

**Blind Brook PTA
General PTA Meeting
Tuesday, January 14th, 2020 8:45pm
Middle School Cafeteria**

Minutes Approved

- Correy Stephenson and Alex Boruch

Superintendent's Message – Dr. Colin Byrne

- Any concern with respect to the high school business curriculum should be directed to Mr. Schuelein.
- The district welcomed two new teachers. Mr. Arcuri in the Social Studies Department replaces Ms. Khan, who is retiring. Also there is a new band teacher at Ridge Street, Kathy Sireno.
- The Advanced Learning Forums were well attended. There will be three more forums aimed at obtaining information, and discussing next steps. Findings will be presented to the BOE at the May meeting.
- Construction. Minimal progress over the last month. There is about a 4 month delay in the Ridge Street construction at this time. Management is working with the various construction contractors to keep the project moving forward and as timely as possible.
- Budget. Tight budget again.
- Next BOE meeting is on Tuesday, 1/21. Block scheduling, next year's school calendar, and the high school business curriculum to be discussed.

Co-Presidents Report

- The job description for current PTA executive Board members position has been sent out and in the final review. The Nominating Committee will solicit applications in February and hope to get a lot responses.
- Ways and Means are such a big job. Maybe we will add a third person or split the jobs. Also in general less young parents want to volunteer.
- Alicia and Johanna got a special award by the county executive George Latimer for their leadership in PTA.
- Whitsons will provide Pizza to elementary school on Friday January 24th. Last time kids were excited. Whitsons sent 8 staff members but it was still chaotic. In order to keep things in order:
 - They will give every child same snack and drink -Apple Slice and Water Bottle.
 - They also made a more detailed flyer with whom to contact.
 - For parents, please let your child know whether you order the pizza a lot and if not, why. It is a very social event. Some kids even had tears down last time.
 - They will have a badge for each child. They are going to give the badge to each class in advance.

Finance/ Treasurer Report

- We are still waiting for the number for wizard show.

Ways and Means

- Yankee baseball game is being scheduled on April 25th. Yankees will host Indians. It is same deal as last year.
- Tomorrow we will scout a new location for the annual Plant Sale coming in April. Possibly the side door of the 4th grade wing.
- Spring Fashion show will be scheduled around April 23h. We are talking with Hiltons. It is sponsored by Lester's.
 - New location scout underway as Arbors has closed its doors.
 - Met with GM of the Hilton yesterday, awaiting proposal.
 - Need to secure DJ company, MC, lighting company and sponsors.
 - We will have kids look, family looks. Will contact fashion club in high school. We need models
 - There will be fashion show tickets for sale.
 - We will put a fashion show committee, 8-10 people.
 - Open to suggestion and also need Volunteers.
- Teacher Appreciation is coming on May 4th Monday. We already secured the breakfast truck.
- Bus driver and custodies appreciation is usually at the end of the school year.

Programming

- We are trying to get dates for Olympic nights.
- Waiting for checks from flex. A check give to Cameron from Wizards

Building Liaisons

- RSS- Correy Stephenson
 - Construction. As announced at the last BOE meeting, the construction at RSS is about 4 months behind schedule.
 - Report cards. January is the end of the first grading period and report cards will be released on February 14 on the parent portal.

- Indoor recess. Chess is already in session – THANK YOU to the PTA for funding – and Tracy met with the yoga people to talk about having it in the classrooms due to the construction. She will have a cost estimate soon.
 - Class dues. The email requesting class dues contributions for lice checks (\$7/child) and EOY party (\$5/child) will be coming soon. Head class parents will need to bring the money to the main office.
 - Pizza Friday is back! After meeting with Whitsons to see if the problems with the last pizza lunch could be solved, it was decided to give Pizza Friday another go. Mark your calendars for January 24. To improve the process there will be just one option (pizza, fruit, water) with no customization offered, pre-order only, and teachers will receive stickers for the kids that have ordered to speed up the handout.
 - Kindergarten registration. The numbers for the incoming Kindergarten class look good, with about 80 students already registered. As that number will likely grow in the coming months, they are currently projecting next year's K class will have 5 sections. The current K class has 4 sections but is right on the cusp, so they will do two different placements for that class for next year: one with 4 sections and one with 5. All other grades are at 5 sections other than the current 2nd grade, which will likely remain at 4 sections.
- MS – Jaime Coffey
 - The middle school musical, The Addams Family premieres on Thursday, January 23rd. There will be four shows with split cast in some key roles. Shows are Thursday and Friday at 7PM and Saturday, January 25th at 12 Noon and 3:00PM.
 - Plans for the 8th grade Class of 2020 trip to Washington are almost finalized. The trip is planned for May 6-8. There will be a parent meeting prior to the 9th grade orientation meeting on February 5th. This will save the parents from coming out on two nights.
 - The Community Coalition is sponsoring a day with Dr. Stephen Dewey on February 27th. We plan to host three grade level assemblies and parents will be invited to attend any of the assemblies (They can come when their kids are scheduled or to any of the other two assemblies.) Notice will be sent this week.
 - We are in the midst of the qualifying rounds for the National History and Science Bees.
 - All students are taking the STAR assessments as part of the state mandate to monitor student growth in ELA and math.
 - All students will take a cumulative math assessment on January 30th. We will run a special schedule to accommodate the extended testing period.

- HS – Kelly Lieberman
 - Homecoming weekend was a success. Both teams won. Dance was well attended.
 - Construction continues. FabLab expected to be ready late fall.
 - Next principal coffee is Wednesday, 1/15/2020 at 7pm.

- Pupil Services – Katherine Ayala
 - Blind Brook will have a presentation on How to Prepare for Your Annual Review Meeting on Tuesday, January 28th, at 7pm, in the MS/HS Library.
 - SEID is hoping to plan another presentation, a parent-networking meeting, and another book club meeting over the remainder of the school year.

Membership

- 3 new People joined the PTA in the New Year.

Announcements

- Debra Cohen will be the new Blind Brook Community Coalition Coordinator.
- Congratulate Abe Baker-Butler to be the winner of our first student leadership award.
- Please join Heard in Rye on two separate evenings for a lecture with Lisa Osherow on talking to our kids about their bodies and healthy relationships. January 15th 7pm for preK - 5th graders parents; January 23rd for 6th-12th graders parents.

Meeting Adjourned.

Attendance-

Correy Stephenson
 Yvette Montvelisky
 Debra Cohen
 Kate Marino
 Alicia Scala
 Johanna Gonzalez
 Alex Boruch
 Cameron Sager
 Jen Savner
 Dr. Byrne
 Monique Pearson
 Patty Dilluvio
 Hedy Cardozo
 Bree Candee
 Linda Wu

Rachel Lerner
Katherine Hallissy Ayala