

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2023
9:00AM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

MINUTES

I. Superintendent Update and Q&A: Dr. Colin Byrne

- We were planning to have everything up and running by next week. We are delayed. Change order. Lunch is pushed back a week. Everything will be cleaned up and done by next week. Lunch service the following week. Lunch service on 1/26.
- **GRAND OPENING OF BMPRSS** - January 24 - TBD
 - Sign up process for the tour of the cafetorium and the new hallway and classrooms. Tours starting at 6pm and 7pm.
- We are proposing a Mandarin course in the high school and a flex program. There are a couple of options out there. If anyone has any suggestions or feedback please let us know.
- Quick update on hiring. Business teacher retired. Mrs. Decker is back for business. Hiring new leave replacement. Looking at a better long term plan for business.
- Checked with Mrs. Taylor for subs, hired 10 new subs. Teacher aides, Mrs. Carpenzano is working through the fingerprinting process. Two full time aides being placed.
- There is going to be a workshop for ms/hs parents. How to help your children handle bullying. What is bullying? What is not considered bullying?
- You mentioned the elementary subs? What about ms/hs subs?
 - I have checked with principals. HS has no issue. Ms said the issue was resolved.
- Is there any word on the DICE coordinator?
 - Part time manager. Interviewed someone yesterday to assist Mr. Glickman
Viruses - still cleaning and disinfecting etc.
- When there was someone, was the room being fully utilized?
 - Yes but a lot of equipment wasn't set-up. Now that the equipment is set up a lot of people are utilizing the space. There was also a lot of push in in the past. No mandatory mask policy but anyone is welcome to mask at any time
- What is the plan for Mandarin? Is it an option after 9th grade?
 - Starting in 9th grade. Yes you can take it after 9th grade.

- RSS - some areas too hot and others too cold
- Spoke with Mrs. Baum to work on long term and short term solutions
- Long term more important
- Not a new problem

A. Q: We have heard it's hard to hire a teacher for only one subject, have you considered allowing 6th grade to take it?

A. This is where flex comes in

B. (Kiki Debari) Aides? What is the training for the new people?

A: (Dr. Byrne) I will find out and ask Harry Berg and Mrs. Carpanzano. Posted on indeed.

Q: (Kiki Debari) Last meeting we discussed summer school or after school homework support - I suggested a survey - is this happening?

A: (Dr. Byrne) Yes a survey can be done and we are also reaching out to Port Chester to see if they can collaborate.

II. Acceptance of last month's minutes: Approved. (Alex Boruch & 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

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| Jester Jim | \$3350 |
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C. Expense Total: \$(13,144)

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| RSS ASSEMBLIES | (7200) |
| Programming Expenses | (2832) |
| RSS OPENING BALLOONS | (1015) |
| HOMECOMING BALLOONS | (1078) |
| COMMUNITY COALITION (GINGERBREAD HOUSES) | (686) |

D. Total Net Revenue (Loss): \$(9943)

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

- A. Jester Jim is back on 1/26 for K&1st graders. Registration opens Friday on community pass
- B. We are in the middle of planning paint night for 2&3rd graders which will take place at BMPRSS in mid-February.
- C. Winter Flex programs start next week at the lower school.

VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind

- A. Some very exciting school wide assemblies will be happening in the upcoming months

- D. Week of January 23 rd : Great Kindness Challenge – activities and events every day at middle school; details to come.
- E. January 31 st : End of second quarter
- F. February 1 st : Math Mid-Year Assessment for grades 6 - 8
- G. February 1 st : Early Dismissal at 12:50pm for Faculty Professional Development Day
- H. February 2 – 4: Middle School Musical – Into the Woods, Jr. The 5th graders will be visiting the middle school for a preview on February 2nd
- I. February 8th : School-Student Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together (SPIRIT)
- J. Program. Facilitated by the Community Relations Service division of the Department of Justice, the School-SPIRIT Program brings together diverse student leaders to identify issues in their school community and develop solutions to address these issues. Participating students will attend sessions led by trained facilitators in which students work together to identify issues (ex-racism, prejudice, inequality) impacting our school community. The program will result in the creation of a council composed of diverse student leaders who are charged with working alongside school leaders to develop actions to implement the solutions identified during the program.
- K. This program was originally scheduled for December and had to be postponed. An email with further details and an opportunity for parents to volunteer as facilitators will be sent out in the next couple weeks. Facilitator training will be provided over Zoom the night before.

VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley

- A. Bullying prevention presentation on Jan 17
- B. Already talked to staff at middle and high school about difference between bullying, mean spirited behavior. There are nuances.
- C. Junior college planning night on Jan 12 for juniors and parents.
- D. Guest speaker who will talk about college application process from college point of view
- E. Social media presentation from Asst. District Atty.
 - a. Already gave a presentation to elementary school parents.
 - b. Now high school presentation on Jan 26
- F. And end of the month we will have scheduling night on Jan 30 with dept coordinators
- G. The course of study will be public by the end of this week.
- H. Dr. Curtin sent out an email with changes to courses and new courses.
- I. Homecoming went great
 - a. Good turnout for games

- J. Dance went well
 - a. Great turnout for dance
 - b. First since 2019
 - c. Kids excited to put it on
 - d. Dj was great
 - e. Photo booth
 - f. Kids could text a pic to themselves
- K. Feb 7 guest speaker on personal responsibility (PTA sponsored)
 - a. How do you treat others?
 - b. What do you want to be known for?
 - c. Address issues of bias in school
 - d. When you say things if it gets recorded that's how you will be remembered
 - e. Whole week is the theme of personal responsibility and treating others with kindness....

IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Victor Espinoza & Erica Wiener

- A. Pupil Services is planning to start transitioning to paperless communications with families. More soon on when this transition will begin.
- B. Some middle and high school teachers do not allow students to keep their graded assessments. If parents of Special Education students have concerns about this, parents should approach the subject teacher and your case manager.
- C. Parents of students who have an IEP or 504 plan might take interest in one of the following workshops coming up, to help prepare for your annual review meeting:
 1. [Understanding the Individualized Education Program \(IEP\) Process for Parents of School-Age Students with a Disability](#): February 7th, 9-11AM (zoom)
 2. [Preparing for Your Child's Annual Review](#): February 8th, 6-7pm (zoom)
 3. [Preparing for Your Child's Annual Review](#): February 9th, 12-1pm (zoom)

If you know a parent of a special education preschooler, please pass along this workshop information: Transition Planning from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten will be offered at these times:

1. [February 13th, 10-11am \(zoom\)](#)
2. [March 14, 10-11am \(zoom\)](#)

We keep adding resources to the [SEID pages of the PTA website](#), including a [new page for parents who are new to Special Education](#).

We have two new SEID Leaders: Loren Becher has volunteered to coordinate parent workshops, and Monica Malyzer will serve in New Parent Outreach.

Parents who are aware their child often needs extra support have expressed hesitation to sign up for extra-curricular activities. It's important for all kids to access their strengths, build confidence, and socialize with peers. Pupil Services acknowledged their legal responsibility to extend the IEP to school-sponsored extracurriculars as needed. Sometimes in an enjoyable activity, students might not need that extra support, but families who feel a child will need extra support should contact their case manager or bring up the topic at their next CSE/504 meeting.

If you'd like to join SEID, please email blindbrookseid@gmail.com.

X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman

- A. We have some new families that have moved into the neighborhood.
- B. We reached out to them and they immediately signed up.

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

- A. 1/27 sponsoring a MS movie night. Safe social place for the kids to hang out.
- B. A few speakers plan to come in.
 - 1. 2/7 - Shawn Derek - overcoming challenges. In light of racism and antisemitism he will be tailoring his presentation. He asks students, "What do you want your story to be?" "How do you want others to view you?"
 - 2. PTA is paying. Carry into advisory groups
- C. End of January Monique and Debra will present nationally at a conference. How coalitions and the SADD program are effective.
- D. Greenwich hospital is having a 'stop the bleed'. Unlikely emergency situation do you have basic first aid knowledge? They are offering a class to anyone.
- E. Narcan training for highschool students with the Westchester community health department. Narcan is a nasal spray used to temporarily stop drugs from entering the brain.

XII. New Business:

- A. Heard in rye zoom on 1/25. You can register on the heard in rye
- B. 2/8 psychologist talking about raising screenwise kids. Internet safety.

| Attendance | |
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| In Person | |
| Colin Byrne Correy Stephenson Cameron Sager Alex Boruch Alicia Scala Karen Lin Debra Cohen Ann Sedrish Leah Mittleman Shana Koransky Amanda Gitkind Nethra Bhatt Afton Rosenfeld Katie Wolff Dan Schorr Jen Buchwald Naomi Riley Victor H. Arriaga Jennifer Lo | |