

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023
9:00AM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)
MINUTES

● **Presentation by Dr. Colin Byrne**

- We had our building inspection, we have not gotten the final reports but everything looks good.
- The budget process is starting to be prepared for the Spring
 - Conversation with administrators
 - Fiscally responsible this year
 - Related to that we are planning 2 town halls. Dr. Curtin will present on curriculum and Laurie Baum on finance.
- There were 2 instances with the RBPD and I was aware. I reached out and there was nothing to report.
- The calendar 2024/25
 - Still collecting feedback
 - The strongest feedback is including holidays that are not currently included
 - Some want to begin before 9/1 and others do not
 - Taking into account everyone's request and to do what is best for our students
 - The calendar should be complete by the end of January

Q. Is there a public vote on the calendar (Ann Sedrish)?

A. No, there is not a public vote with the community. (Dr. Byrne)

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

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

- A regional PTA luncheon
 1. Mrs. Tagliaferri's class is performing a few songs

- Fall Fest is this Saturday 10/14

IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz

V. Special Events & Fundraising: Leah Mittleman, Karen Lin, Linda Itani

- Thanksgiving pie fundraiser
 1. Distribution on Tuesday 11/21
- Friday, November 3rd, parents night out, kids night in 5:45pm-8:15pm
 1. Open to K-5
 2. Limited spots
- Flex winter program coming out in January
- Holiday cookie decorating with Norah's ovenworks for 2nd and 3rd grade on 12/6
- Holiday cookie decorating with Norah's ovenworks for 4th/5th grade 12/13
- Book fair is 11/29, 11/31, 12/2
- Corbin's Crusaders half day program

VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind

- A. Reminder to encourage your kids to look at the lost and found
- B. A lot of unlabeled items
- C. 11/22 dismissal is 1:30pm

VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano

- Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring last week's Matball Tournament. We had close to 90 students participate!
- This Friday, after school, students are invited to join faculty in "Challah Making for Peace"; Information was sent home last week and includes a link to RSVP.
- A reminder that students will be dismissed at 12:50 pm next Wednesday (11/22).
- Our first Choral Concert of the year will take place on Wednesday, November 29th
- Stay tuned for information regarding a fun event for students which will take place in December!

- **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. This weekend is the play
- B. Planning the 50th anniversary celebration (May 18th)
 - a. Food trucks
 - b. Performers
 - c. Volunteers needed
 - d. Alumni and retired faculty
- C. Tonight is college planning night virtually

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

- Last month we took the freshman to the BOCES outdoor education space
 1. Kids are broken into groups
 2. Problem solving
 3. Team building
 4. Making new connections
- The grant ends in December so hopefully the PTA can fund this program.
- A few speakers coming up
 1. JCK foundation
 2. 12/12 having self compassion workshop for kids and students
 3. 12/5 highschool will have speakers come in from *Sullivan's Message*
 4. Great american smokeout
 - a) Messages about how smoking is harmful

XII. New Business:

- Nothing new

Attendance	
In Person	
Correy Stephenson Cameron Sager Kate Marino Dr. Colin Byrne Johanna Gonzalez	

Debra Cohen Meghan Shaw Allison Baumrind Rosa Ortiz Anthony Samela Yinghao Wu Karen Lin Stephanie Biderman Leah Mittleman Ann Sedrish Afton Rosenfeld Katie Wolff Melissa Sheinheit Alicia Scala Jenn Mundo Anthony Samela Nicole Gigondi Sarah Bailey Kerri James Melissa O'Neill Laura Wolther Leah Mittelman Lauren Posner Ann Sedrish Niocle Plasky Kiki Debari Dea Katel Fischer Naomi Riley Allison Baumrind Shari Turner Emily Weinstein Mahoney Agnes Eberle	
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