

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2023
7:00PM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

MINUTES

- **Presentation by Dr. Colin Byrne**
 - There is change in the policy with medication and overnight trips
 - Curriculum town hall

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

- III. Co-Presidents' Report: Cameron Sager and Correy Stephenson**
 - The nominating committee will be up and running in the new year
 - We purchased furniture for all 3 schools
 1. 5th grade furniture has arrived

- IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz**

- V. Special Events & Fundraising: Leah Mittleman, Karen Lin, Linda Itani**
 - January - Jester Jim

- VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind**
 - A. If you wish to contact the Bmprss nurse or health office, please email rssnurse@blindbrook.org or call 914-937-3600 x2217
 - B. Lots of bluebirds are continuing to warm up with a book! Check out the Weekly Highlights for some of our bluebirds who completed the "Warm Up with a Book" Reading Challenge!
 - C. Bmprss 5th Grade Winter Band Concert is next week! Looking forward to a wonderful concert!

- D. BMPRSS Spirit Week is next week! Thanks to our BMPRSS Student Council for voting on next week's themes!

VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano

- Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring yesterday's Cookie Decorating event!
- Tomorrow marks the halfway point of the second marking period. Progress reports will be posted on Tuesday afternoon.
- Our next Principal's Conversation will take place at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, January 10th
- Save the date: We are in the midst of planning our next Parent & Student workshop for Wednesday, January 24th. Stay tuned for more information after winter break.
- Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

- **PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM**
- We are now accepting submissions for the PTA Reflections Program. All students K-12 are welcome to participate in this annual contest celebrating their artistic talent in six different categories – visual arts, music, dance choreography, film production, literature, photography, and a special artist category as an option for students with disabilities who receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504.
- Visit the PTA Reflections website for official rules and entry form:
- <https://www.blindbrook.org/Page/591>
- Community members and Blind Brook faculty with expertise in any of the categories are invited to serve as judges. Please email our PTA Reflections Coordinator, ToniAnne Rigano, at bbptareflections@gmail.com for details if you are interested in volunteering.
- Student submissions are due Monday, December 11th.

VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley

- A. Not much happening at the high school the next month
- B. In January, it starts to pick up. Junior college planning on January 11, 7 pm, guest speaker and
- C. Counselors come talk about Blind Brook process
- D. Also high school winter concert on Jan 8.
- E. Still planning 50th anniversary celebration
- F. May 18-Save the date

- a. Will be sending out info to community
 - b. Already Facebook event set up
 - c. Will send out more information
 - d. Can submit pictures if they're alums
 - e. Like a mega-yearbook
 - f. Be on the lookout for that...
- G. Last day before break is Dec. 22, not a half day

IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Kiki Debari

- The last Bluebird chat that took place was focused on programming. Mrs Taylor and Mrs Letizia covered ICT and MTSS during the presentation.
- MTSS policy is due to be updated. The information was posted on the BOE docs. The current plan is listed on Pupil Services website, if anyone wants to review, compare and contrast. Upon my own review I do not see much that is different, apart from behavioral intervention in the MS. This will be approved at next month's BoE meeting, in case anyone has any questions.
- Dr Curtin is due to present at next month's BOE meeting. Pupil Services now report directly to him, so this might be an important presentation to listen to.
- We are still working on our events for the year. The next will be a social gathering for SEID parents who are looking to connect with other parents in the district. Look out for information.
- Loren and Kiki are due to meet with Mr Burg and the new Assistant Director Karen Vitti at the end of this month. Please share any questions or concerns so we can raise these on your behalf.

X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman

- Dial-a-friends are done and delivered

XI. Community Coalition: Debra Cohen, Community Coalition Coordinator and Monique Tricario, Student Assistance Counselor and Prevention Coordinator

- 1/24 middle school parent/child pm workshop with the JCK foundation
- Funding ended - it was a 10 year grant
- The district has retained our student assistance counselor full-time to maintain prevention education, vaping and drug prevention programs
- In December we had Kathi and Chris Sullivan from Sullivans message

1. Talking about Kathi's daughter who dies after a night of underage drinking and Chris's road to addiction and recovery
2. They spoke to all HS students and there was a parent presentation

XII. New Business:

- o Nothing new

Attendance	
In Person	
Correy Stephenson Alicia scala Johanna Gonzalez Cameron Sager ToniAnne Rigano Melissa Sheinheit Emily Weinstein-Mahoney Allison Baumrind Allison Conte Kiki Debari Loren Becker Shari Turner Sarah Bailey Kerri James Debra Cohen	