



Blind Brook Parent-Teacher Association

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 10 April 2025 | 7 PM | Blind Brook Middle School/High School Library

1. Welcome

Blind Brook PTA Co-President Lisa Benoit called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

2. Superintendent's report, Dr. Colin Byrne

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Colin Byrne reminded the group that spring break is scheduled for the coming week.

The district's bond projects are underway, and the baseball field should be ready for use by the time students return from break. Other preliminary work on further projects has also begun. The track and middle school/high school gym will be done over the coming summer. Phase three, to be done in summer 2026, includes work on middle school/high school classroom spaces, bathrooms, auditorium, and electrical work. There is a possibility that further work could comprise a fourth project phase.

The superintendent search is ongoing.

Next year's budget is planned to be adopted at the upcoming school board meeting following the break. The new budget is cap-compliant.

The middle school chorus concert will be held on Wednesday, 23 April.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held at the elementary school on Friday, 25 April, and Thursday, 1 May.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Dr. Michael Curtin will host a virtual curriculum town hall on Tuesday, 29 April.

3. Special Guests

Lisa introduced the first guest speaker of the night, Marissa Borzykowski, Chief of Staff for Spectrum Designs Foundation. The PTA has partnered with them to create t-shirts for current fifth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students; students in these grades will have the opportunity to design artwork for these shirts, and one design will be chosen for printing.

a. Marissa Borzykowski, on the company's mission and partnership with the PTA during Autism Awareness Month

Spectrum Designs Foundation is a nonprofit organization that creates promotional products and custom apparel; 70% of employees are on the autism spectrum.

The founder of the company worked at a special needs summer camp, and came up with the idea as campers with whom he had a relationship aged out of the camp and needed a new opportunity for after school and beyond.

PTA Fundraising Committee Co-Chair Jessica Trosterman introduced Spectrum Designs to the PTA for this collaboration.

b. Austin Frankel, Blind Brook High School student and creator of CodeLab

Blind Brook High School student Austin Frankel started coding at a young age, and started sharing his knowledge with younger coders last year. He is focusing on students in third, fourth, and fifth grade, but can accommodate students at many different levels.

He will be holding CodeLab classes at the Greenwich Library and Greenwich Civic Center on weekends for about ten weeks. He has based the curriculum on the one used at the high school at a more basic level.

The class will begin in mid-May. PTA Co-President Loren Becher will distribute a flyer for the class following spring break.

4. Acceptance of the minutes of the 20 March 2025 meeting

Membership Committee Co-Chair Lindsay Noymer made a motion to approve the minutes.

Jessica seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Co-Presidents' report, Loren Becher and Lisa Benoit

Lisa thanked the Programming Committee for their work, particularly the recent intergenerational game night

She also thanked the Fundraising Committee, and highlighted the success of Booster-a-Thon.

Lisa reported that Supporting Every Individual Difference (SEID) has held a number of events recently.

Loren also thanked the Membership Committee for their work in identifying a new registration and fundraising platform for the organization.

6. Pupil Services Liaisons report, Marni Ford and Sarah Shiboski

Pupil Services Liaison Sarah Shiboski reported that Mike McLeod has been invited to hold additional workshops; they will be held on Monday, 28 April, and Monday, 19 May. Registration will be open to members of SEID first, and then advertised to the wider community.

SEID, the PTA, and Okay to Delay will collaborate to host a presentation on digital wellness on Thursday, 8 May.

Pupil Services Liaison Marni Ford announced that Westchester Living had held its last webinar for the school year.

SEID collaborated with Eric Zimmerman to bring two executive functioning coaching sessions to the community. The workshops focused on study skills and testing; Eric has suggested holding another session focused on test prep for high school students. Some discussion followed about whether these sessions would be interesting or useful for families with younger students, comparing the content covered by Mike and Eric, and in-school support for developing executive function skills, as well as building-level services for social skills.

7. Membership Committee report, Rachel Boyman and Lindsay Noymer

Membership Committee Co-Chair Lindsay Noymer announced that the PTA has decided to switch over to the Givebacks platform.

A vote will be taken at the May meeting on a proposal to raise annual dues for families to \$30; they will stay at \$25 for school faculty and staff.

The school directory will remain on SchoolBee for now.

8. Treasurer's report, Taylor Gutierrez

PTA Treasurer Taylor Gutierrez reported that the issue with the PTA's bank accounts has been solved with no losses in funds.

The March Read-a-Thon and Booster-a-Thon raised more than \$40,000.

Payments are being made now for fall programming.

Work has begun on the budget for next year.

9. Fundraising Committee report, Dea Fisher and Jessica Trosterman

Fundraising Committee Co-Chair Dea Fisher also talked about the success of the recent Read-a-Thon and Booster-a Thon.

The spring Flex season has started, and planning is underway for next year's programming.

The committee is piloting half-day programs with a new company, Your After School.

The Fundraising Committee will begin to plan for the fall soon, including considering the addition of committee members to assist the co-chairs with planning and execution of fundraising.

Fundraising Committee Co-Chair Jessica Trosterman added that the upcoming Harlem Wizards event is sold out, and that new apparel is available for purchase online.

10. Programming Committee report, Mary Barbagli and Pamela Huang

Programming Committee Co-Chair Pamela Huang reported that more than thirty people attended the committee's first adult-only event held on Thursday, 27 March, a presentation by Dr. Pooja Singh which focused on women's health issues.

The committee collaborated with the Rye Brook Senior Center for a second time, this time on an intergenerational game night held on Monday, 31 March. This was also the committee's first program targeting high school students; middle schoolers were also invited.

Programming Committee Co-Chair Mary Barbagli reported that the Matball Tournament for sixth- and seventh-graders is scheduled for Thursday, 24 April, from 5:45 to 8 PM at the middle school/high school gyms. This event will be hosted by the school's physical education department, and students are able to sign up themselves at school.

Another Fun Night event is scheduled for Tuesday, 29 April, from 6 to 7 PM in the elementary school cafeteria. This will be a game night for first-, second-, and third-graders; community members will be asked to lend games and consider volunteering to run game stations at the event.

Dr. Singh will host a second adults' health event on Wednesday, 7 May, focusing on preventative care.

The annual Olympic Night is scheduled for Thursday, 22 May, for fourth- and fifth-grade students. It will be facilitated by NeverStopMoving365.

Pamela added that the Multi-Cultural Festival is also on the upcoming calendar, on Friday, 9 May.

11. Liaison reports

a. Elementary School, Afton Rosenfeld and Ann Sedrish

Elementary School Liaison Ann Sedrish reported that the Creating Connections program was extended through an entire month, and came in under budget.

Ann highlighted a recent email sent to elementary school parents regarding upcoming testing dates.

A Bluebird Chat, postponed from earlier, will now be held on Wednesday, 30 April.

Some discussion followed about the PTA's plans to recognize Teacher Appreciation Week.

Ann reminded attendees that end-of-year grade-level events are all on the online calendar, and will be live-streamed.

A request from elementary school teachers for furniture purchases is with Lisa for consideration.

b. Middle School, Leah Mittelman

Lisa reported on behalf of Middle School Liaison Leah Mittelman that Creaticon is scheduled for Thursday, 15 May, from 5 to 8 PM at the middle school/high school. Kids in all grades will be able to showcase projects.

Middle school tests are scheduled for Thursday, 8 May; the PTA is sponsoring an ice cream truck for students afterwards.

An end-of-the-year middle school breakfast is also on the calendar.

c. High School, ToniAnne Rigano

High School Liaison ToniAnne Rigano reported that a pep rally was held on Friday, 4 April, overseen by the high school senate.

High school seniors participating in spring sports were recognized the prior week.

An overnight trip taken the first weekend in April brought members of the wind ensemble and chorus to Universal Studios Florida, where they attended a workshop on sound design and did a live performance.

The high school held a "learning walk", an alternative to formal observations, which gives school administrators and faculty the opportunity to visit classrooms and reflect on ways to improve instruction.

The master schedule for next year is coming together; counselors will meet with students who have course conflicts during the second half of May.

The mandatory junior driving night took place on Tuesday, 8 April.

The third marking period of the year has just ended.

AP testing will begin on Monday, 5 May.

A Common Application Writing Workshop will be held for rising seniors on Tuesday, 20 May.

The Science Research Symposium will be held on Wednesday, 21 May.

12. Next meeting and future meeting dates

There are two meetings left this school year.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, 15 May, at 9 AM on Zoom. A vote will be taken on the proposed increase in membership dues.

The final meeting of the year will be held Thursday, 12 June, at 7 PM at the middle school/high school.

13. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Attending

Sarah Bailey
Mary Barbagli
Loren Becher
Lisa Benoit
Marissa Borzykowski
Rachel Boyman
Colin Bryne
Allison Conte
Dea Fischer
Marni Ford
Austin Frankel
Taylor Gutierrez
Pamela Huang
Eneida Nikci
Lindsay Noymer
ToniAnne Rigano
Ashley Schlemmer
Ann Sedrish
Meghan Shaw
Melissa Sheinheit
Correy Stephenson
Yolanda Stone
Michelle Tepper
Jessica Trosterman
Laura Wolther