

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 2023
9:00AM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)
MINUTES

- I. Presentation by Dr. Colin Byrne**
 - A. NYS assessments last week**
 - 1. Online assessments this year (4th, 5th and 6th grade)
 - 2. Results in the summer at the earliest
- II. Congressman Jamaal Bowman visited the MS/HS**
 - A. He walked around the schools and interacted with the children
- III. School ends on June 23rd**
- IV. Graduation and moving up is 6/21 on campus**
- V. Juneteenth school is closed (Monday 6/19)**
- VI. Upgrading some security cameras at the schools**
 - A. Additional security personnel
 - B. Threat prevention with 302 consulting
- VII. Expansion of the blacktop for fire truck access**
- VIII. NO SUMMER PROGRAM THIS YEAR**
 - A. Designed around grant money that has run out

Q. I heard that the voting will be happening in this room on the stage, how is this secure for the kids? (Kiki Debari). Why is that the logic? Why not use the fab lab or the old gym instead?

A. This is what we have done in past years pre-covid. We have security in place. The fab lab and old gym are in use. We are looking into other spaces and understand the concern but for right now this is the plan.

Q. Are the windows around the school bullet-proof?

A. We are working toward that. I cannot share publicly because it's a breach of security.

Q. Can we provide aides to after school events? (Shana Koransky)

A. It's certainly something we can look into. We will need to look into the events specifically. Maybe we can collaborate with the PTA on certain events. I think it is important that this is provided for children if they need it.

**Q We are still looking for a chemistry replacement? How is the search going?
(Naomi Riley)**

A. We have interviewed some candidates and am sure we have someone highly qualified to take the position.

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

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

- A. There is a lot going on so please pay attention to your email and be ready to help if you can
- B. Wizards is coming up this weekend
- C. Plant sale is coming up
- D. The fun run is back!
- E. We also spoke about putting together the nominating committee so if anyone is interested please let me know

IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz

A. APRIL 2023 - Net Revenue of \$(14,553.27)

B. Major Revenues: Gross Profit/Loss: \$811

Olympic Night	2385
Paint Night	485

C. Expense Total: \$(15,364)

Book Fair	2,249
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Clothing	480
Indoor Recess	5,400
Anniversary Gifts	1,099
Arts in Education (Circus)	6,175
Curriculum Enhancement (Assemblies & Creating Connection)	2,510

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

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

- A. Harlem Wizards was a huge success with a sold out event
- B. Plant sale is May 23rd and May 24th
- C. **Fun run is 6/16, Save the Date**

VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind

- A. Last week of school will go as follows:
 - a. No school Monday 6/19
 - b. Full day of school Tuesday 6/20
 - c. Half days Wed, Thurs, Fri (11:30am) for teacher articulation for placement 2023-24
- B. Report cards will be available via parent portal on the last day of school after 3pm
- C. The 4th and 5th grade spring concert is coming up. Stay tuned for an email covering specifics about guest tickets and timing
- D. State testing has concluded
- E. BBMPRSS would like to thank the PTA for their involvement in the following cultural diversity events:
 - a. Asian-American-Pacific Islander event
 - b. Japan festival (this week)
 - c. China culture booths
 - d. India fashion and dance assembly
- F. The 5th grade night of music will be 6/15 in the cafetorium
- G. **There IS school Friday, May 26th and no school Tuesday, May 30th**

VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano

- A. Tuesday, June 13th is the last full day of classes.
- B. Beginning on June 14th, students will be taking part in a number of end-of-year activities, final exams, and interdisciplinary challenges. The complete schedule of events can be found in the weekly updates from the past few weeks and will be included in this Sunday's update.
- C. Thank you to the PTA for once again sponsoring end of year breakfasts for each of our grade levels!
 - The 8th grade breakfast will be on Wednesday, June 14 th.
 - The 6th and 7th grade breakfasts will be on Thursday, June 22 nd .
- D. The 8th grade Moving Up Ceremony will take place at 2 PM on Wednesday, June 21st (rain date is Thursday, June 22nd).
- E. The middle school would like to thank the PTA and parents for another wonderful year in partnering together for our students!

VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley

- A. Senior events this week
 - a. Prom
 - b. Making sure seniors have resolved outstanding debts
 - c. Textbooks, lockers, money to food services
 - d. Won't be able to get cap and gown unless they do that
- B. Last day of classes is June 13
 - a. Field party
 - b. Dunk tank
 - c. Yard games from 2-240
 - d. Will send out an alternate schedule.
- C. Regents and finals week
- D. Reminder kids only have to come in for their exams
- E. This may be different for 9th grade parents from what they are used to.
- F. Busing schedules online
- G. Teachers meeting with kids to discuss AP assignments and summer reading for other classes
- H. Any classes that might have them
- I. Meeting over next week
- J. Always posted online

- K. School library website there is a reading list... extra enrichment over the summer...
- L. Library is open if kids need to study...
 - a. Not using it for testing...
 - b. Or commons
 - c. As long as they are not being disruptive
 - d. Bus after exam and bus at the end of the day
- M. Finishing schedules
 - a. Will send in summer
- N. Balancing classes and making sure class sizes are ok
 - a. End of august we will have that
- O. Orientation for 9 th graders and new students at the end of august
 - a. August 31 from 2-330
- P. Schedules posted august 25
- Q. Looking for student volunteers to serve as ambassadors for orientation
 - a. See Ms. Tricarico
- R. Graduation
 - a. Get volunteers to hand out programs or set up water
 - b. We hired more custodial staff to help set up and do chairs

IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Victor Espinoza & Erica Wiener

1. Anyone who would like to join the SEID list can email blindbrookseid@gmail.com
2. SEID hosted a webinar on Monday with the Westchester Independent Living Center, on the topic of What are the Differences Between an IEP and a 504 Plan? The WILC funds its work through grants, so they partner with us at no cost to the pta or parents involved. About a dozen parents participated.
3. SEID and Pupil Services will host an evening of informal mingling and then a panel discussion on May 23rd at 7pm, on school transitions, social/emotional learning, and available special education support. The meeting is open to all parents, whether or not their child has an IEP or 504 plan.

X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman

- A. Nothing new

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

- A. Healthy brain day was on 4/20
- B. Jacey Good - distracted driving 4/25
- C. A very successful Donut drive distracted pledge happened on 4/26 (everyone will get a donut). Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the donuts.

XII. New Business:

- A. 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 Shayna Koransky Karen Lin Leah Mittleman Correy Stephenson Cameron Sager Monique Tricarico Debra Cohen Stephanie Biderman Rick Buzin Breamond Scala Johanna Gonzalez Naomi Riley	