

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2023
7:00PM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

MINUTES

● **Presentation by Dr. Colin Byrne**

- The district received a full certificate of occupancy for Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School on Wednesday. There is some paperwork to do but this marks the end of the construction work at Bmprss. Thank you to everyone for your support and patience while this project was underway.
- Amelia Carpanzo's last day is this Friday. Harry Burg and I are currently screening applicants now. We expect to bring in someone in place by the end of November. The district has brought in Jeanne Farruggio to provide support to the Pupil Personnel Services work having most recently been the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education for the Ardsley school district. She will hold all required meetings and assist with the day to day operations of the department. Teresa Letizia will also be taking on some PPS responsibilities including supervision of teacher aides and coordination of the ICT classes.
- I have heard about some troubling posts on social media. I have been in contact with the Rye Brook Police Department and our Altaris consultants. There are no specific threats to any schools at this time. Chief Austin said that the Police Department is providing additional patrols to schools, developments, neighborhoods and shopping areas to be extra cautious. If there is any additional information I will share it with the community.

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

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

- Fall Fest is this Saturday 10/14

IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz

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

- Fall Fest is Saturday 10/14
 1. The fundraiser will be indoors because of the rain
 2. We need volunteers
 3. We have a lot of raffle items
- Friday, November 3rd, parents night out, kids night in 5:45pm-8:15pm
 1. Open to K-5
 2. Limited spots
- Pie fundraiser

VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind

- A. The Halloween parade will take place on Tuesday, 10/31 from 9am-10am. More details to come.
- B. There will be a bluebird chat on 10/24 at 6:30pm addressing academic programming
- C. School will be closed Thursday 11/9 AND Friday 11/10 for Superintendents Day and the Veteran's Day holiday
- D. Senora Paulino (FLES teacher) will be putting together a monthly newsletter to keep parents up to date on what the classes are learning
- E. Ms. Taylor and Ms. Letizia would like to once again thank the PTA for their fundraising efforts from the 2022-23 school year. Thanks to you, RSS will be purchasing a greenhouse for the courtyard, along with a pollination garden and furniture
- F. Ms. Taylor is looking forward to seeing you all at Fall Fest this Saturday!!

VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano

- Progress Reports were posted this afternoon to the eSchool Portal. Families should reach out to teachers with any questions or concerns.
- Next week is Digital Citizenship Week. On Thursday evening, October 19th, we are hosting a workshop for Parents and Students. Parents can RSVP using the link in the
- Weekly Update.

- Clubs and extracurricular activities began last week and are off to a great start. We have several exciting new clubs this year and hope that all students join at least one.
- Tomorrow is the interest meeting for this year's middle school musical. Any students interested in joining the cast or crew are encouraged to attend.
- October is Global Diversity Awareness Month. This Sunday's Weekly Update will highlight some of the ways that we are celebrating the diversity within our school community.

VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley

- A. Newsletter DR. Chirles will send out ... if we want to send her PTA things
- B. Faculty wants to redo faculty room
 - a. Cindy Zahl is spearheading it
 - b. Is PTA interested in supporting that?
 - c. Murals, new furniture
 - d. Way to support teachers
- C. Homecoming this year
 - a. Night time pep rally
 - b. Soccer game
 - c. Sept 29
 - d. Community is invited
 - e. Fun time
 - f. Food trucks
 - g. Trying to give kids healthy evening event
 - h. Senate is helping out
 - i. Ms. Saxton helping out
 - j. Giant game of tag
 - k. No powder puff football
- D. Back to school night... starts at 6:30 Sept 21
 - a. Mr. Greenwald and Dr. Chirles talking about the school
 - b. Try to add in new things about what we're doing this year
 - c. 7 pm be with classes
 - d. 10 min per class
 - e. Also have Ms. T doing "hidden in plain sight" activity
 - i. Hiding drugs and alcohol in fake bedroom
 - f. Next week, "start with hello" week
 - i. Sandy hook promise

- ii. Say hello to people they don't normally talk to
 - iii. Launching relationship with sandy hook promise
- E. Anonymous reporting app
 - a. Tell a trusted friend
 - b. Friend who has eating disorder or who is being bullied
 - c. Another way for kids to have a resource
 - d. We were on a waiting list for it
 - e. Good resource for kids
 - f. Things hung up around school
 - g. Being more aware of peers
 - h. Not just about school shooting
 - i. Also about caring for each other
 - j. Training for kids on the app
 - k. Video of kids saying why they used it
- F. 9/19 is picture day
- G. 9/18 is financial aid night
- H. Shorter PSAT
 - a. Will be on their own devices
- I. Kids qualify for national merit semifinalists (5 of them)
 - a. Announced at next meeting

IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Kiki Debari

- We had our first SEID event of the year. "Starting the Year Off Right" conducted by WILC. It was a shame because it wasn't well attended. 16 people signed up, but only 6 attended. There was very useful information. This will be posted to our Webpage.
- Amelia's last day is tomorrow.
- We shall be hosting a Sensory table at the Fall Fest.
- The next Heard in Rye event is on Oct 19th.

X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman

- Membership is up and running
- Dial-a-friends have been ordered for those who purchased
 - 1. There will be a few extra for those who want

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

- The district has fully committed to the student assistance director, Monique Tricario
- 9th grade transition program
- Good decision making

XII. New Business:

- Nothing new

Attendance	
In Person	
Afton Rosenfeld Katie Wolff Melissa Sheinheit Alicia Scala Cameron Sager Correy Stephenson Jenn Mundo Anthony Samela Nicole Gigondi Sarah Bailey Kerri James Melissa O’Neill Laura Wolther Debra Cohen Monique Tricarico Shana Kornasky Leah Mittelman Lauren Posner Ann Sedrish Niocle Plasky Kiki Debari Dea Katel Fischer Naomi Riley Allison Baumrind Shari Turner	

Emily Weinstein Mahoney Agnes Eberle Patricia Schofield Johanna Gonzalez	
---	--