

**Blind Brook PTA
General PTA Meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2019 8:45am
Middle School Cafeteria**

Minutes Approved

- Correy Stephenson and Alex Boruch

Superintendent's Message – Dr. Colin Byrne

- **Construction**
 - Summer work completed. Bathroom at entrance of RSS is still in construction, but anticipated to be ready soon.
 - RSS Butler building was demolished. Now working on the foundation. Asbestos was found in some of the piping in the foundation, and that must be removed. It is contained and solid, and easy to remove; none the less, extreme caution will be used in the removal process. This will cause a delay to the project.
 - Most construction is occurring during off hours.
 - Construction updates will continue on a regular basis.
 - New air purifiers in place in all RSS classrooms.
- **Block Schedule – MS/HS**
 - Everyone is adjusting and tweaks are being made as needed.
 - Additional seating for lunch is being identified.
 - Also looking to create more quiet space during lunch.
- **District Goals – Refer to BOE section of the district website**
 - Evaluate the MS/HS Block Schedule.
 - Formalize curriculum development process.
 - Move forward with problem-based learning.
 - Hire a permanent superintendent.
 - Continue with construction.
 - Develop a working budget for next year, and stay on budget for current year.
- **Committee on Advanced Learning**
 - Aimed to ensure the needs of students performing at advanced levels are being satisfied.
 - A K-12 initiative.
 - Parent volunteers for the committee will be sought.

Presidents Report

- No report.

Finance/ Treasurer Report

- Had a strong fiscal year last year.
- Financial reports are online, but will be revised over the next couple of months. Final fiscal year reports for 2018-2019 should be ready by end of October.

Ways and Means

- Fall Fest will be on October 26th, 2019. It will take place in the front lot of RSS.
 - Family sponsorship opportunities available.
 - Reach out to Alex Boruch or Kate Marino if you are interested in helping.
- Charleston Wrap will be our fundraising partner this year for the Holiday Boutique and catalog sales.
 - Holiday Boutique will take place again this year in the atrium.
 - Anyone interested in leading the Holiday Boutique, please reach out to Alex Boruch.
- Creating a reusable bag for the community.
- RSS Friday Pizza Lunch – research into its feasibility is ongoing. More details forthcoming.
- Spring Fashion Show in conjunction with Lester's is in the plans for Spring. This will replace Boosterthon. It will be an off-site evening function with DJ and dancing.
- Book Fair is the 3rd week of October in the Middle School. RSS students will be bussed during the school day to the Middle School to attend the book fair.

Programming

- After School Activities (ASA)
 - Anyone interested in taking over the ASA program, please reach out to Bree Candee or a member of the PTA.
 - A scaled down (due to limited space) ASA program started this week.
- Strong turnout at the Kindergarten social which took place immediately after the teacher's Meet & Greet.
- Harlem Wizards planned for January.
- K-1 Magic show.
- The dance will be for grades 3 & 4 to avoid overcrowding. Date to be determined.

Building Liaisons

- RSS- Correy Stephenson
 - Arrival and Dismissal.
 - PATIENCE and UNDERSTANDING. Mrs. Taylor and all the staff are asking for everyone's patience and understanding as they work to improve the arrival and dismissal process. Due to the construction, there are now only 2 exits for dismissal, where last year there were 4.
 - There are serious safety concerns with the current traffic pattern, given the number of parents showing up for pickup who are bus eligible and in light of the fact the weather is still warm and people are walking home.
 - Everyone must park in eligible locations and drive slowly and carefully.
 - Construction Update
 - Correy took a tour of the school with Ms. Taylor including classrooms that have already been renovated, the new classrooms created (out of the

library and the computer lab, for example), the path the kids take to and from recess, the Bluebird Café, etc.

- As per Correy “it was really incredible to see all of the changes that have been made since June and the amount of hard work that everyone – particularly custodial staff and teachers – put in is obvious.”
- A tremendous amount of effort was put-in by the teachers and custodial staff to ensure the school was in great condition for the start of the school year.
- Box Tops
 - The program has changed and is transitioning to a purely digital model where people scan their receipts into an app in order to raise money for the school.
 - This is problematic for us as a fundraiser because each individual has to download the app and scan their receipts on their own – it is not like the Stop and Shop points where we can enter the number.
 - We will have no idea who is using it or how much they have raised. They are still collecting the Box Tops still in circulation but not for much longer.
- Book Fair
 - This year’s Book Fair will be held the third week of October, after Columbus Day, in the HS auditorium. Ridge Street students will be bussed over, two classes at a time.
- Class Parents
 - Hopefully all Head Class Parents have met with their teachers as the various Open House nights approach. Please remember to encourage your classes to join the PTA and participate in PTA events and don’t forget to ask for the voluntary \$5 per person contribution for Fall Fest while collecting dues.
- MS – Jaime Coffey
 - No report.
- HS – Kelly Lieberman
 - Adjusting to block scheduling.
 - Modified sports have started.
 - Highschool open houses are ongoing.
 - Homecoming is weekend of September 27th/28th. The homecoming game is Saturday night, September 28th under the lights!
 - HS Drama auditions are on September 23rd for the fall play – ‘All in the Timing’
- HS – Katherine Ayala
 - The Assistant Director of Pupil Services resigned in July. Mr. Burg organized an interview committee, including two parents, to help select a replacement in

August. As a result, the district now had a new Assistant Director of Pupil Services, Jennifer Herlihy.

- The PTA committee Supporting Every Individual Difference is planning a few events this fall:
 - Thursday, October 3rd: Special Education Open House- a coffee with Harry Burg
 - Wednesday, November 13: Special Education Q&A with Stephanie Bellantoni, of the Westchester Institute for Human Development
 - December: Book Club Discussion on the book How Children Thrive by Mark Bertin. (date tba)

Membership

- Over 500 households have joined the PTA. About one-third have also purchased the Dial – A – Friend.
- SchoolBee is updated for the 2019-2020 school year, and all dues-paid PTA member's accounts should be working at this time.

Announcements

- Pat Wrenz – Community Coalition
 - The coalition is asking community members to reach out to their legislators encouraging them to make ALL flavored tobacco products illegal. Note card distributed to be signed by those in attendance.
 - Community survey sent to households. This is a requirement of the Community Coalition grant – now in its 7th year.
 - 9th grade ease the transition program will be held again this year on October 16th.
 - Next Community Coalition meeting is on Tuesday, Sept 24th at 8:45am.
- **Meeting Adjourned.**