

**Blind Brook PTA  
General PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, November 19th, 2019 8:45pm  
Middle School Cafeteria**

**Minutes Approved**

- Correy Stephenson and Alex Boruch

**Superintendent's Message – Dr. Colin Byrne**

- Construction: RSS construction is moving forward, working on the footing and piping of the building.
- RSS finally has hired a new band teacher Katherine Sireno. She will be transitioned to the position on Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup> and started full time on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. We will have a spring concert.
- High School show "All in the time" will perform this Friday to Sunday.
- Committee on Advanced Learning gets a lot of response. 50-60 parents signed up. It is impossible to have a committee with so many people, but I will hold some meetings to keep everyone involved.

**Co-Presidents Report**

- Superintendent search survey was already sent out. You can still voice your concern there.
- We are planning to form the nominating committee for next years' board positions soon. It needs three board members, and 2 non board.

**Finance/ Treasurer Report**

- October was a really good month. With the current construction, we lowered our budget for fall fest and book fair, but they all exceed expectations and did very good.
- Fall fest made \$25,000 +, Book fair made \$5,000 +.

**Ways and Means**

- Fall Fest was a big success. We raised a lot of money. A lot of volunteer's family sponsored and contributed to the raffle prize. Thanks everyone for your help.
- School supplied raised \$7100.
- Holiday Boutique is coming, we will set up on Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, then held over 3 days, Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup>. New company with new products will be setting up. Sign up Genius will look for volunteers soon.
- In the spring we will have Yankee Game, Fashion show will be in April 2020.

**Programming**

- Harlem Wizards will be December 13th. We have sold over 60% of the tickets, more than 200 tickets so far. We have student volunteers and will be looking for parent volunteers. Emails will come out soon in next week or two.

- Jester Jim went well.

### **Building Liaisons**

- RSS- Correy Stephenson
  - Band teacher. The short version: the school is in the final process of hiring a band teacher. The longer story: the school didn't learn until mid-summer that Mr. Mariconda was not returning and can't post the position until an official resignation letter has been handed in. After that happens, the position must be posted for 2 weeks, a committee must be convened to review the applications and then screening of the candidates begins, including a demo in school. All of that happened, an offer was made but the candidate declined – so the entire process had to start all over in October. The second go-around has concluded and an official announcement should be coming soon.
  - Snowball and circus. Neither Snowball nor the circus have been cancelled, despite the construction project and rumors to the contrary. Tracy and the teachers are working on scheduling for Snowball, which will be held in January. The circus will be held later in the year.
  - Pizza! Whitsons approached Tracy about trying to serve pizza one Friday in December. Parents will be given advance notice and must pre-order for their child in advance. This will be a trial to see how it works.
  - Indoor recess. With the recent cold weather, indoor recess has started. Chess classes have started and yoga will be coming soon. The Exploration Station materials were disbursed to the classrooms.
  - Dismissal and crossing guards. The dismissal situation has greatly improved although there are still people parking in lots and teacher spots where they are not supposed to park. Please be prepared to tell security where you parked when you arrive on campus. With regard to crossing guards, parents have been asking about getting additional crossing guards posted at the corner of North Ridge and Sleepy Hollow, as foot traffic has increased due to construction and more families walking to school. We are planning on drafting a letter from the PTA asking for the additional crossing guard(s) and will be circulating the letter for parents to send to the village.
- MS – Jaime Coffey
  - The deadline for reflections submission is November 26.
  - Picture retakes are November 25.
  - The talent show to benefit DI will be held on Jan 31. Every K-8 student is welcome to participate.

- Middle School is starting the 8th grade principal's advisory committee. Eleven students volunteered to meet once a month to discuss ways to make the middle school experience the best it can be.
- Middle School will also plan 8th grade celebrations including a trip to DC.
  
- HS – Kelly Lieberman
  - First quarter ended - grades to be posted by end of week
  - Updating course catalog which is scheduled to be completed by mid-December.
  - Major college deadlines have passed - 11/1 and 11/15 for Early Decision applications.
  - Winter Freshman sports start today. Tryouts for JV/Varsity teams held last week.
  - Model UN had a very successful showing at Princeton this weekend! We had 11 award winners!
  - Fall Show will be held this Friday and Saturday evening. Tickets on sale now.
  - Auditions for Les Miserable will start Monday Dec 2. For more information contact Chrissy Colangelo. Show dates are March 12-14.
  - Naviance night for 10th and 11th grade will be held December 3rd for students and parents.
  - Winter Concert to be held on December 12.
  - Early dismissal next Wednesday at 12:50pm. Lunch will be served that day.
  - Next principal conversation/coffee is scheduled for January 15 at 7pm.
  
- Pupil Service – Katherine Ayala
  - The Pupil Service department is continuing to work out improvements to the multi-tiered support system, such as training teachers to interpret assessment data and find other assessments for young grades that don't take state tests.
  - We continue to get more feedback following October coffee.
  - We held a Q&A session last week with two parent trainers who are federally funded to perform the task.

We have 2 events coming up:

- Dec 5, 7pm: Book Club Discussion on How Children Thrive by Mark Bertin. The book focuses on helping your child to develop executive function skills.
- January 28<sup>th</sup>: Preparing for annual review meeting evening.

### **Membership**

- People still join the membership.

### **Announcements**

- **Meeting Adjourned.**