

**Blind Brook PTA
General PTA Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 7:00pm
RSS Library**

Minutes Approved

- Cameron Sager & Correy Stephenson

Superintendent's Message – Dr. Jonathan Ross

- On January 7th, 2019 Board has education meeting on two key topic:
 - Technology update. The school will start construction on two facets: BMRSS Renovation and MS/HS MIT Fabrication Lab. The Budget implication is \$115,000 Fabrication lab equipment for 2020-2021; \$9,100 Security cameras; \$3,500 Panic switches; Computers upgrade and Network Infrastructure for 2021-2022. Currently our school still runs Windows 7, we need to update to Windows 10.
 - BBHS Grade Weighting. Numeric grade change start from 2022-2023. In response from college admission process, Blind Brook High school will hold any weighting on students' scores. Previously the school will give an additional weight on more difficult courses, like AP. But colleges prefer their own weighting system, so we will take out the weighting.
- School starts on 9/5 and last days is 6/27.
- Middle/High School schedule change. Instead of 180 days in the past, New York State now requires 900 hours for elementary school, 990 hours for middle/high school per school year, which does not include lunch/recess hour.
- One School Board seat is available through April 22nd.
- Next Week we will have special ed presentation.
- Middle School musical next week.

Presidents Report

- January 31st there is a presentation about what Marijuana can do for kids.
- BMP RSS 16th Annual Book Swap is On January 23 and 24. Robyn Weintraub did book swap for many years and is looking for a volunteer to take it over.

Finance/ Treasurer Report

- December was a quiet month. Get about \$1000 come in.

Ways and Means

Programming

- After School Activities
 - ASA starts next week.
 - School hire additional aid in case anyone need help.
- Harlem Wizards v. Blind Brook All Stars was on January 4th, Friday night. It was a huge success, we get around \$57,000. Yvette Won the raffle and gave all back :-)
- Dancing Program is being planned for 2-4th graders. March 1st is the new date.
- Olympic Nights dates is on March 22nd or April 5th

Building Liaisons

- RSS- Correy Stephenson
 - Construction is still the biggest issue as everyone continues to prepare for the project. Some update:
 - Butler Building demolition will begin July 1st, including asbestos abatement. The main office will move for the summer to the district office so the main entrance of the school will be closed. Any deliveries should be redirected to the district office for the summer.
 - A meeting with Whitsons is on the schedule for the coming weeks to discuss food options during construction.
 - In very good news, notably will the students have the playground but they will also have access to the blacktop and the soccer field for recess.
 - To keep families informed, Tracy will send a monthly construction related newsletter with updates via email and hard copy.
 - Report Cards will be released on parent portal. As part of the move to go paperless, hard copies will not be provided anymore; parents who wish to have a hard copy can print from the portal.
 - Indoor Recess. In addition to Crobin's Crusaders, yoga and chess, exploration station started this week for the K/1 classes. We are looking for more volunteers.
 - The Winter Concert was held just before the break and Snowball is coming up on January 18.
 - Staff news. We have a new ENL teacher, Nicol Pirrazzi. Mrs. Jackson will be retiring at the end of the year.
 - Class contributions. A reminder for head class parents, if you have not already done so, please send in your class contribution for the end of year party (\$5/child) and lice check (\$7/per child) to the main office.
- MS – Jaime Coffey
 - Jan 9th Principal Coffee is canceled.
 - January 10th BBMS Parent-Teacher Institute in Middle School library. PTI will have an evening of wellbeing for parents from 7pm-8:30pm. It includes two workshops- Stress Management and Escape the Vape.

- January 16th Current 8th Grade Parent Meeting an 16h- 8th Grade parents meeting- agenda to include Moving Up inform and proposed 8th grade trip to DC @ 7pm in the MS cafeteria.
- Seussical is the Middle School musical. Will be on January 24th, 25th, and 26th.

- HS – Kelly Lieberman
 - Final session for the 9th grade transition program was held on Monday. Thanks again to the PTA for their sponsorship of the program.
 - Second presentation of the proposed grade weighting changes was held at last night’s board meeting. Well received. Plan to have it in place by the 2019-2020 school year.
 - Mr. Levy, HS Band teacher has retired. Job has been posted.
 - HS Course of Study has been posted. Will be reviewed at grade meetings. Change in Art, Chorus and Music. They will now be full year courses. Exemption for 10th grade students...for that grade only Art/Chorus/Band will remain every other day for that year only. This is due to mandatory health class required in 10th grade.
 - Next HS Parent coffee will be held next Wednesday, January 16th at 9am.

- Pupil Service – Katherine Ayala
 - There are several opportunities coming up for special needs parents:
 - Friday January 11th 9:00 -2:00pm workshop at WIHD:Understanding Special Education.
 - Tuesday January 15th 7:30 -8:30pm Conversation with Mr. Burg and Mrs. Sitkoff at RSS library.
 - Monday February 4th 9:00am Prepare your child’s annual review meeting at RSS multipurpose room or 7:30pm at HS library.
 - Friday, February 8 9:00 - 2:00pm Workshop at WIHD: CPSE/CSE Parent Member Training
 - At the conversation with Mr. Burg and Mrs. Sitkoff, we can expect an update on ICTs. All K-12 parents are welcome.
 - Mr. Burg has put together a budget for next year’s special education program.
 - For students who has a IEP(Individual Education Plan) or 504(accommodations), their parents and teachers will meet once a year to review the plan and makes strategy for next year. Invitations will be going out soon.
 - Pupil Personnel has re-vamped the aide criteria worksheets in order to help parents and teachers evaluate whether a child needs a shared aide, or 1:1 aide or none.

Membership

- New members (mostly new families to the district) continue to join the PTA.

Announcements

Pat Renz, Community Coalition.

- 9th Grade escape the vape Pizza Party on Monday January 14 at 6:00pm. National Survey shows there is a large increase in vaping in 8th grade. Some school even has rest room shut down because of it.
- 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.

Meeting Adjourned.