

Blind Brook PTA  
General Meeting  
Thursday, October 13, 2022  
7:00PM  
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary library (In Person)  
**MINUTES**

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

- A. *Construction is progressing*
- B. *Pushing to get more spaces available*
- C. *Looking to wrap up by the end of this calendar year*
- D. *The serving line has arrived for the kitchen*
- E. *The literacy pilot has begun and teachers are piloting in the classroom*
- F. *Our committees are up and running*
- G. *The middle school had their after school activities “how to survive middle school”*

**H. Q: What happens if we lose our TCO?**

**A:** I am optimistic that it will not be an issue. Working closely with the state.

**II. Acceptance of last month’s minutes: Approved.**

**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**

**A. September 2022 - Net Revenue of \$11,143**

**B. Major Revenues: Gross Profit/Loss: \$15,460**

<b>Clothing</b>	<b>\$11,625</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>\$4,006</b>

<b>Fall Fest</b>	<b>\$2,328</b>
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**C. Expense Total: (\$4,318)**

<b>Programming Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Misc Fees / Bank Fees</b>	<b>\$885</b>
<b>Teacher Appreciation / Gifts</b>	<b>\$432</b>

**D. Total Net Revenue (Loss): \$11,143**

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

- A. Fall Fest is next Saturday October 22nd at the lower school from 12-3:30pm, we hope to see you all there. It is going to be a wonderful family event.
  - 1. Food Trucks, new spirit wear, fun games, crafts, really something for everyone.
  - 2. If you are interested in volunteering you can reach out to me or anyone on the Fundraising Committee.
  - 3. Thank you to everyone who has helped so far - we really appreciate it!!
- B. The Thanksgiving Pie Sale is back! Loosen your pants and get ready for more information come November!!

**VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind**

- A. Temporary c/o extended through the beginning of November.
- B. Halloween parade will begin at 9:00am and begin with 5 th grade students, and continue
- C. down through Kindergarten. Maps will be emailed home.
- D. Upcoming Bluebird chats
- E. o Building level services (AIS/enrichment)
- F. State-test parent meeting will be held in Jan/Feb

- G. Parent-teacher conferences begin 11/18, and then continue the week following Thanksgiving. Sign-ups will take place using pick-a-time.
- H. Field trips are taking place this year. Teachers will communicate dates and information regarding details.
- I. Book Fair will take place 1 st week in December.
- J. Fall fest is 10/22
  - Purchase raffle tickets ahead of time
  - Sign-up for baking contest via community pass
- K. 2nd grade teachers piloting new ELA program
- L. Multicultural club after-school meetings for kids
- M. Circus coming in spring for 4th grade
- N. Destination Imagination is beginning

## **VII. MS Liaison: ToniAnne Rigano**

Upcoming events for students at the Middle School:

- A. Movie Night for this Friday night has been canceled
- B. The Character Education theme for October is Citizenship and for November it will be Empathy. These themes will be incorporated into lessons throughout the month.
- C. Digital Citizenship Week is next week – there will be daily grade level appropriate activities and advisory lessons to teach students about their digital footprint, digital identity, etc.
- D. Social Media Presentation from the Assistant DA will be for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades – a recap will be sent out. Sixth graders saw this presentation at the end of last year so it will not be done for them again at this time.
- E. Red Ribbon Week is the week of October 24<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with the Community Coalition, the week will focus on perseverance and healthy ways to deal with stress; advisory lessons on motivation, perseverance and positivity.
- F. Halloween – Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>: Kids will be allowed to dress up; guidelines to come soon.
- G. Election Day – Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>: no school for students and it's a Superintendent's Conference Day for teachers
- H. The next Principal Conversation will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Mr. Horowitz will send topics in advance.
- I. The next Parent Workshop will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> in the evening. The topic is TBD.
- J. The end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter is on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be available on the Parent Portal by the end of the day on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- K. November 23<sup>rd</sup> (day before Thanksgiving) is an early dismissal day. There will be special programming and activities within each of the academic periods since it's a shortened schedule.

**VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley**

- A. The 10th grade parent night is Monday instead
- B. Sophomore parent night 10/17
- C. Board meetings will start highlighting different groups of students (the band will play at a future meeting)
- D. Fundraisers - talent shows. Is the pta interested in participating?
- E. Questions about the prom happening the night before the ACT?
- F. No school on Election Day
- G. Senior trip is still being figured out
- H. Asking students about new electives they might want to see, a survey is being sent out

**IX. Pupil Services Liaison: Victor Espinoza & Erica Wiener**

- A. At the end of September, Pupil Services had Dr. Alec Miller come speak to all staff who focus on mental health: school psychologists, school counselors, guidance counselors, and the student assistance counselor, plus district administrators. SEID leaders were invited; Kiki and Katherine attended. The presentation was on DBT: Dialectical Behavior Therapy. The district is rolling out training among targeted staff members, focusing on students most in need of mental health support
  
- B. Last Friday, SEID hosted a Fall Coffee for families new to Special Education. Mr. Burg, Ms. Carpanzano, Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Letizia were kind enough to attend. We had a good showing, of about 15 parents. It was mostly informal, but topics of discussion included the variety of services and programs at Blind Brook, as well as the general ED programs of AIS, RTI, and MTSS. Also, parents advocated for greater communication regarding canceled service sessions.
  
- C. We are introducing a bimonthly SEID members' meeting, to precede the evening PTA meetings. SEID members are invited to attend a brief meeting at 6:15 before the 7pm pta meetings, here in the cafetorium, every other month.
  
- D. Erica, Kiki, Katherine, and I met with Mr. Burg and Ms. Carpanzano yesterday. We discussed our committee's purpose and norms as well as updates. An important update is that Mr. Burg and Ms. Carpanzano are making a change in the

elementary school: special educators will send home 4 progress reports per year, rather than 2.

E. Looking ahead, Mr. Burg and Ms. Carpanzano will meet with parents on Zoom on Tuesday, October 25th, in the evening. Look for emails on that, coming soon.

**X. Membership: Katie Wolff & Stephanie Biderman**

- A. Still updating schoolbee
- B. Targeting HS/MS parents to sign up
- C. Dial a friend has been sent to the printer
  - 1. 613 members so far including staff

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

- A. Freshman team building with Kate Gladdin and boces outdoor education
- B. Youth leadership club started and there 3was a big mikddle school turnout
- C. Red ribbon week is 10/24-10/31. Its a week of awareness for drug addiction

**XII. New Business:**

- A. Come and support Fall Fest!

Attendance	
In Person	
Colin Byrne Kate Marino Johanna Gonzalez Correy Stephenson Cameron Sager Perri Ross Lynn Glantz ToniAnne Rigano Sarah Bailey Michelle Tepper Carlen Sheer	

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	
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