

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, September 30, 2021
7:00pm
Blind Brook MS/HS IMC (In Person) and Via Zoom
MINUTES

I. Acting Superintendent's Update: Colin Byrne

- A. Security and safety: The police received an anonymous tip referencing a shooting at Blind Brook High School. The HS worked with the Rye Brook Police Department to investigate the threat and determined it was not credible.
- B. Ridge Street School: The school passed inspection today, the district will coordinate the paperwork needed to apply for a temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) tomorrow, the district will work on moving furniture and setting up classrooms over the weekend and Monday, and kids will return to classrooms on Tuesday.
- C. **Q - If we receive the TCO tomorrow, and if parents volunteer to help over the weekend, could kids return to classrooms on Monday?** Thank you for offering to help, but that is not possible. We will work with Mrs. Taylor to set up a process to take advantage of volunteers.
- D. **Q - Will Monday be a day off for students?** It will be a remote learning day. There will be some asynchronous learning pieces. Teachers will start the day with students, and specials will take place.
- E. **Q - Will students go back to the same classrooms they were using on September 13th?** I don't know.
- F. **Q - Will the gym be available for the kids so they can have their lunch there?** I don't know what the plan is for lunch. The gym is planned as a classroom space, but I'm not sure about that.
- G. **Q - While we are without an Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities, how does the work involved with that position get done?** I was appointed to a couple of business office positions. I am also an acting superintendent. There is an assistant superintendent position open. Right now, that is the only position we're talking about. Technically, today is my last day as Acting Superintendent.
- H. I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of everyone in the district: teachers, custodial staff, and Tracy Taylor.

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

III. Pupil Services Liaison: Kiki DeBari

- A. I serve as the Liaison to Pupil Services, and I am also co-president of SEID: Supporting Every Individual Difference, which tries to organize informative and networking events on a regular basis. My co-president is Erica Wiener.
- B. We are planning a coffee with Pupil Services later this month, on the topic of the new ICT classes at RSS. You will have the chance to ask questions of Pupil Services directly.
- C. Erica and I meet with Pupil Services every month. We weren't able to meet this month, however.
- D. *Comment: Kiki - you're doing a phenomenal job. Your passion and commitment to the SEID program is really inspiring! Keep it up. Thank you.*

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

- A. We've been doing a lot of things behind the scenes, such as feeding the custodial staff, getting indoor recess supplies for RSS students at the MS, etc.
- B. We're going to be organizing the parent volunteers for Monday. As soon as we know more, we will share it.

V. Treasurer's Report: Lynn Glantz

- A. August 2021 - net gain of \$20,322.79 mainly due to membership and half-day program (*this was reversed in September since it was cancelled).
- B. Major Revenues: Gross Profit/Loss: **\$20,422.79**

Membership	\$11,295.99
Amazon Smile	\$127.79
Half-Day Program*	\$9,000

C. Expense Total: \$100

Retirement Gifts	\$(100)
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D. Total Net Revenue (Loss) - \$20,322.79

VI. Ways and Means: Alicia Scala and Kate Marino

- A. This Saturday the PTA will be hosting a Fall Fun Day, a smaller version of Fall Fest. It will be super cute! We'll sell mums, and have a pumpkin patch, raffle table, bracelets, donuts. Mr. DiMiceli will lead a singalong, too!
- B. We are speaking with kneaded bread about fundraising. Please email me if you'd like to spearhead that.
- C. We need help with the Holiday Boutique.
- D. The ASA program is on hold while we wait for RSS to re-open.
- E. We are planning lunch for BMPRSS teachers and staff to say thank you for all of their hard work.
- F. Planning FUN - balloon columns, once everyone is settled in. We'll have a Welcome Back sign the following Tuesday.
- G. Spoiler alert- the teachers are coming Saturday! The federation will run a table and greet students.

VII. Programming: Amanda Gitkind and Shana Koransky

- A. The Kindergarten Social event was a success! We held it at Pine Ridge which was a great spot. Tons of families came, nice day out, after the organized art activity the group went to the playground which was a nice way for them to get to know one another.
- B. We have a lot of fun ideas for upcoming events. We had to shift some due to the school closure but we'll be glad to announce them at the next meeting. We want to bring back some favorites - such as Harlem Wizards as well as some new ones for the kids.

VIII. Ridge Street School Liaison: Rachel Lerner

- A. We have been recognizing National Hispanic Heritage month which runs September 15- October 15. There are celebrations to honor the heritage and contributions made by different members of the Hispanic community.
- B. The Blind Brook PTA Annual fall plant sale and more is this Saturday, October 2 from 12:30-2:30pm at the MS/HS parking lot. There will be Mums, Pumpkins, Scare Crows, Donuts from Glazed and Confused, Raffle, New Spirit Wear and MORE! Special Singalongs with Mr. DiMiceli and RSS students- IN PERSON! Mr. DiMiceli is helping bring back some CHEER to Blind Brook! Please join us all for a fun singalong at either 1pm, 1:30, or 2pm!
- C. The ICT classes returned to in-person learning this past Tuesday and are learning at the King Street campus.
- D. 504 services provided in-person at MS/HS started yesterday.
- E. The district's business office received their TCO and has reopened.

- F. Open house is rescheduled for sometime next month. Information will be sent out in coming weeks letting you know the details.
- G. If your child is struggling with the remote situation please reach out to their teacher to let them know your concerns and they will work with your family on this.
- H. Over the course of the school year, If students are in quarantine due to exposure, there are going to be live resources and instruction available to them through itutor.
- I. There is an upcoming BOE meeting on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:30pm to discuss construction project financials moving forward.
- J. Ms. Taylor and Mrs. Latizia are going to be starting Bluebird chats in the near future covering different topics of interest in the community.

IX. Middle School Liaison: Alex Boruch

- A. The 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start.
- B. Thank you to Mr. Horowitz with the weekly update and photos.
- C. Homerooms competed in a door decorating contest, with the theme “BBMS: This is Us.” The winning homerooms were announced earlier this week.
- D. The MS held a Club Fair yesterday. After School clubs will start next week, along with the late bus. There is also a process in place for students who wish to start a new club.
- E. The STAR Reading and Math assessments will take place next week. Information has been emailed to families.
- F. Mr. Horowitz reached out to parents last week regarding the opportunity to participate in the MS Shared Decision Making Committee. If you’d like to apply, please complete the Google form by tomorrow.
- G. On Tuesday, 10/12, The MS Faculty and Administration will host “ A Parent's Guide to Surviving MS.” Information and an RSVP link was included in Mr. Horowitz’s weekly bulletin last week, and will be included this week, as well.

X. High School Liaison: Jen Savner

- A. School Threat
 - 1. Working with police and professional security companies. They wear a mixture of plain clothes and uniforms.
 - 2. Today was a lockout.. no one in and no one out.
 - 3. It appears they have some information on the whole situation
 - 4. However, it was anonymous tip, so we can’t be 100% sure, but they seem confident
- B. Construction Project: The construction project continues. The elementary school is occupying the fab lab and some portables. They are really removed as

elementary school classes stay in the room. Hopefully it will end soon which all depends on the inspection that happened today at Ridge Street.

- C. The drop off and pick up situation has been super challenging. The Administration is really urging the bus eligible kids to take the bus. If in masks, there is virtually no quarantining and contact tracing that will happen if someone on the bus tests positive with covid. The bus drivers are all BB staff. The parking lot has been too crowded and unsafe. Right now the HS is urging and requesting bus riders to use the service, but as things quiet down, there may be hard rules put in place as the district can't have empty buses and the parking lots can't be unsafe.
- D. The teachers, admin are working with the senate to plan some more activities for school spirit in the hopes that this will be a more typical year than the last couple.
- E. There will be grade parent nights that will be recorded and then open to a Q&A all on zoom. They should all last about an hour.
- F. Reminding students to bring their own masks to school. Students are forgetting them at home and using the disposables from the school... In some cases the school masks don't fit properly but most of all they are going through their supply too fast.
- G. **Q - Next week, they are going to provide buses for kids who stay after school. The kids have to be there at 3:50, or they will miss the bus. Can they be more flexible with that?** We can reach out to Juan regarding the flexibility.

XI. Membership: Bree Candee and Stacy Kapner

- A. Membership is very busy. We've had 493 sign-ups. 152 have ordered the school bee hard copy. We're moving forward with printing.
- B. Mrs. James hasn't been able to hand out the forms to the teachers. We pushed the dates a little bit.
- C. Membership hub has 158 entries. We have to supply them with email addresses. If people get an email to confirm your membership to membership hub, that is a receipt for your PTA membership.
- D. **Q - I noticed that there were a lot of old, inactive members.** We are only able to add/delete members based on information from the district. We have asked for the data from the district, we're waiting for a response.

XII. Community Coalition: Debra Cohen and Monique Tricario

- A. We are a Drug Free Communities grant. It's federally funded. We provide substance abuse prevention training and education programs. Mental health.
- B. Monique is running a Youth Leadership Club in the MS. She had 28 students sign up at the Club Fair this week.

- C. Monique also runs SADD - Students Against Destructive Decisions.
- D. We ran "Start with Hello Week" to encourage connection and kindness. They did a kindness challenge. Tomorrow is high-five Friday, to encourage having a conversation, being outgoing. We are trying to prevent isolation, which may prevent people from harming themselves and others.
- E. Elizabeth Deblasi, from student assistance services, runs the ROAD program, and she will be coming into the 10th grade classrooms. The program targets students who are at the age to begin driving. It focuses on alcohol and how it can affect the driving task. The program lasts 10 weeks, it's a psycho-educational curriculum. The kids love it.
- F. In October, we will run a 9th grade transition program- an outdoor team-building day. We're happy it's back, post-covid.

The next PTA meeting will be: October 21, 2021, at 7pm.

Attendance	
In Person	On Zoom
Kevin Adler	Kiki DeBari
Alex Boruch	Amanda Gitkind
Colin Byrne	Lynn Glantz
Hedy Cardozo	Katherine Hallissy Ayala
Debra Cohen	ToniAnne Rigano
Elizabeth DiBlasi	Patricia Schofield
Victor Espinoza	Monique Tricario
Johanna Gonzalez	
Stacy Kapner	(Zoom attendance was not taken in full.)
Shana Koransky	
Rachel Lerner	
Karen Lin	
Kate Marino	
Steffany O'Neill	
Cameron Sager	
Jen Savner	
Alicia Scala	
Correy Stephenson	

