

**Blind Brook PTA
General PTA Meeting
Tuesday, February 12, 2019 8:45am
Snow Day - Online**

Minutes Approved

- Kate Marino & Correy Stephenson

Finance/ Treasurer Report

- Big news for January is the Wizards game made almost \$8k for the PTA, so great job Lynn and Bree.
- We also made about \$4k from ASA.
- No unusual expenses to highlight.

Ways and Means

- Working on Yankee game, Save the date for Saturday April 13th at 1pm.
- Had a meeting with Tracey and the boosterthon crew regarding Fun Run. Going to be run a little differently this year. Class goals, rather than individual, plus flat donations (instead of laps) and a few other things we can discuss at next meeting. This year's theme is Mystery Lab and will begin 6/4 and end 6/14.
- Also Teacher Appreciation week coming week of May 6th. Looking to do 3 days of treats (breakfast, lunch and sweets day) at both schools. We are in talks with a few people regarding the food. We are looking for a few parents to help out with the middle and high schools... setting up, serving, clean up etc.
- Also, we picked some clothes from closet...mostly low inventory items... and Kate posted the first flash sale on Facebook. Great feedback!

Programming

- March 1st Mixer event.
 - Contract signed w DJ
 - Registration opened Monday: currently 70 people registered.
 - We are working on snacks, items to hand out and decor now.
 - Reminder will go out after VAK.
 - Will double check request with Cameron next week.
- Olympic night (March 22nd and April 5th): email went out and reminder will go out soon. All set up.

Building Liaisons

- RSS- Correy Stephenson

- Cleaning/illness. The custodians, teachers, aides, etc. are all doing their best to wipe down surfaces and keep things clean to help minimize the spread of germs. For the remainder of the winter, bleach will be used to clean the school each Friday and a huge cleaning will happen over February break. In addition, the entire school will be undergoing a lesson on hand washing, with Hilde coming to each classroom to teach the kids the proper way to wash their hands and new signage going up in the bathrooms.
 - Construction. The first construction newsletter went out in January with details about lunch options for next year. The February issue will be coming out shortly and will discuss changes to arrival and dismissal due to the construction project. Tracy will also discuss construction issues at the February Principal's Conversation.
- MS – Jaime Coffey
 - The 8th grade Washington Trip has been approved by the BOE and plans are underway for the trip to take place from May 8-10th.
 - We continue to reduce the number of cumulative assessments for our students. Students in all grades took mid-year assessments in math and world language while 8th grade students took additional assessments in science in preparation for either the Regents in Earth Science or the 8th grade state assessment in science. 7th grade students took a science skills assessment to aid in the recommendations for their 8th grade science selection.
 - Scheduling for next year has begun. We are planning to have "Pure Teams" with 5 sections at each grade level. "Pure Teams" means that the same group of teachers will teach the same group of students without core teachers teaching across grade levels. The benefits of this model are that core teachers will have common planning time to plan cross-curricular instruction and activities, have flexibility over their schedule.
 - Recently our students were given the opportunity to compete in the qualifying round of the National History Bee and the National Science Bee. Eighteen students qualified to attend the regional competition for the History Bee and seventeen students are eligible to continue with the National Science Bee.
 - Ten Blind Brook Middle School students opted to compete in the school Qualifying Round for the National Geography Bee. Madeline Hirsch, 6th grade was the school champion followed by second place winner Hunter Greenspan (7th grade) and third place winner - 6th grader Kabir Joshi. Madeline has completed the extensive on-line test which will determine if she advances to the regional and state level of competition
 - Seussical Jr. was a resounding success with close to 100 middle school students participating in the cast and crew. A special thank you is sent to the high school theater students who served as mentors with choreography, stage crew, lighting and sound. This truly was a cooperative student-centered endeavor.

- HS – Kelly Lieberman
 - Starting this week, Guidance counselors will be meeting with students to discuss scheduling for next year.
 - HS Meeting for current 8th grade parents scheduled for Tuesday evening, 2-12.
 - All indications are that block scheduling will begin with the 2018-2019 school year.
 - Cheerleading team competed this past weekend at the invitational tournament held at Disney Florida.
 - Homecoming was held this past weekend. Games were well attended and students enjoyed the homecoming dance.
 - Bids have been sent out for track repairs. Looking to start work in the spring with minimal disruption.
 - Next principal coffee will be Wednesday, March 20th at 11:30AM.

- Pupil Service – Katherine Ayala
 - We had a special needs parent meeting with Mr. Burg and Ms. Sitkoff mid-January. Mr. Burg let us know that there are a few teachers who are interested in a scaled-back ICT (integrated co-teaching) program at RSS, where a general ed and special ed teacher might co-teach one subject.
 - We also held a parent workshop on February 4th with a speaker from the Westchester Institute for Human Development, who helped parents prepare for their child's annual review. 18 parents attended.
 - Annual review meetings will be running in February and March. At an annual review meeting, parents meet with pupil services and teachers to discuss their child's progress and plan services for the next school year to address the child's needs for next year's special education program.

Meeting Adjourned.