

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 2023
7:00PM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

MINUTES

- I. Mike Curtain (Superintendent of curriculum) presents**
 - A. He has learned a lot. People have been very welcoming. Impressed by the staff, children and parents**
 - B. Transition meetings. Each grade level and department. Interviewed each administrator**
 - C. Continuing to access**
 - i. What are you most proud of in Blind Brook?**
 - 1. The teachers. The size of the school. The sense of community. The new building. Middle school after school clubs.**

What are the challenges in this district? Also think about things that we do well that we can do better or things we should be exploring.

- A. The size, limited resources, little class size we can't offer everything.**
- B. The lack of consistency in administration.**
- C. The elementary level enrichment program, especially the reading program. I don't know how it was developed, but doesnt seem to give kids the differentiation they need to thrive.**
- D. Differentiation is a challenge in general. Not meeting everyone's level. How do we address a child getting special help and not taking it because they feel different?**
- E. Perceptions of feeling stupid for services they receive.**
- F. Guidance is all over the place, not transparent.**

Q. How can I help? What are your expectations of me?

- A. Transparency**
- B. Holding staff and teachers accountable**
- C. Tutoring**
- D. Special education out of school support, blurred perspective with what the school is doing**

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

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

IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz

A. JANUARY 2023 - Net Revenue of \$(9,943.27)

B. Major Revenues: Gross Profit/Loss: **\$3201**

Jester Jim	\$3350

C. Expense Total: **\$(13,144)**

RSS ASSEMBLIES	(7200)
Programming Expenses	(2832)
RSS OPENING BALLOONS	(1015)
HOMECOMING BALLOONS	(1078)

COMMUNITY COALITION (GINGERBREAD HOUSES)	(686)
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D. Total Net Revenue (Loss): \$(9943)

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

- A. Jester Jim came and it was great
- B. Pinot Palettes are coming back in March. Email will go back on Monday
- C. April is going to be Olympic night. 4th and 5th grade only with Mrs. Collins.
- D. March 24th paint night at the middle school
- E. A night of music with Mr. DiMiceli for adults

VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind

- A. Creating connection March 13th-March 24th (program that teaches about disabilities). Sign up genius for volunteers coming soon.
- B. Computer based testing for 4th and 5th grade.
- C. There will be some adaptation for a snowball for the first graders
- D. There will also be something for kindergartners
- E. 4th grade circus is back in march
- F. 5th grade night of music
- G. 4th and 5th grade spring band concert
- H. 4th and 5th grade chorus
- I. Kindness initiative is going on. Where clothing with positive messages
- J. 100th day of school on 2/13
- K. Heart challenge for 3rd graders
- L. Indoor recess art, yoga and chess until mid April

VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano

- A. There will be a district-wide early dismissal on March 1 st ; MS/HS dismiss at 12:50pm
- B. The scheduling process for the 2023-2024 school year:
 - a. Incoming 8 th grade parent meeting will be on March 2 at 7pm
 - b. Incoming 7 th grade parent meeting will be on March 14 at 7pm
 - c. Incoming 6 th grade parent meeting will be on March 16 at 7pm
- C. March 22 – 24 will the first Middle School Book Fair
- D. After school homework help and tutoring has started on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:40 pm – 3:15pm. There are currently 6 high school students serving as peer tutors for all subjects, including languages. They had to apply for and be selected for these positions.

VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley

- A. The high school librarian is asking for quiet games to play in the library. They do not like scrabble.
- B. The musical “Something Rotten”
- C. Spring sports email is out
- D. Spring sports start March 13th
- E. The spirit program ran last week

IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Victor Espinoza & Erica Wiener

- A. We have been promoting informational workshops to help parents learn more about the Special Education process, and we hosted an in-person gathering to watch a presentation and discuss Q&A with Mr. Burg and Ms. Carpanzano.
- B. There are webinars coming up in March on topics such as The Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten Special Education, Understanding the IEP, Preparing for A CSE Meeting, and Post-School Planning. We will email out a list with links.
- C. Pupil Services is moving forward with paperless communications via a system called IEP Direct. Parents should look out for an electronic Meeting Invitation to upcoming CSE or 504 meetings.
- D. When we spoke with Mr. Burg and Ms. Carpanzano a couple of weeks ago, there were still a few Teacher Aide positions that remained open. Ms. Carpanzano and Mr. Burg were working to fill these positions, but we are concerned about the persistent nature of this problem.
- E. Anyone who would like to join SEID can email "BlindBrookSEID@gmail.com." We will add you to our email list

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. March 2nd Narcan training. Narcan can reverse an opioid overdose.
- B. Stephen Hill from speak sobriety is coming to speak to the high-school
- C. Wellness week is coming up
- D.

XII. New Business:

- A. Heard in Rye, “All joy and no fun, the paradox of modern parenting”, by Jennifer Senior

Attendance	
In Person	
Mike Curtain Correy Stephenson Cameron Sager ToniAnne Rigano Sanjukta Mukherjee Monique Tricarico Eick Keller Sarah Bailey Kristina Niglio Katherine Hallissy Ayala Nancy Parra Loren Becker Linda Itani Erica Wiener Alicia Scala Debra Cohen Stephanie Biderman Shana Koransky Amanda Gitkind	

Katie Wolff Jen Savner Johanna Gonzalez Naomi Riley	
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