

**Blind Brook PTA
General PTA Meeting
Thursday, December 19th, 2019 7:00pm
Middle School Cafeteria**

Minutes Approved

- Correy Stephenson and Alex Boruch

Superintendent's Message – Dr. Colin Byrne

- Construction update
 - Despite having some snowfall, progress continues at RSS.
 - The bathroom renovations near the Main Office have been completed.
 - Over the upcoming vacation, renovations will begin on the bathroom near the Library.
 - Over the course of the project, all bathrooms at RSS will be renovated, one at a time. The district will continue the bathroom renovations throughout the school year in order to expedite summer construction work.
 - There will be a construction update at the December 17th board meeting.
- Winter weather
 - The district studies all of the information available in order to make the best call regarding delayed openings or early dismissals.
 - Dr. Byrne confers with other superintendents in the area as he decides.
- The Advanced Learning Initiative
 - Many parents responded to Dr. Byrne's invitation to participation in the Advanced Learning Committee
 - Rather than forming a committee, the district will hold a series of forums in order to collect everyone's input.
 - The first forum will be held February 8th. A general email will go out to announce the forum.

Co-Presidents Report

- Nominating Committee
 - The Nominating Committee, which will solicit applications for next year's PTA executive board, was formed this month.
 - Current executive board members should review the job description for their current position and send edits to the committee in January.
 - The Nominating Committee will solicit applications in February.

Finance/ Treasurer Report

- We had a good showing from June's school supplies sales - the total is up \$500 from the prior year.
- We still have money coming in from Fall Fest. Thus far, Fall Fest raised over \$27,000 overall.

Ways and Means

- The holiday boutique just concluded and was successful. ... holiday boutique went well despite a few challenges of working with a new company. We made over \$6000
- Yankee baseball game is being scheduled for Spring.
- Spring Fashion show is In the works and will be sponsored by Lester's.

Programming

- Harlem Wizards is coming this Friday. We are still look for parent volunteers. Still have tickets available - about 75.

Building Liaisons

- RSS- Correy Stephenson

1. Construction update. Construction continues! The bathrooms across from the Main Office should be done by the time everyone returns from winter break. Once those are complete, renovation will begin on the bathrooms in the current 3rd grade hallway (where the library used to be).

2. Indoor recess. A big thank you to the PTA for funding indoor recess activities – the teachers and administration are very grateful and thankful! Chess has already started and yoga should hopefully be starting soon – they are figuring out how to do it in the classroom. Tracy is working with Corbin's Crusaders on a schedule for using the gym. I also have a wish list from teachers of supplies they could use for indoor recess.

3. Enrollment. The numbers for the incoming kindergarten class are strong and they are currently projecting 5 sections. The current 2nd grade remains at four sections but there is a chance that the current kindergarten (which has four sections of 22) could get five sections for next year.

4. Book club. Tracy is considering a school-wide book club where all the kids and all the parents could read the same book and then get together to talk about it.

5. Upcoming events. As promised, Snowball has been scheduled: mark your calendars for February 7 (snow date: February 14). Circus dates aren't final but it will be held later in the spring.

6. Pizza Friday. Whitson's tried an experiment last Friday, offering pizza for those who pre-ordered. Unless some improvements could be made, we probably won't do it again. The pizza wasn't really hot enough, there wasn't enough space for service, it wasn't properly organized and there was a record amount of waste.

- MS – Jaime Coffey
 - Creating connections contest submissions were submitted to the NY state PTA and any winners /honorable mentions will be announced in the new year.
 - The MS Band performed earlier this week, and the MS Chorus will perform next week on December 18th.
 - Ms. Lambert will hold a Principal's Coffee next week on December 19th at 9am.

- HS – Kelly Lieberman
 - Final session of the 9th grade transition program held last week.
 - Budget process continues.
 - HS Course book will be out by January.
 - College Early Decision acceptances coming out this week.
 - Winter sports have begun.
 - Next Parent Coffee scheduled for January 15 at 7pm.

- Pupil Services – Katherine Ayala
 - Mr. Burg and Ms. Herlihy report that the schools in the district continue to evaluate and further refine this year's updates to AIS entry and exit criteria. They will update the CSE/504 Handbook with these changes in order to provide the information to parents.
 - The SEID Committee held its first book club meeting on December 5th. It was a good discussion among a small group, and participants and Ms. Herlihy have suggested titles for the next meeting, which will hopefully take place in the spring.
 - On January 28th at 7pm, Pupil Services and the SEID Committee will host a workshop on Preparing For Your Annual Review.

Membership

- People are still joining the PTA.

Announcements

- **Meeting Adjourned.**

Attendance-

Kate Marino

Alex Boruch

Correy Stephenson

ToniAnne Rigano

Wendy Corbin

Hedy Cardozo

Mindy Friedman

Bree Candee

Alicia Scala

Johanna Gonzalez

Cameron Sager

Stephanie Biderman

Katherine Hallissy Ayala