The MAPBC met on Thursday, Sept. 12th. The meeting was called to order at 6:06PM. Those in attendance included:

Stephanie Valdes

Hai Nguyen Ly

Youme Nguyen Ly

Liz Lesperance

Jenn Bose

Stephanie recited the NFB pledge.

All meeting participants have had a chance to hear the September presidential release

Hai moved to accept the August meeting minutes which Youme seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Tomorrow, Sept 13th, there will be a state convention planning meeting. The hotel is planning to have braille added within the hotel by the time of the convention in March. Shara is seeking ideas for speakers, presentations, breakout sessions, etc. Please email Shara directly with any ideas.

Stephanie brought up the idea of holding our March meeting in person at the convention. This will be an opportunity to include any new parents who are in attendance or those interested in next year's BELL academy.

Regarding childcare, we decided it would be best to proactively book the space in the hotel, so we have it available in the event childcare is needed. That way, the room will be in place and we can spread the word.

Stephanie noted that elections for the division are every year so we should also use the time meeting in person for the election.

Stephanie feels that by March she should have a date and location for the next BELL academy. She would like to have more male volunteer’s next time.

Blind Equality Achievement Month is quickly approaching. In the Presidents and Vice Presidents meeting held last Friday Shara had mentioned a voter’s group out of Fitchburg that we could work with to conduct a voter registration drive. We will plan this in greater detail in our next meeting.

Our parents’ division could greatly benefit from more members and increased financial resources. Stephanie would like to combine outreach and fundraising. One way to do this is to set up a booth at local festivals and fairs. We can spread the word about our division while demonstrating the lived experience and capabilities of blind parents and blind children. This can be accomplished through games where people are asked to complete tasks without using their vision. Stephanie will set up a folder in our shared drive with a list of fairs/festivals and also fundraising ideas.

Going forward, we will be mindful of setting both a fundraising and outreach goal for 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11PM.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 3rd at 6:00PM via zoom.