from school to school. It was noted by PIC that the data would look different for different grade levels and different students (honors, special needs etc). The survey is just a tool for the district to receive more information/communication from parents. The survey served no additional purpose such as Blue Ribbon consideration. Staff is also being surveyed.
- The website is a work in progress. Superintendent's page was changed and the Curriculum page contains many resources for parents. The administration is working on an offline draft. Hopefully, the new website will be up by July 1. Placing District Policy on line is also being discussed.
- With the new State Evaluation Model, the Administration is in the process of revising the observation and evaluation process to best serve our students. This will include ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of all personnel. By May 14, 2012, Dr. George will be recommending staff rehires.
- Concerns over the report card are being reviewed by the Report Card Committee chaired by Karen Zupancic/Middletown Village Principal. Lack of updating the grades on the parent portal on a regular basis at the Middle and High School levels, by some teachers, was addressed at the administrative meeting last week.

Dr. Takacs/Assistant Superintendent

- Summer programs. Remedial sessions will be held for five weeks from 8:45 – 10:45 and will be offered to remedial students who fit the criteria. Criteria for remedial students are based on their previous ASK score, the DRA and will include students that are socioeconomic disadvantaged. Teachers and principals will also make recommendations. These students must attend all five weeks of the program and will be bussed for an 8:45 start. They will be bussed home after the enrichment session. If they do not attend the enrichment program the parent is responsible for a 10:45 pick up. The administration encourages remedial students to stay for enrichment classes. Enrichment will begin at 11:00 and end at 12:30. The program will also run for five weeks beginning on July 9 and ending on August 9. Students will have different opportunities each week. Brochures will be sent home. For students attending the enrichment program, the parents are responsible for transportation. Transportation will be provided for the Monmouth University portion of the enrichment program. The students will be picked up and dropped off at Middletown HS North. The registration packet will include a photo consent form, transportation forms and email addresses will be required for communication. Students will be asked to prioritize classes on the registration form. Registration will be held April 18th through May 9th. Please note these are strict registration guidelines and there is no guarantee of how many enrichment sessions a student may attend. Remedial students will be notified by mail. The brochure and registration will be available for others to download and print online. Classes will be held at Bayshore Middle School.
- AP/ Honor Students -There will be summer enrichment opportunities and online information to help all AP students address workload. AP Stats Class will be part of summer enrichment, but enrichment will not be mandatory. AP students will have an opportunity to take the AP Prep course and even students who do not attend the AP Class will have an opportunity to do work during the summer. This will prepare them for the start of classes in September when materials will be expanded upon. Enrichment classes will be run for five weeks beginning July 9 and ending August 9.

Brochures are almost complete. The AP teachers will collaborate on what they learned during the summer session to develop a model and form consistent instruction between HS North and HS South for AP Classes. For our AP students their fourth quarter marking period consists of subject project-based learning that counts toward final grades. District is exploring the option of having a video tutorial component for AP students.

- After the NJASK Fair the next focus will be a technology workshop for parents held by children to enhance understanding of technology use in the classroom. On the Parent Portal any concerns dealing with teachers the chain of command needs to be followed address issues with teacher, building administration and then the district.
- A Language Arts Pilot, Hartcourt Journeys for some incoming first and fourth grade classes. The administration will look for teacher feedback regarding the pilot and may adopt it if it is successful. There will be professional development prior to the pilot start. The district already has done balanced literacy but it has not been implemented consistently. Hartcourt Journeys is not that different from the current program but provides more consistency and resources and has a grammar component. It utilizes the LEADS philosophy with multiple best practices.
- The district is reviewing the summer reading program. Students are asked to read over the summer. Some students say the teachers don't follow through in September to insure that the summer reading was accomplished. Charlene O'Hagan has not formally started in her new position but has already been working on summer reading with Cynthia Wilson, the representative to the Middletown Public Library. Students will be required to complete a summer assignment for the book they read. This assignment will count as grade in September.
- The reading specialists are being trained now to identify students who are not classified but who struggle with reading. A research based model helps obtain strategies so children can go to class with the skills necessary after receiving support.

Joan Minniues/Board of Education President

- Ms. Minniues hopes that our students participate in this summer's enrichment programs.
- Last day of Class of students is June 13th due to unused snow days.

Karen Antone/Middletown Township Friends Of Different Learner MTFODL@gmail.com

- MTFODL will meet after spring break this month. They routinely meet on the second Tuesday evenings of the month at Panera (7:00-8:30PM) and the second Wednesday of the month at Talericios (12:30-2:00PM) May 1st there will be a special presentation about inclusion at HS North. Parents, Administrators, Paras and Teachers are welcomed.
- Also addressed was the availability of the It's Ok To Be Different Program.

Please note items discussed at PIC meetings are in the WIP/Work In Progress state and are subject to change.