

**Blind Brook PTA  
General PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, May 14th, 2019 7:00pm**

**Minutes Approved**

- Lynn Glantz & Alex Boruch

**Superintendent's Message – Dr. Jonathan Ross and Dr. Colin Byrne**

- Even though Dr. Ross will resign as the Superintendent of the Blind Brook-Rye School District, he will be still working with Dr. Colin Byrne. He assured everyone that there will be a smooth transition and he is still available for future construction, facility and finance and other questions.
- Grade 3-8 State Math test just ended. The opt-out rate is much better than previous year.
- High School Construction. The high school truck is gone, now it looks good. Drainage problem solved. Down stair room has central air, mechanical system, etc.
- STEAM/Music/Art room will be in high school in 18-24 months.
- We are lucky to have reasonable construction bid. We still have 2.5-3 million reserve, which can absorb a few extra projects.
- We also need to have after-school bus contract for sports transportation and other special events.
- We urge everyone to vote on the school budget. We'd like to see 500 votes.
- Dr. Colin mentioned the superintendent change is just a shift of responsibilities. They appreciate PTA's all year long work on many things, generating revenues for the school, holding various programs, etc. Last week's teacher appreciation is greatly appreciated.

**Co-president's Report/Discussion**

- Our school is looking for one staff developer for K-12.
- For future superintendent candidate, some suggested to look for someone has an education background.
- School bought the Robotic equipment for third and fourth grade.
- Next Year PTA meeting might move to middle school cafeteria.

**Finance/ Treasurer Report**

- Nothing unusual

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

- Teacher appreciation week was a HUGE success! The teachers and staff at both schools were very appreciative. They were amazed at the beautifully decorated room, it is like a

party room. Teachers get chance to sit down and chat with each other, parents, PTA members. Thank you to all the PTA members who helped out.

- Upcoming Fun Run. We have 3 sponsors: Corbin's Crusaders, Erik Nates Hockey and Purchase Day Camp. They will be funding the students and Staff Tee shirts. The event will kick off on June 3rd and end with the FUN RUN on Friday June 14th. This is a student event only. Kids will be given material to set up their online donation requests. Last year we made close to \$28,000. Hope to do about the same this year.
- We just had a successful plant sale.
- Also, we made about \$1600 with the Yankee Game held earlier in April. A great day, beautiful weather and the Yankees won!
- For school suppliers, we interviewed three suppliers and chose Star Suppliers. They are very enthusiastic and their prices are reasonable.
- Plan 2020 Spring Fashion show with Nester, lots of details.
- Plan Fall Festival. Contacted a few food trucks. With construction, it will be scaled back a little bit this year.

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

We are in the process of reviewing all the programs from the past year and starting to discuss programming for 2019-2020. The Kindergarten welcome event might move to high school this year due to construction.

### **Building Liaisons**

- RSS- Correy Stephenson
  - May multicultural events. Each student went home with a “Where are we in the world?” packet, which families will complete together this week. The topic will look different in each classroom but it is meant to be an opportunity to learn about the different cultures represented in our school. An assembly was also held yesterday titled, “Music of the Earth” so that students could hear music from all over the world.
  - Placement process. The response to input for the placement process was similar to last year’s responses and the faculty is working on placement for next year.
  - Construction updates. The teachers and faculty are starting to plan ahead and pack up for the coming construction project. No other big updates at this point.
- MS – Jaime Coffey
  - The eighth grade student just came back from the Washington trip. Kids had a great experience. They survived without cellular phone and started to talk with each other.

- Trills and Thrills Music Festivals will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Lake Compounce, Connecticut.
- Graduation for 8th grade will be on Tuesday, June 25 at 2pm.
- HS – Kelly Lieberman
  - Started to give out graduation ticket
  - AP test started last week and will end this week.
  - Juniors are leaving for their Philadelphia trip.
  - Sophomore Circus was very successful.
  - Prom Panel is forming, people also suggested an emergence room for Prom party.
  - Principal coffee will be tomorrow, Wednesday, May 15, at 9AM.
- Pupil Service – Katherine Ayala
  - We tried to do something every month.
  - Currently we have 150 students with IEP, 100+ students with 504 plan. 17% of the student population need assistance at school, ranging from executive functioning, anxiety, motor skills, etc.

### **Membership**

So far 73 kids registered for Kindergarten.

### **New Business - Proposal for a New Committee**

We propose a new Blind Brook PTA committee comprised of Blind Brook parents and caregivers interested in supporting children with special needs and their families. The goal of the committee is to support students with special needs, to educate ourselves, to share our experiences with one another, and to engage with the community. In partnership with the Blind Brook Pupil Services department and the Board of Education, we seek to promote a culture of acceptance, inclusion, and understanding of students of all types of abilities in our school community.

The proposal was approved by all attending PTA members.

**Meeting Adjourned.**