**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