

**Blind Brook PTA  
General PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 7:00pm**

**Minutes Approved**

- Kate Marino & Correy Stephenson

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

- There will be a 2.9% Budget increase, we add a mental health physician.
- People are welcome to watch Saturday Budget discussion on April 17<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate minor change. State budget projected \$162,000 more sales tax increase which will help our budget too. Current year we operate on surplus.
- We used our reserve to pay for the High School track field repairmen \$254,000.
- The projected overall construction cost is \$36.21 million. There are some soft cost like insurance for a few years, etc. We are allowed to spend \$44 million. Overall we should be OK.
- Ridge Street School will end early due to construction. A lot of preliminary work need to be done before construction starts. But we still meet the state requirement of 900 hours for elementary school.
- By July 1<sup>st</sup> we hope to start construction. By August 1<sup>st</sup> we hope to start two story construction. In Middle/High school, the new FAB lab will connect to two GYM's.
- We anticipate no more snow days. The two snow days left will be used around Memorial Day weekend.
- Parking lot will be tight after the new construction. Advice everyone to take the bus or walk.
- RSS old GYM will be the new cafeteria.
- Block schedule. For each school, everyone will eat lunch at the same time. We will have a pre-order system to avoid long lines. Fee-reduced lunch program will stay.
- Juniors are not allowed to go off campus.

**Co-president's Report**

- March 29<sup>th</sup> is superintendent conference day. There is no school. Wendy Corbin will run a program in new GYM on March 29<sup>th</sup>, as well as a camp on spring break.
- There will be school demo party on June 20<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm. Children can use crayon, washable markers to write all over the walls.

**Finance/ Treasurer Report**

- We made \$9k from school picture, in line with last year.
- We made \$4k for March Mixer event.
- No unusual expenses to highlight.

### **Ways and Means – Kate Marino and Alex Boruch**

- Yankee game. Sold 62 tickets so far, deadline to order is 3/21.
- Preparing for teacher appreciation week on May 6th. It will be three days. We talked to Belle Faire kitchen for lunches and also a food truck for breakfasts at both schools. Will be looking for some great bakers.
- Fun Run coming in June.

### **Programming – Bree Candee & Lynn Glantz**

- March Mixer. The first Mixer took place on March 1 and was a great success. It was for students in grades 2, 3 and 4. We had about 190 students attend (plus a short waiting list) and charged \$20 per person. Cameron should have the final details on numbers/profit.
- Olympic Nights. Grades 2/3 is on March 22. Registration is currently open; closes March 15. Anna Leder and Hannah Mensch are the co-chairs; Grades 4/5 is on April 5. Registration will open shortly. Lauren Feist and Alissa Levine are the co-chairs.

### **Building Liaisons**

- RSS- Correy Stephenson
  1. Construction. The next construction newsletter will be coming soon, focused on arrival and dismissal changes due to the construction project. Traffic will be an issue next year. And a reminder that the school will be closed over the summer.
  2. Incoming kindergarten. The incoming kindergarten class is currently at about 75 kids. Depending on the number of additional registrants, the grade could have 4 or 5 sections (although it is currently budgeted for 5). Kindergarten orientation is on April 3, from 7-8pm and Tracy is wondering if the PTA will send someone to speak as in year past. This year, the kindergarteners will start the same day as all the other grades, just an hour later at 9:30am first day. Students who are eligible to ride buses will be picked up at a special time but will go home with the rest of the school at the normal time.
  3. Open House/Creating Connections changes. Given the changes to the kindergarten schedule and the construction project, Open House will likely be spread out over two or three nights, with a few grades each night. Similarly, Tracy is considering spreading Creating Connections out over multiple weeks to accommodate the space necessary for the assemblies and presentations for the program
  4. Book Fair. It looks like we will be able to have our annual Book Fair next year, generously hosted by the MS/HS. To accommodate their schedule, it will be held a little earlier in the year in October.

- MS – Jaime Coffey
  1. March 6th was meeting for Incoming 8th Grade Parent Meeting. March 13th is meeting for Incoming 7th Grade Parent Meeting and March 19<sup>th</sup> is meeting for Incoming 6th Grade Parent Meeting.
  2. Current 8th graders will be going to DC on trip in spring.
  3. Change to next year 8th grade curriculum which enables students to pick two electives they will take all year.
  4. Graduation for 8th grade will be on Tuesday, June 25 at 2pm.
  
- HS – Kelly Lieberman
  1. Shared Decision Committee discussing adding academic requirements to participate in extracurricular activities.
  2. Started policy releasing juniors at 9th period, if free, without parent sign out.
  3. Interviewing for Mr. Levy's position (band teacher). He is retiring at the end of this school year.
  4. Scheduling for next year continues. All students have met with their guidance counselors and must have their course selections submitted by March 15.
  5. Hockey and Boys Basketball teams made the playoffs. Hockey lost in the semi-finals and Basketball lost in the final. Large fan turnout for both teams.
  6. Spring sports have started this week.
  7. Ms. Lazare's College Chorus class will be attending a Mozart performance at Lincoln Center next Tuesday.
  8. Performances of "The Wedding Singer" were held this past weekend. Thanks to everyone who came out to support this production. We hope you enjoyed the show.
  9. Next principal coffee will be held next Wednesday, 3/20, at 9:00AM.
  
- Pupil Service – Katherine Ayala
  1. On February 4<sup>th</sup> there was a presentation on how to prepare for IEP meeting.
  2. There will be a meeting for parents of special needs students on Monday, March 25th at 7:30pm in the RSS Library.
  3. Plan another talk on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Membership**

We still get people to join from time to time.

### **Meeting Adjourned.**