

Blind Brook PTA  
General Meeting  
Thursday, September 15, 2022  
9:00am  
B.M.P Ridge Street Elementary cafetorium (In Person)

**MINUTES**

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

- A. Parts of the elementary school are now open.
- B. School resumes with an uneventful start as all children are well immersed in learning.
- C. The school received a temporary certificate of occupancy for the lunchroom, some classrooms and the courtyard.
- D. The construction project continues to move forward.
  - i. Parking lot being completed (railings, grading, leveling)
- E. Stage not usable at this time
- F. Still working on serving line for kitchen
- G. Greenhouse still incomplete
- H. Very close to a full opening in approximately 2 months
- I. Next board meeting is 9/20
  - i. Goals versus initiatives
  - ii. Advanced learning
  - iii. Strategic planning
  - iv. Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- J. Open House
  - i. Tuesday, September 13 BMPRSS 3&4
  - ii. Wednesday, September 14 BMPRSS K&5
  - iii. Thursday, September 15 Middle School
  - iv. Wednesday, September 18 BMPRSS 1&2
  - v. Thursday, September 22 Highschool
- K. Fire drills have begun successfully.
- L. Ipads have been distributed to the entire district excluding 8th grade who will continue to use chromebooks for the 22/23 school year.

**M. Q: What is the advisory period?**

**A:** There should be a set activity for each period.

**N. Q: What measures is the district taking to ensure there is a plethora of substitute teachers?**

**A:** We are working on it. Potentially a more dedicated position.

**O. Is there a presentation for DBT? A:** There is an upcoming orientation for the district. There will eventually be a community meeting.

**P. Where can we find details about DBT and RULER? A:** I will meet with Harry Berg and Mrs. Carpanzano about a presentation.

i. Does that mean that pupil services is the people's champion? DBT will be led by Harry Berg. Plans will be released on RULER.

**Q. What is the new reading curriculum we are piloting? A:** There are 2 programs to write. I am unsure of their names. I will speak with Mrs. Curtin and get back to the community. Teachers will try lessons and determine efficacy.

**R. Q: Is advisory the same group of kids for the entire year?**

**A:** Yes.

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

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

A. Welcome and thank you for attending.

B. We will be at all open houses in the coming weeks selling spiritwear.

**IV. Treasurer: Lynn Glantz**

A. **June 2022 - Net Loss of \$6,267**

B. **Major Revenues: Gross Profit/Loss: \$3,420**

C. **DO NOT** pay a vendor yourself.

D. Remember to factor in tips.

Programming	\$1499
Square Art	\$1896

E. Expense Total: **(\$9688)**

Programming Expenses	\$3460
Graduation	\$3782
Teacher Appreciation	\$1327

**F. Total Net Revenue (Loss): (\$6267)**

**G. July 2022 - Net Loss of \$(7277)**

H. Major Revenues:

Gross Profit/Loss: \$0

I. Expense Total: (\$7277)

Indoor Recess	\$2800
Graduation	\$2805
Board End of Year Expenses	\$960
Programs	\$540

**J. Total Net Revenue (Loss): (\$6267)**

**K. August 2022 - Net Loss of \$6855**

L. Major Revenues:

Gross Profit/Loss: \$7854

Membership	\$11,473
Clothing	\$(7428)
Yankees	\$3810

M. Expense Total: (\$1000)

Svcs to Staff	\$320
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RSS allocation	\$215
Graduation	\$365

**N. Total Net Revenue (Loss): \$6855**

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

- A. Fall PTA Yankee event taking place October 1st
- B. Annual Plant Sale is September 24th at the MS/HS. Flowers & Scarecrows are available for pre-sale now there will be food at the event and so much more!
- C. Mark your calendars for October 22nd for PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year 7th annual Fall Festival at the lower school. There will be music, games, food and so much more. We need lots of volunteers and are looking for your help.

**VI. RSS Liaison: Amanda Gitkind**

- A. Temporary c/o does not allow for occupancy on stage, parking lot or entryway. Entryway can still be used as an egress in case of fire. Stay tuned for updates. Any cars that you see belong to contractors.
- B. When visiting school for any reason, please do not park in numbered spots. These belong to school staff. Please park in the lanes in front of school.
- C. Bluebirds feather of communication
- D. Please contact your child's teacher or bus driver regarding issues that take place in school. Also utilize the guidance counselor before contacting Ms. Taylor or Ms. Letizia.
- E. BMPRSS will be holding bluebird chats this year:
  - 10/6: Internet safety workshop for parents featuring Laura Forbes (she will also be speaking to 5 th graders).
  - November: Chat on Social Emotional Learning
- F. K-5 Halloween parade is on and will take place 10/31 in the streets surrounding school. Stay tuned for more details.
- G. The History Bee, Geography Bee, Science Bee and Spelling Bee are back this year. Stay tuned for more details.
- H. Parent-teacher conferences begin 11/18, and then continue the week following Thanksgiving. Sign-ups will take place using pick-a-time.
- I. Field trips are taking place this year. Teachers will communicate dates and information regarding details.

- J. Spirit Days will continue this year.
- K. Book Fair will take place the 1st week in December.
- L. Fall fest is coming 10/22.
- M. Visitor protocols require all visitors to show a photo ID.
- N. NY state test results from last spring will go out at the end of this week or beginning of next week. This will include information regarding whether your child qualifies for extra help.
- O. The flagpole is returning and will be placed near the new entrance of the school.
- P. Kindergarten and 1st graders will have snacks in the classroom this year. Grades 2-5 will not.

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

Upcoming events for students at the Middle School:

- A. Monday, 9/19: School Pictures
- B. Week of 9/19: “Start with Hello” Week with Community Coalition
- C. A club fair and sign-up event will be held at the end of September, with clubs beginning the first week of October.
- D. This year the middle school will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with various fun events and activities, such as discussions during ELA classes about symbols and symbolism in order for students to be involved with deciding on a mascot for the middle school.
- E. STAR assessments for reading and math will be done school-wide the first week of October.
- F. Friday, 10/14 will be Middle School Movie Night, offering a safe and fun social event at the school. The school hopes to offer one event per month to offer these safe socializing opportunities for our kids.
- G. Week of October 24 th : Red Ribbon Week, featuring activities and conversations on how to make healthy choices and the theme of perseverance.
- H. Upcoming Parent Engagement Events at the Middle School: Parent Workshops and Principal’s Conversations. For those who are new to the school, parent workshops allow for activities and conversations focused on a specific topic, and principal’s conversations are an opportunity for openly sharing thoughts and ideas.
- I. September 15, 2022: Parent Workshop (Social Media Safety & Awareness), 6 PM ;BBMS Open House, 7 PM
- J. October 11, 2022: Parent Workshop & Principal’s Conversation, 7 PM
- K. Remaining events throughout the year were sent in the BBMS Back to School Newsletter and should also be available on the BBMS calendar. We will also include them in the PTA
- L. November 16, 2022: Principal’s Conversation, 9 AM
- M. November 17, 2022: Parent Workshop, 7 PM

- N. January 19, 2023: Parent Workshop & Principal's Conversation, 7 PM
- O. February 9, 2023: Principal's Conversation, 9 AM & Parent Workshop, 7 PM
- P. March 2, 2023: Incoming 8th Grade Parent Orientation, 7PM
- Q. March 6, 2023: Incoming 7th Grade Parent Orientation, 7PM
- R. March 16, 2023: Incoming 6th Grade Parent Orientation, 7 PM
- S. April 20, 2023: Parent Workshop & Principal's Conversation, 7 PM
- T. May 2, 2023: Principal's Conversation, 9 AM & Principal's Conversation, 6:30 PM

**VIII. HS Liaison: Naomi Riley**

- A. Start with Hello week
- B. Spirit week shortened bc of Jewish holidays
- C. Homecoming and Pep Rally, Friday, September 30th & Saturday, October 1st
- D. School will be reaching out to parents to offer thoughts on how to talk to kids about making good decisions during homecoming
- E. Oct 12 PSAT and freshmen will be doing community building activities at school—hopefully outside ideas for fundraisers—
- F. Teacher Student basketball game, Dancing with the Teachers
- G. Dr. Chirles will discuss with Student Senate to see if they want PTA help
- H. Dr. Chirles will address BOE meeting in October to discuss college admissions from last spring
- I. The business teacher resigned. Dr. Chirles interviewing new candidates. Possible that parents could come to a guest lecture. She will let us know.

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

- A. No updates
- B. Upcoming meeting

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

- A. Currently updating schoolbee
- B. A Good amount of memberships
  - 1. 530 members so far including staff

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

- A. "Start with Hello" starts the week of 9/19 - an initiative with Sandy Hook Promise
- B. It is recovery month
- C. Various lunch activities to be held

- D. DARE is returning to MS-seventh graders will get it this year
- E. Students Against destructive decision making

**XII. New Business:**

- A. No new business

Attendance	
In Person	
Colin Byrne Kristina Nunziato Hillary Seif Naomi Riley Ann Sedrish Leah Mittleman Alicia Scala Correy Stephenson Johanna Gonzalez Stephanie Biderman Amanda Gitkind Lynn Glantz Cameron Sager Debra Cohen Monique Tricarico Priscilla Harmon Kate Marino Afton Rosenfeld Katherine Hallissy Ayala Kiki Debari Michelle Karr Shari Turner Nethra Bhatt Meredith Dolgins Lisa Lux Stacie Shinfield Jennifer Brous Rachel Lerner	