

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023
9:00AM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

MINUTES

● **Presentation by Dr. Colin Byrne**

- Welcome to a new school year
- All buildings are open
 - Air conditioning issues in all schools, they are being rectified
- Update on fire truck access
 - Paving postponed to 9/15 due to rain
 - Access by next week
 - Inspector to come in
- BB football merger did not go through, section 1 denied
 - Kim Saxton currently working on an appeal
- Cafeterias are open

Q. (Kiki Debari) There was a request for committees. I joined health and wellness. My request is, are these committees able to communicate what they are working on? Can we alert people of the voting numbers?

A. The board members update at the board meetings. There is a section of the meeting where they update. Beyond that we will try and send out relevant pieces.

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

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

- Welcome to all of the new attendees
- The executive board has approved a \$150,000 fund to the schools for furniture
- Thank you to our amazing fundraising teams for raising all of the money
- Email going out tomorrow at 9am for upcoming events and programs

IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz

A. June 2023 - Net Revenue of \$24,052

B. Total Revenue:47,245

Major Revenues:

Boosterthon	41,698
Book Fair	7,377
Plant Sale	5,050
Programming	5,548

C. Expense Total: 23,193

Major Expenses:

ASA	7,488
Other Fundraisers	3,161
Olympic Night	2,140
Indoor Recess	5,400
Programming	1,165
Board	1,063
Teacher Appreciation	7,566
BMPRSS	2,250
Graduations	2,325

D. Total Net Revenue (Loss): \$(14,553)

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

- Fall plant sale on 9/23
 - 1. Pre-sale ends 9/14 Sep 14, 2023 10:00 PM
- Shopping event at mixology in rye ridge, date TBD

- *Fall Fest - October 14, 2023, tickets on sale now on community pass. ****Please reach out to volunteer*****
 1. Food trucks
 2. Inflatables
 3. Games
 4. Silent auction
 5. Raffle table

VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind

- A. The first bluebird chat is on 9/19. 6-6:30pm for new families, 6:30-7:30pm for everyone
- B. Use the Ridge Street school calendar when navigating events for BMPRSS
- C. We have our FLES program that has begun for all students.
- D. Mrs. Taylor extends a big thank you the PTA for their generous donation
- E. New literacy program will be discussed at the bluebird chat
- F. Email went out about picture day, 10/2 and 10/6

VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano

- The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start!
- BBMS Back to School Night is tonight, 9/14/23.
 1. Classroom visits will take place from 6:30-8:30 PM and our School Counselors and Social Worker will be available to speak with parents from 6:00-8:00 PM. Please refer to the email from Mr. Horowitz for this evening's schedule.
- School Pictures will be taken this Monday, September 18 th
- The JCK Foundation will be coming in over the next few weeks to meet with our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.
 1. Their mission is to work with schools and communities to improve mental health and resilience amongst our youth.
- Next week is Start with Hello Week
 1. Throughout the week there will be activities and events designed to bring members of our school community together.
- Stay tuned for more information in this Sunday's weekly update

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

- Introduction - Kiki DeBari, liaison to Pupil Service and Co Chair of SEID. Pupil Services manage special education needs and services, as well as accommodations and mental health support for the whole district. SEID stands for Supporting Every Individual Difference, a parent group offering support, advice, informational presentations and a safe place to voice concerns and present questions for the district.
- SEIDs first event is on Sept 28th @ 6.30pm - "Starting the Year Off Right" given by Denise Green of WILC. Join via zoom or join a watch party to be held at the RSS library. Look out for further information.
- SEID is also looking ahead to October, when we hope to offer a panel discussion with administration - topics we're considering are the new reading program and how these relate to MTSS & AIS.
- Katherine and I also volunteer with Heard in Rye. A local organization that the PTA sponsors. They hold information talks specifically for parents. Their first event is Sept 27th @ 7pm. Look out for details. The group is always looking for interesting topics to cover, please let us know if you have any suggestions.
- Pupil Services are holding a presentation on January 24th - transition from CPSE to CSE. I mention this because it's important to get the word out for incoming Kindergarten parents.
- Pupil Services publish a quarterly newsletter. This was issued this month. Please share feedback.

X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman

- School bee is up and running
 1. Please review your data and let us know if there are any errors in your information by 9/30
- Email to be sent out at 12pm

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

- Start with Hello Week
 1. A theme every week
 2. Federal grant funded program
- Escape the Vape and in plain site at the high school open house
- Funding of speakers
- Programs at lunch to make kids feel comfortable talking to Monique
- SADD - Students Against Destructive Decisions
- Team building at BOSCES
- JCK foundation that patterns with the school
 1. Mental health and resilience
 2. They will be in english classes next week

XII. New Business:

- Every 2 years we have a new executive board, we are beginning to look for a nominating committee

Attendance	
In Person	
Dr. Byrne Alicia Scala Cameron Sager Correy Stephenson Jeff Mensch Olympia Lopatin Meghan Shaw	

Emily Weinstein Mahoney Shari Turner Jessica Levinson-Andrulc Nicole Gidondi Kunbi Odubogun Melissa Sheinheit Sheila Koppal Anthony Samela Jennifer Lo Allison Conte Kiki Debari Jenna Cao Patricia Carbajal-Reis Mendes Christian Hegging Courtney Schlesinger Gail Solow Rana Ollier Allison Baumrind Stephanie Bitterman Lynn Glantz Debra Cohen Katherine Ayala Pamela Huang Anita Ware Amanda Gitkind Leah Mittleman Erica Weiner Afton Rosenfeld Ann Sedrish Karen Lin	
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