The MAPBC met on Thursday, Feb. 15th. The meeting began at 6:11PM. Those in attendance included:

Stephanie Valdes

Hai Nguyen Ly

Youme Nguyen Ly

Liz Lesperance

Jennifer Bose

Stephanie recited the NFB pledge.

Hai put forth a motion to approve the January meeting minutes which Liz seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Liz provided the treasurer's report. Our current balance is $150.25. Youme moved to accept the treasurer's report which Liz seconded. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Stephanie confirmed that everyone had a chance to listen to the February presidential report.

Liz will check with Shara and see if any parents have reached out requesting childcare for the state convention

We will put together a basket to donate to the online auction. Hai will contribute a big and mini drawing board as well as braille hot wheels cars. Stephanie will contribute braille uno cards and see what other games are available from the braille academy. Liz will donate a tactile rubix cube.

Youme inquired about having those interested in attending the BELL academy join us at state convention. Stephanie shared that with the BELL program in its infancy, applications are not open yet. Therefore, we will certainly invite those interested to next year's convention.

Stephanie shared her experiences at the BELL training in Baltimore. There is a national coordinator who can assist with getting the program off the ground. We discussed how background checks would be required of anyone working directly with the students. The national office takes care of the background checks. The national office is very supportive. There will be a maximum of 8 students this year. National is not doing online BELL. The program will run sometime in August. National wants Stephanie and Ellen to interview each participant. Shara has forwarded Stephanie and Ellen a list of those who have volunteered so far. There is some interest from a family in western MA so down the road it might be necessary to have a co-coordinator and bring the program to western MA.

Stephanie advised us that we can now book rooms for the national convention. Registration is not yet open.

Stephanie has found that there are companies that sponsor disability/minority divisions to attend conferences that will better the community. Stephanie is going to research and see if the MAPBC might qualify. If funded, we would need to attend the NOPBC events.

Stephanie suggested coming up with a fundraiser for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Hai proposed that we put together a what's app discussion about fundraising.

We will not hold a meeting next month. We may meet in person during the state convention (possibly after general session before the banquet.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.