

Blind Brook PTA
General Meeting
Thursday, June 10, 2021
7:00pm
Blind Brook MS/HS IMC (In Person) and Via Zoom
MINUTES

I. Board of Education President's Update: Ashley Welde

- A. The Ridge Street School construction project has been behind. We hired a forensic contractor. We also hired a construction lawyer, as the project is based on contracts.
- B. In December, we needed a new construction manager, someone to step in and keep all the pieces moving. We terminated Savin and hired School Construction Consultants. The project had been going on for a year and a half- they had to review lots of documents and plans.
- C. In December, we were 18% complete, now we are 60% complete.
- D. After Memorial Day, we moved K/1 students into the 4th/5th wing so we could demolish the 1955 wing. It's all torn down now. We are working on completing all classrooms by September. It's incredible to see what it's starting to look like.
- E. We also had to look at the finances. We are going to engage the audit committee (every school district has an audit committee). We did have a contingency budget. We anticipate that the contingency budget will be exhausted by the end of this. We want this project to be completed; we need to finance the rest of the project. If there are any claims, we will pursue those later because first we need to get the teachers in their classrooms.
- F. **Q - Is there a chance you will run out of money?** Yes, we might need some money to float the end of the project before we can recover the money paid to contractors.
- G. **Q - Is the district going to hold everyone accountable?** Yes. No claims have been waived.
- H. **Q - What is the rain plan for the MS graduation?** We'll use the gym.

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

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

- A. Last month we approved the by-laws. We're in good standing until 2024.
- B. It's been a crazy year, thank you for the PTA support! We look forward to doing more in-person stuff next year. Anyone with ideas, please reach out to a board member.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Lynn Glantz

A. May 2021 - net gain of \$1,760 mainly due to plant sale and half-day program.

Here are highlights:

B. Major Revenues:

C. Gross Profit/Loss: \$10,014

Pictures (2020)	\$4,700
Spring Break Camp	\$560
Plant Sale	\$4,113
Clothing	\$(2,248)
Half-Day Program	\$2,750

D. Expense Total: \$(8,254)

Community Coalition	\$(300)
Insurance	\$(700)
Retirement Gifts	\$(500)
Teacher's Appreciation	\$(2,383)
Recess Equipment	\$(725)
MS/HS Ice Cream	\$(3,600)

E. Total Net Revenue (Loss) - \$1760

V. Ways and Means: Alicia Scala and Kate Marino

A. The Boosterthon fund-raiser is postponed.

B. T-shirts will go out on the last day of school.

C. The school supplies fund-raiser will begin soon. We have 2 volunteers to take it over.

D. We weren't very aggressive in our fund raising this year. We will be back in full force next year. We are always open to any suggestions or help.

VI. Programming: Amanda Gitkind and Shana Koransky

- A. We are excited for next year. We hope to get back to some of the well-known annual PTA events.
- B. We are looking forward to shifting to in-person gatherings.

VII. Ridge Street School Liaison: Rachel Lerner

- A. Last month's AAPI Heritage month activities and workshops were a tremendous success. Over 500 cards were made by the students for Heart of Dinner, an organization which helps to fight food insecurity and isolation experienced by Asian American seniors in Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.
- B. Thank you to everyone that filled out their voluntary class placement forms for next year. If you have missed the deadline and want to share information, you are running out of time so please send Tracy a quick email THIS WEEK!
- C. There was an ICT (integrated co-teaching) meeting last night presented by SEID and Kristen GoldMansour, an Inclusive Instruction Coach and consultant the district is working with to train the teachers starting this month. Grades 1,2,3,4 are going to have one ICT class per grade next year. There is no ICT class for Kindergarten because the school does not yet know the kids and their needs. And 5th grade structure is different, as it's moving classes rather than self-contained.
- D. The 5th grade moving up ceremony details have changed. Families are now allowed 4 guests per child. This can include an unvaccinated child. Children do not need to show proof. If vaccinated, guests do not have to be socially distant. If not vaccinated, guests do have to socially distance themselves. There is going to be a professional photographer taking photos of the graduates, and if parents are comfortable, they may ask kids to remove masks for individual photos. Photos will be available for purchase. The original time was 10:00am; however, due to parking on campus concerns the time is now 12:00pm when the MS/HS are done. Apologies for that change. The ceremony is about 60 minutes, and there will not be a montage. It is a relaxed dress code.
- E. If grade levels want to do an outside end-of-year celebration, they can coordinate the dates/times for outside fields/tents based on lunch/recess times. K/1, 2/3, 4/5.
- F. On 6/25, as an extra thank you to all of the amazing custodial staff who accomplished last week's moving of classrooms, the PTA is coordinating a lunch for them.

VIII. Middle School Liaison: Alex Boruch

- A. A reminder- check the MS schedule for the last two weeks of school, as students have final exams and shortened school days many days.

- B. The PTA is planning a breakfast for 8th graders. Please contact Alex if you'd like to volunteer on the 8th grade breakfast committee.

IX. High School Liaison: Jen Savner

- A. The Senior Awards were Monday, June 7th. Prom is Friday, June 11. The kids will start to arrive at school to board the buses at 5:30 tomorrow. Buses leave at 6:30. The Senior Athletic Banquet is Wednesday, June 16.
- B. Parents of seniors are reminded to fill out the graduation ticket request form (a Google doc). Families will be assigned seats. Each student is allowed 4 guests, if the weather permits graduation to be outdoors.

X. Pupil Services Liaison: Kiki DeBari

- A. We had the ICT (Integrated Co-Teaching) presentation last night. It was given by GNR, the trainers who are going to be working with the school. It's a really exciting program. In grades 1-4, one class will be co-taught. There is [a recording of the ICT presentation](#), and it has been posted to the PTA website, under the SEID heading. If anybody has any questions regarding 5th grade and kindergarten, I can help to answer those questions for you. It's such an exciting program. It helps to boost all education.
- B. Creating Connections: The person running Creating Connections is now stepping down, and they are looking for a new volunteer to run the program. We have been talking with Tracy about how the program may look next year. Creating Connections is a disability awareness week that gives RSS students the opportunity to walk in the shoes of people who have certain disabilities. It's a really great program, and I think the kids really enjoy it. Let me know if you'd like to volunteer.
- C. Please contact me if you'd like to join SEID. We will add you to our mailing list.

XI. Membership: Bree Candee and Stacy Kapner

- A. We had one new member join last month.
- B. We are looking forward to next year!

XII. Community Coalition: Debra Cohen and Monique Tricario

- A. Community Coalition sponsored prom bags this month. Each student will get one when they get on the bus to encourage a safe celebration. Thanks to the PTA for sponsoring our events this year.
- B. This Monday, we will host our last project of the school year: "Leaf your stress here." We'll have a big tree and students can write what stresses them on a "leaf" and fasten it to the tree. We'll also serve up some healthy snacks provided by Greenwich Hospital.

Attendance***In Person:***

Katherine Ayala
Bree Candee
Debra Cohen
Kiki Debari
Johanna Gonzalez
Shana Koransky
Rachel Lerner
Karen Lin
Kate Marino
ToniAnne Rigano
Naomi Riley
Cameron Sager
Jennifer Savner
Correy Stephenson
Ashley Welde

On Zoom:

Anne
Nethra Bhatt
Stephanie Biderman
Shy Biswas
Hedy Cardozo
Robyn Cohn
Amanda Gitkind
Lynn Glantz
Catherine Li
Leah Mittelman
Yvette Montvelinsky
Nancy Parra
Betsy Rohtbart
Sari Sakofsky
Alicia Scala
Tina Steinberg
Monique Tricario
Meredith Winston
Sara Wolf
Luci Zimmerman