

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, February 15, 2024
7:00PM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

MINUTES

● **Presentation by Dr. Colin Byrne**

- We had a snow day this week
- We have used 2 snow days and we have one left
- We will have our board meeting 3/5 and roll all information
- We are still working on the budget and planning on being under the cap
 - We will get information out to the community as soon as we can
- Athletic fields will not be directly in the next budget but we are looking at several different options to help fund them
- *Dialogue on Race* - it is not specifically a conversation on race. The community to have conversations about anything within the community.
- Dr. Curtin has put out another curriculum town hall on 2/26
 - Open forum for feedback from the community

II. Acceptance of last month's minutes: Approved. (Alicia Scala & Tonianne Rigano)

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

- Nominating committee on 2/29 @ Ruby's in Rye
- Hopefully there is some interest

IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz

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

- March 6th we will be hosting our first BINGO night for 3rd-5th graders from 6-7pm. Sold out!!
- 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

- Third grade Flamenco dancing residency is up and running
 - Each class will have 6 sessions
 - There will be an assembly at the end of Feb.
 - There will be a performance in March for children and families
- Thanks again to the PTA for the greenhouse
 - Table is installed
- Ms. Fagan and Ms. Aquino are working hard and will ensure every grade has a different project in the greenhouse
- March bluebird chat will be on NY State testing
 - Testing takes place in April
- Please visit the lost and found to claim items

VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano

- February 19-23 - Vacation
- February 29 - Incoming 8th Grade Parent Meeting to discuss the transition from 7th to 8th grade, 7 PM
- March 4-8 - *Say Something Week* - designed to help students recognize warning signs of someone at risk of hurting themselves or others and saying something to a trusted adult
- March 4 - International Potluck Dinner
- March 6 - Students dismissed at 12:50 PM
- March 12-14 - BBMS Book Fair!
- March 14 - Incoming 6th Grade Parent Meeting to discuss the transition from 5th to 6th grade, 7 PM

PTA Reflections Program Update

An email was sent yesterday announcing our local winners going on to the regional competition. Regional winners will be announced in the coming weeks.

VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley

- A. Scheduling night last week for 9-11
- B. Tonight is for incoming 9 th graders
- C. Next week doing senior options night
 - a. With Mr. Ambrosio and Mr. barnes
 - b. Talk about what senior options are
 - c. What they look like
 - d. Know what they're going into
 - e. Paperwork is due the next day
- D. 50 th anniversary is moving
 - a. May 18
 - b. If anyone wants to join us in planning, look for someone with experience event planning or community building
 - c. Time capsule for grades
 - d. Something for all the grades to participate
 - e. When they graduate and come back as alum will be able to open it up
 - f. Want it to be a community event
 - g. Food trucks
 - h. Some performances by musical band
 - i. Maybe a playoff game if our teams in spring make it
- E. For anyone to come see the building
 - a. Learn about history of it and school district
 - b. A lot has changed in 50 years
- F. In March we're going to have ***Mamma Mia***
 - a. There is a matinee for younger kids...
- G. Scheduling
 - a. Picking courses
 - b. Have individual meetings and go over course selections
 - c. Have students go over choices...
 - d. Based on feedback about advisory from students and teachers
- H. Goals of advisory weren't being met
 - a. Putting a pause on it

- b. Had students fill out survey based on vision of a graduate
 - c. And then asked teachers to fill out what they see student skills of vision of graduate
- I. Use those surveys to figure out where students need most support
 - a. If it's not effective let's pause it
 - b. Students were asked are you effective...
 - c. Students rated themselves highly and teachers said not so much.
 - d. Literally from the vision of a graduate
 - e. Skills and dispositions are labeled...

IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Kiki Debari

- We held our most recent SEID event on Monday. "How to prepare for your Annual Review". Very well attended and we also partnered up with the Portchester school district. A great turnout and it worked well. I'd like to see that happen in the future.
- We're working on events for the remainder of the year - Hopefully in March, but save the date of April 3rd. A workshop for "How to communicate with your Teacher". This is for all families, not just Special Education Families.
- Up-date on homework support program. It is going very well. Parents and all students benefiting.
- It has been requested that Pupil Services be present and even speak at upcoming incoming 8th & 6th grade orientation.
- Lastly, Heard In Rye Event - Toxins and forever plastics in our home. March 4th @12p

X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman

- Nothing new

XI. New Business:

- Nothing new

Attendance	
In Person	
Correy Stephenson Alicia scala Kiki Debari Katherine Ayala Cameron Sager Naomi Riley Debra Cohen Monique Tricarico ToniAnne Rigano Katie Wolff Melissa Sheinheit Stephanie Biderman Ann Sedrish Leah Mittelman Karen Lin Laura Wolther Dea Katel Fischer Kerri James	