

**Blind Brook PTA  
General PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, December 11, 2018 8:45am  
RSS Multi-Purpose Room**

**Minutes Approved**

- Kate Marino & Correy Stephenson

**Superintendent's Message – Dr. Jonathan Ross**

- Dr. Ross and Mrs. Taylor will be holding a Principal's Conversation meeting at 7:00pm in the RSS Library on Wednesday, December 12, 2018. The topic will be the upcoming construction project. Construction begins this summer and will last approximately 18 months.
- Monday's (December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018) upcoming Board of Education meeting will continue the discussion regarding the Modified Block Scheduling initiative for the Middle School and High School.
  - A committee has been working on this schedule change for several years.
  - Blind Brook Federation of Teachers expressed their concerns for the Modified Block Schedule.
  - Students at the high school have also been surveyed and have had forums by which to express their opinions.
  - The Federation of Teachers must be informed by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> if there is an intent to change the schedule for next year.
- The BOE will also discuss an Interscholastic Athletic Handbook at the Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting.
- The technology update given by Mr. VonHollen and Mr. Byrne will take place on January 7<sup>th</sup>, BOE meeting.
- Budget season is beginning. It continues to be a challenging budget environment; aim to stay within the State mandated budget cap.

**Presidents Report**

- Meeting minutes, financial documents, and agenda will be paperless for 2019. An opportunity will be given for each individual to read or print their own documents in advance of each meeting.

**Finance/ Treasurer Report**

- November was a good month. Monies continue to come in from Fall Fest, the Book Fair and the Holiday Store.

**Ways and Means**

- Fall Fest 2019 will likely be modified as a result of the school construction. One option being explored is an adult evening gala in conjunction with Lester's, featuring a kid's fashion show.

- Kids are not invited other than those kids in the fashion show.
- A different, much smaller program is being considered in lieu of Fall Fest to include the kids.
- Alex Boruch is looking for a volunteer to take over the Holiday Boutique. Please reach out to Alex if interested.
  - Likely to change the Holiday Boutique vendor.

### **Programming**

- After School Activities
  - Fall income \$8,985.
  - Spring registration will open on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
  - Winter mini-session is ending now.
  - Bree Candee also looking for a volunteer to take over the After School Activities programming.
- Harlem Wizards on January 4<sup>th</sup>. About 200 tickets have been sold to-date. On target with last year's sales.
  - Will need parent volunteers for event.
- Dance being planned for 2-4<sup>th</sup> graders. Date in February TBD.
- Olympic Nights dates pending.

### **Building Liaisons**

- RSS- Correy Stephenson
  - Preparing for the construction project is everyone's main concern for now. The Shared Decision Making Committee is working to ensure that all parents are aware of the upcoming construction.
    - Preparation work is beginning in the Enrichment Center area to make the space ready for classroom use.
    - Keyword will be flexibility!!!
  - The PTA will also need to adjust their fundraising programs as they will not have the space to hold many of the traditional fundraisers such as the Book Fair, the Plant Sale, or the Holiday Boutique.
- MS – Jaime Coffey
  - December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, is the Winter Band Concert.
  - Seussical is the Middle School musical. Will be on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals have begun.
  - Winter sports have started.
  - There is discussion beginning on the possibility of bringing back the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C..
  - The Shared Decision Making Committee is working on banning the Smart Watches from the classroom setting. They are a distraction for all involved.
- HS – Kelly Lieberman

- Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, is the Choral and Instrumental Holiday Concert.
- Class catalog should be updated and ready for viewing by the end of the year.
  - Studio Art/ Photography will be offered on a daily basis and will receive full academic credit for next year.
- Wedding Singer is the Spring Musical.
- HS – Katherine Ayala
  - On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a Parent’s of Special Needs Committee meeting was held with Mr. Burg and Mrs. Sitkoff. Topics of discussion included:
    - Integrated Classroom Teaching.
    - More accommodations in our own school district to limit the number of students being sent out to other schools.
    - Creation of SEPTA – Special Education PTA
  - Next meeting will be on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:30pm for continued follow-up.

### **Membership**

- Membership received the 2018 Early Bird membership award badge from the New York State PTA. This was received for entering and paying for over 60% of its members.
- New members (mostly new families to the district) continue to join the PTA.

### **Announcements**

- Pat Renz, Community Coalition.
  - Community Coalition will be hosting a speaker, Kevin Sabet, on January 31, 2019, on marijuana policy and the physical, mental, and community impacts. More information to follow.
  - If you were unable to attend the discussion with Dr. Dewey on the effects of substance abuse on the teen brain, you can request a videotape from Mrs. Renz at [prenz@blindbrook.org](mailto:prenz@blindbrook.org) if you are interested.
- **Meeting Adjourned.**