**Wilton Special Education Parent Teacher Association**

**Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2019**

**7:00- 8:30 pm Comstock Community Center – RM12**

* Welcome and Introductions
* President Report – Kara Berghaus
  + Mission - Supporting teachers, families, and students
* Secretary Report – Rosalie Witt
  + Sign in sheet
  + 2019-2020 Meeting Dates
  + Membership –
    - current number is 28.
    - Last year we were at 80 at the end of the year.
    - Important to spread awareness to families to join and encourage previous members to join.
* Budget Review –
  + 8, 362.11 is our operating budget. We plan to allocate funds for:
    - Gifts and Grants
    - Printing
    - Diversity and Inclusion Month Programming
    - Social Events for Families
* Committees Reports
  + **Fundraising and Grants** – Lori Fusco and Debra Eggleston
    - Gift and Grants – Michelle Krupa
      * 2018-2019 – Flexible seating and materials – Mrs. G. @ Cider Mill
      * 2019-2020 - Approved Gifts and Grants Application from Cider Mill teacher.
        + Small group instruction materials - $300
    - Bracelets – available at Local Soul
    - Wilton Boot Camp
    - Turn Over Shop – strategic planning for when to donate in season items
  + **Communication and Public Relations** – Lisa Strasser
    - Mail chimp account – gives us important data about engagement
    - Monthly electronic newsletter
    - 155 followers on Facebook
    - Posters in the children’s library and around town
  + **Diversity and Inclusion School Programming**
    - Diversity and Inclusion Month in April
  + **Community and Family Events**
    - Share ideas of community/family events
    - Upcoming Fall Events:
      * Transition Meeting – October 23 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm
      * October Bake Sale – October 27 @ Village Market
        + Girl scouts helping to sell the bracelets.
      * Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions (SPACE) Program – November 4th and 5th
* School Representatives
  + Miller Driscoll – Rosalie Witt
  + Cider Mill – Kara Berghaus
  + Middlebrook
  + High School
* Administrative Update - Andrea Leonardi (Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Student Services)
  + New Staff Members onboarded
  + Transportation is working out well
  + District Goals
    - Literacy ~ Focus on Pre-K-5
      * 50 teachers completed first steps in OG training
      * New group starting – SPED, GEN ED, Literacy Specialist and interventionists.
      * 35 who are at the associate’s level – 60-hour certification
      * Looking at universal screening systems/identification process. The intention is to publish the process for families in language that is understandable.
    - Transition – New state statute
      * Focused on children with autism
      * Starts at 14
      * In Wilton, the discussion of transition begins at 6th grade
      * Melissa Barrett - new assistant with a focus on 6th grade through 21
      * Sharon DeAngelo is focused on Pre-K - 5
    - Social -Emotional Learning
      * RULER – How to talk about how we feel and how that impacts what is going on.
      * The work in this area is in the infancy stages. Slow methodical work that will change everyone’s mindset.
    - Partnering with WYC and SEPTA on the SPACE Program
      * Ellie Leibowitz –
        + Training of Trainers – list generated for the community of trainers
        + November 4th Parent Presentation
    - State Leadership Council
    - Wilton United Teams – unified sports
    - Transition Expo – October 23
      * Bureau of Adult and Aging –
        + providing employment opportunities
        + post-secondary options
        + guardianships representatives
      * Guest speaker potential
    - Self-care and balance lives for teachers is an important part of the message coming from the district. Teachers have to have time away in order to be at their best.
    - Quarterly news from Special Ed
* Extended School Year Parent Meeting
  + September 19 @ 10:30 in the Miller Driscoll Early Learning Center Conference Room