

Blind Brook PTA  
General Meeting  
Thursday, March 21, 2024  
9:00AM  
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

**MINUTES**

● **Presentation by Dr. Colin Byrne**

- *MS/HS athletic fields*
  - We are working on it
  - Update to go out shortly
  - The presentations are up on the website
  - I would like to thank everyone who reached out to help
  - We are getting additional information from the architect
  - April 2nd board meeting will be a follow-up
  - All teams have been shifter in order to play and practice
  - The moving up ceremony is potentially being move to SUNY Purchase
- *Budget*
  - We are at the tax cap
  - Looking into ways to fund things that were cut like field trips
  - April 2nd budget workshop
- *Clarification on snow days*
  - We did use 2 days on 1/16 and 2/13
  - May 24th is the only give back day

**II. Acceptance of last month's minutes: Approved. (Johanna Gonzalez)**

**III. Co-Presidents' Report: Cameron Sager and Correy Stephenson**

**IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz**

- All good reported by Cameron Sager

**V. Special Events & Fundraising: Leah Mittleman & Karen Lin**

- Hosted first ever Bingo night and it was a huge success
- Spring Flex will start the week of 4/8. We are working on fabulous programming right now and should have schedules to share after break.
- Save the date for Harlem Wizards Saturday April 27th when the blind Brook faculty takes on the wizards.
- Plant Sale is back just in time for Mother's Day 5/9 & 5/10.
- 4th and 5th grade Olympic night will be Monday 20th. More details coming soon.

**VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind**

- 

**VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano**

- Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the 2nd annual BBMS Book Fair!
- Thank you to the 5th grade parents for joining our *Incoming 6th Grade Parent Orientation* last week
- April 2 - Principal's Conversation - 6:30 PM (Topic: Planning for 2024-2025)
- April 8 - Solar Eclipse - We are planning an event so that students can safely view the eclipse
- April 8-12 - Wellness Week - Special events will be taking place throughout the week
- April 9 - End of 3rd Quarter
- April 10 - Start of 4th Quarter (6th and 7th graders change to their next Exploratory class)
- April 11 - 6th Grade Parent Meeting to prepare for next year
- April 11-12 - NYS ELA Assessment

## VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley

- A. Solar eclipse...
  - a. Does PTA want to be involved
  - b. Buy the solar eclipse glasses or have students purchase
  - c. \$2 each.
  - d. Happening from 230...
  - e. Right at dismissal
  - f. Cool to get everyone glasses and we could go out together...
  - g. Email the board...
  - h. On April 8
  - i. Hudson river museum emailed me
  - j. Doing a solar eclipse events
  - k. Having astronaut come
  - l. They are selling glasses to schools.
  - m. Talking to science dept about other things we can do that week
  - n. Next time it will happen is in 50 years
- B. In the middle of scheduling
- C. Everyone has handed in sheets
- D. We build it in April
- E. We take all requests in march
- F. Kids will know courses before end of school
- G. Getting ready for Aps.
- H. Break at end of march
- I. APs in may
- J. Sent out a memo to senior parents about events coming up
- K. DECA team did well
- L. Robotics team did well at regional tournament
- M. Championship season...
- N. Social media incidents
  - a. Have a call to assistant DA
  - b. Talk to her tomorrow about coming in and talking about social media
  - c. Some of the effects of what can happen
  - d. What's legal and what's not legal
  - e. Important for kids to know
  - f. When does harassment and bullying become illegal
  - g. Not just against school rules

- h. Setting a culture and tone of what you want to have in the school
  - i. Talked to upperclassmen differently because we think it was an underclassman who started it
  - j. Been reaching out to parents
  - k. I don't want to call your kid in unnecessarily
  - l. I don't want kids starting rumors about each other
  - m. Some kids really upset about it
  - n. spoke to some of them individually
- O. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- a. Sending out an rsvp this week
  - b. See who else is going
  - c. If there are any pta members who want to volunteer to help out that day.
  - d. Logistical stuff that has to happen
  - e. If anyone wants to volunteer
  - f. Reached out to students
  - g. It's community service hours but haven't gotten much response
  - h. Reached out to student groups to see if they can encourage students
  - i. A lot of it is setting up for presentation and yearbook viewing..

**IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Kiki Debari**

- Homework program update. This is continuing to be very successful and parents are thrilled. We are now potentially looking to extend this to 3rd/4th/5th grade gen ed students who need it.
- The next SEID event "How to talk to your teachers" will be held ahead of next month's parent teacher conferences on April 3rd @7pm in the RSS cafeteria.
- Loren and I are due to meet with Pupil Services on Friday, please send any questions.

**X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman**

- Nothing new

**XI. New Business:**

- Nothing new

Attendance	
In Person	
Correy Stephenson Johanna Gonzalez Amanda Gitkind Dr. Byrne Kiki Debari Katherine Ayala Cameron Sager Naomi Riley Debra Cohen Katie Wolff Melissa Sheinheit Stephanie Biderman Ann Sedrish Leah Mittelman Karen Lin Laura Wolther Dea Katel Fischer	