

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2022
9:00AM
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

MINUTES

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

- A. *We did plan on having hot lunch at this point*
 - i. *More updates in the kitchen needed*
 - ii. *Early into mid December for hot lunch Construction is progressing*
- B. *Otherwise things are moving forward*
 - i. *The courtyard is almost complete*
 - ii. *The greenhouse is almost complete*
 - iii. *Stage will be done in time for the concert on 12/21*
 - iv. *Pushing to get more spaces available*
- C. *Staffing is still a struggle; posting all areas in need*
 - i. *Meeting with administrators*
- D. *Two presentations at the board meeting*
 - i. *Audit and assessments*
- E. **Q: What are the issues in hiring? Why can't you hire full-time? Possibly hiring a part-time HR rep to help acquire more staff. Maybe work with another district in trading interested parents. Why does our district offer less money than other districts? Please keep the community informed.**
 - A: We have increased pay. We have a flat rate of \$125 per day for substitutes. It's a very competitive rate.
 - B: We have to put potentially 6 or 7 full time positions out there. It becomes very expensive with full benefits.
 - C. I am happy to continue to field all ideas in how to solve the issue
- Q: What certifications does one need to be a teacher aide? Can a graduate student get school credit to be an aide?**
 - A: We are reaching out to schools and other communities.
- Q: How do we measure the disruption of our students? How will we bridge this gap?**
 - A: It is something that is hard to determine. We are doing what we can to get them to where they should be. Some teachers think that the students are fine and some are behind. Teachers are seeing more social behavioral issues over academics.

Q: Are you able to share an update on DBT and ruler?

- A. Introductory to the district training session
- B. Mrs. Carpanzano & Mr. Berg will follow-up with staff
- C. We will begin implementing therapies
- D. Building level leaders trained in RULER
- E. Aides went to a BOCES training and found it very informative and helpful.
- F. Components of RULER
 1. *Recognizing* emotions in oneself and others
 2. *Understanding* the causes and consequences of emotions
 3. *Labeling* emotions with a nuanced vocabulary
 4. *Expressing* emotions in accordance with cultural norms and social context
 5. *Regulating* emotions with helpful strategies

Q. We were waiting for the serving line to complete the kitchen, is it installed?

A. It is mostly installed other than the electrical. Safety equipment in the hoods has to be assessed. The ovens need to be connected. Lastly there needs to be an inspection.

II. Acceptance of last month’s minutes: Approved. (Johanna Gonzalez & Katherine Hallisy Ayala)

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

- A. We are off to a great start
- B. We also had a very successful plant sale
- C. Most importantly Fall Fest is back on 10/22

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. Cookie decorating on 12/12, 12/13, and 12/14, Email for sign-ups will go out on 11/17.
- B. Partnering with Minted, look out and get your holiday cards
- C. Nora's kitchen

VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind

- New front entrance is open, sound panels are going up in the cafetorium
- 5 th grade band hoping to perform on stage for winter concert
- Book fair is coming; Will be held in the Gym November 30 th -December 3 rd .
More details
and class schedule to come.
- K-5 Author visit is coming December/January (Broadway Mouse)
- Upcoming November Bluebird chat
o Helping your child cope with stress & anxiety, Joanna Robin, Ph.d.
November 29 th 7pm-8pm, BBMPRS Cafetorium

VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano

11/17/22

- A. There will be a Parent Workshop tonight, at 7:00pm. The topic is Developing a Growth Mindset.
- B. Today starts the second marking period; students in 6th and 7th grade switch to a new Exploratory Course.
- C. There will be an early dismissal at 12:50pm next Wednesday 11/22 to start off the Thanksgiving break. The students will have a special schedule with grade level activities. Details to come.
- D. Report cards will also be posted on 11/22.
- E. The Choral Concert will be on November 30th at 6:30pm
- F. Student Government will be having a Toy Drive throughout December, details coming soon.

PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

The PTA Reflections program is an opportunity for students in grades K-12 to create an original work of art based on this year's theme of "Show Your Voice!". Students can submit their work in one of six categories dance, film/video production, music, literature, photography, visual arts. Winning submissions from our district will move on the Westchester-Putnam Regional competition!

Please visit the PTA Reflections page on the PTA website for the official rules and entry form. We are extending the deadline for our district to December 7th nd .

We are also in need of a few more judges. If anyone in the community has experience within any of the categories or know someone who does who would be interested in serving on the judging committee, please reach out to ToniAnne Rigano at BBPTAReflections@gmail.com. Judging will take place the week of December 12 th and the time commitment will depend on the number of student entries for each category and grade level division.

VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley

- 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.
- Doing something now based on ED acceptances to see if there are ways the district can improve admissions processes.
- Will try to provide some guidance for parents of freshmen and sophomores about Naviance and what can be done on it.
- Maybe there are some things to fill out at home.

- Dr. Chirles is meeting with Colin to figure out how to talk to teachers about the importance of handing tests back.
- There will be a homecoming dance
 1. Trying to pin down a date
 2. Some time in January
 3. Maybe pta could help--Parent volunteers?
- Student talent show from drama club after the play
 1. Open to students, but they have to audition
 2. Fundraiser for drama club
 3. Dec 16
- Dr. Chirles is working with debra cohen to bring in speaker for wellness week
- Looking for other events or programs for wellness week in march

- Tryouts for winter sports have started
 1. A Lot of students in basketball
 2. Running a freshman basketball team in addition (probably just boys not girls)
- Ski team
 1. You can compete or not compete
 2. Fitness training on campus
 3. Then ski somewhere near bear mountain
- Model un at Princeton this weekend
- Junior class trip to Williamsburg
 1. Weekend after APs are over... mother's day weekend
 2. We apologize for that but it was the only weekend it could be scheduled around APs and SATs and ACTs

- Senior class trip to London
 1. Need to get 20 kids. Currently there are only 16
 2. Deadline was last Friday... Maybe it's possible to still sign up.

IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Victor Espinoza & Erica Wiener

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Some questions were:
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- More questions and answers are documented on the SEID pages of the PTA website.
- Zoom meeting with Mrs. Carpanzano and Mr. Berg on 10/25. Wanted to highlight their newsletter.
- Does a 504 plan carry into college? Yes.
- A parent can request information
- How is the decision made for a child to go into an ICT class? Roughly 5 special ed students in the class.

- X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman**
 - A. We are currently up to 639 members, up from last year, which was 552.**
 - B. We have extra Dial a friend if anyone wants and all others have been delivered**
 - C. Future school bee project - Continuing to clean up schoolbee by removing duplicate addresses and removing any families who no longer live in RB.**

- XI. Community Coalition: Debra Cohen, Community Coalition Coordinator and Monique Tricario, Student Assistance Counselor and Prevention Coordinator**
 - A. Escape the Vape the week of 11/15
 - B. Co-hosting a movie night in December

- XII. New Business:**
 - A. None

Attendance	
In Person	
Colin Byrne Kate Marino Johanna Gonzalez Correy Stephenson Cameron Sager Kiki Debari Nethra Bhatt Katie Wolff Rick Buzin Holly Karetsky Mariana Lomenso Katherine Hallissy Ayala Peter Gisondi Debra Cohen Ann Sedrish Rachel Boyman	

Jen Brous Monique Tricarico Amanda Gitkind Karen Lin Naomi Riley Rick Buzin Colin Byrne Alena Levine Hillary Seif Naomi Riley Ann Sedrish Leah Mittleman	
---	--