

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2022
7:00PM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

MINUTES

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

- **GRAND OPENING OF BMPRSS - January 24 - TBD**
- Viruses - still cleaning and disinfecting etc.
- No mandatory mask policy but anyone is welcome to mask at any time
- Temperature issues
 - RSS - some areas too hold 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
- Staffing
 - 4 PT aide vacancies
 - Just placed one person and have 3 other candidates - looking good
 - Thinking of replacing some with 2 full-time positions
 - Substitues - have 4 solid candidates in process - will bring to 10 or 11 and alleviate

A. Q: (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. (Johanna Gonzalez & Alicia Scala)

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

IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz

****Tax Return was filed this week (November 15).****

A. October 2022 - Net Revenue of \$37,358

B. Major Revenues: Gross Profit/Loss: \$40,494

Fall Fest	\$22,842
Clothing	\$8,493
School Supplies	\$7,179

C. Expense Total: (\$3,136)

Memberhub fees	\$2,169
Fall Fest Expense (included above)	\$5,597

D. Total Net Revenue (Loss): \$37,358

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

- A. Flex Winter Registration at RSS is underway and programming will start the week of January 16th.
- B. This week we held cookie decorating programming for all grades AT school in conjunction with Nora Oven works. The program was a huge success! Our next programming event will take place in January- be on the look out for info on Jester Jim.
- C. Our holiday minted fundraiser raised just under \$40

VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind

- A. Walking mornings will be starting back up with Ms. Veniuto, permission slips will be sent home in the coming weeks
- B. Upcoming outside assemblies for whole-grades in cafetorium coming soon

- C. Author visit (Jan/Feb)
- D. No December Bluebird chat. There will be one in Jan/Feb on AIS/Enrichment
- E. Incoming Kindergarteners should call the office. Registration begins in January
- F. Book fair was a huge success. Thanks to the PTA
- G. There will be 3 early dismissal (1:30) days 1 st Wed in Feb, 1 st Wed in March and 1 st Wed in May

VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano

- A. Gingerbread House decorating was this afternoon. It was a successful event.
- B. Next Friday 12/23 will be an early dismissal for MS and HS at 12:50pm
- C. January 10 th : Band Concert
- D. January 17 th : Next Parent Workshop for both the middle school and high school.
- E. There will be a special speaker and the topic will be to help parents distinguish between bullying, drama, conflict and microaggressions. The speaker will provide tools and resources for parents to use to navigate conversations with their children, as well as how and when it is appropriate to partner with the school.
- F. Week of January 17 th : STAR Assessments for reading and math
- G. Week of January 23 rd : Mid-year assessments; information and details will be provided in an email after the break.
- H. There is another movie night being planned.
- I. Mr. Horowitz wishes for everyone a happy holiday and break.

VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley

- A. Winter homecoming
 - a. dance jan 7, 7-10 pm
 - b. Buy tix next week for \$10 or at the door
 - c. Just high school
 - d. Also spirit week and pep rally
 - e. First week back from school
 - f. Homecoming games for bball
- B. Spirit council
 - a. Still looking for facilitators
 - b. We need 6 more
 - c. Feb 8-9
 - d. Reach out to Dr. Chirles
- C. Two half days
- D. Zoom training
 - a. Middle school and high school
- E. Winter concert

- a. High school band and chorus, jan 11
 - b. Jazz band
 - c. Chamber ensemble
 - d. Chorus
 - e. Band
- F. Junior college planning night on jan 12.
- G. Bullying workshop
- a. Jan 17th
 - b. From student assistance services
 - c. Bullying education program
 - d. Difference between bullying and being unkind
 - e. What parents can do
- H. Social media night for parents has been moved to jan 26
- I. Had asked kids if they wanted help with dance. Seemed to be ok
- J. Course of study guide in January
- K. Jan 30 parent night scheduling workshop for all grades
- L. Early dismissal at 12:50 on dec. 23...
- M. Mr. Greenwald is undertaking a special project reaching out to local districts about their college processes, to see if their deadlines are different or processes are different.
- N. Doing something now based on ED acceptances to see if there are ways the district can improve admissions processes.
- O. Will try to provide some guidance for parents of freshmen and sophomores about Naviance and what can be done on it.
- P. Maybe there are some things to fill out at home.

IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Victor Espinoza & Erica Wiener

- A. We'd like to remind parents that they can request a parent/teacher conference with related service providers, like OT's, counselors, and speech therapists, during parent/teacher conference days.
- B. We met with Mr. Burg and Ms. Carpanzano yesterday. We will be sending a summary to the SEID group. Please email Victor if you'd like to join the SEID group - his email address is on the PTA's SEID webpage.
- C. SEID and Pupil Services had a zoom meeting for parents on October 25th. Harry Burg, Amelia Carpanzano, our 3 school principals, and a number of Pupil Services staff members joined parents to discuss new updates and Q&A.

- D. Pupil Services highlighted the first edition of their newsletter and the fact that there will be 2 additional progress reports for students with an IEP (4 total) this year.
- E. Some questions were:
- F. Does a 504 plan carry into college? Yes, the 504 plan is a medical document and can carry into college. A student would meet with the college's support office, share the 504 plan, and go on to make arrangements with each of their teachers.
- G. If a parent/guardian disagrees with a decision, what should the parent do? A parent can request the data that is the basis of the decision and request additional data or evaluation. Next steps can be found in the Pupil Services Handbook.
- H. What can a family do if a child presents that the district does not have trained staff to address? The district can collaborate with BOCES to find that service or find another resource.
- I. How is the decision made regarding which children go to an ICT class? ICT can be recommended in a student's IEP, as it offers specialized instruction and small groupings all day. General education students are thoughtfully placed through a collaborative team placement process.
- J. More questions and answers are documented on the SEID pages of the PTA website.

X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman

- A. Has been slow but is typical for this time of year

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

- A. Middle school gingerbread decorating was a big success. 40 kids signed up and everyone had a lot of fun.
- B. Plans are being made for our next student presentation - Stephen Hill of Speak Sobriety will be coming in March.
- C. Another MS movie night is being planned for January

XII. New Business:

- A. None

Attendance	
In Person	
Colin Byrne Johanna Gonzalez Correy Stephenson Cameron Sager Kiki Debari Alicia Scala Chris Scala Kerri James Debra Cohen Monique Tricarico ToniAnne Rigano Linda Itani Erica Weiner Amanda Gitkind Leah Mittleman Stephanie Biderman Katherine Hallissy Ayala Afton Rosenfeld Shari Turner Lexi Sternberg Jennifer Brous Naomi Riley Jenn Savner Yang Chen Sayantani Biswas	