

BROOKDALE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 12, 2013

The Brookdale Home and School Association was called to order at approximately 6:10 pm. Board members in attendance were Mike McLaughlin, Marlene Matulac, Monica Lutz, Jenn Harvey, and Nicole Bornemann.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of May 8.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Lutz presented the budget. Our current budget in the checking account is \$36,664.96. The plant sale made \$2,431.31.

Testing Resolution via Board of Education Representative Dan Anderson:

Dan Anderson reported that he is against the practice of high stakes standardized testing because it does not test the creativity or the collaborative abilities of the child. He also stated that the use of standardized testing, like the computerized PARK, would lead to less instruction in the areas of science, social studies, art, world languages, and music. The evaluations of teachers, principals, and the school district would be based on the scores of these tests. He emphasized the importance of evaluating schools, teachers, and students; but not by using high stakes standardized tests to do so. Low test scores would lead to the implementation of charter schools which is not in the best interest of our community. Mr. Anderson stated that he has been to Trenton to discuss these issues with the New Jersey Department of Education and has discussed these issues with the teachers. He would like the parents to support a resolution against state testing to preserve the future of our children's education.

Board of Education Representative: Emily Smith

The Board is currently discussing the budget for the district and that the process is going very well. They want to be able to hold people accountable for all budget issues in the future to prevent any financial problems and keep the public informed about all budgetary decisions. Sign off sheets will also be made available to the staff for purchase orders so that every purchase can be approved. The Board is also working on the search for a Curriculum Director and does not want to wait for a long period of time to make a decision. The Board will be posting the position to hire a new superintendent this week. There was an evening forum on Wednesday, June 12th, at the Board of Education's central office where parents can provide input on what qualities they are looking for in a superintendent.

New Business:

- a. 6th Grade Fiesta and Class Day:** The 6th Grade Fiesta and Class Day went very well.
- b. Fun Fair:** The fun fair was postponed until June 14 because of bad weather.
- c. Teacher Lunch:** The teachers will be receiving a hot lunch this year for all of their hard work.
- d. Kindergarten Promotion:** Kindergarten Promotion will be taking place on Tuesday, June 18.
- e. New HSA Web Site and Twitter feed:** Mr. McLaughlin stated that he has put together a website for the HSA: <http://brookdalehsa.wordpress.com/>. He stated that the website could be used as a blog for announcements and important information.
- f. Summer Plans:** Mr. McLaughlin discussed the Beautification Committee and welcomed any new ideas that anyone might have. The positions for volunteering for committees and chairpersons for the committees will be decided over the summer. Class parents will be decided as soon as Mr. Fleres receives information on how many class sections he will have for the 2013-2014 school year.
- g. Congratulations to Mrs. Rizzo on her retirement and the faculty will be presenting her with a charm bracelet from Pandora.**

Faculty Representative: Ms. G. stated that the yearbook for came out very well and she thanked everyone for their help. She also thanked everyone for their help in the Bengal Pride breakfast and that the awards went well. Ms. G. presented a new summer reading program called “One School, One Book, One Summer” that will be implemented this summer. The purpose of this program is to place into effect a singular reading experience within Brookdale School over the course of the summer. Mr. Fleres stated that the school community will be reading the book The Cricket in Times Square and that everyone would be able to participate in an online discussion forum. All parents will be receiving a flyer in their child’s take home folders asking if anyone would like to participate.

Principal’s Report: Mr. Fleres

Mr. Fleres apologized for giving such short notice on the cancelation of the Fun Fair, but he had to cancel it for safety reasons. The Fun Fair was cancelled because he did not want there to be a power outage from the storm while the event was taking place and that the Fun Fair will be taking place on June 14 rain or shine.

Mr. Fleres stated that the class sections for Kindergarten, the incoming Second Grade, and the incoming Third Grade will be announced at a later date. Mr. Fleres is in direct contact at least

twice a day with the central office on the number of class sections that he will be able to have. He also stated that there might possibly be only two sections for the incoming Second Grade for the 2013-2014 school year. All classrooms will have smart boards in September.

Small World went on with a great success where everyone celebrated different cultures, enjoyed excellent food from all around the world, and had a wonderful time. He would love for Small World Day to continue, but would like to have it take place during the cooler months because of testing.

Kindergarten registration went very well and the incoming Kindergarten students were able to take a tour of the school to see a working classroom.

NJ ASK testing went very well where all of the students were relaxed and focused during the testing process. He would like to keep that as a goal for next year as well. Mr. Fleres was also very pleased with the fact that during the Field Day our students from Brookdale were the most well-behaved and the most respectful of their team mates.

Old Business:

- a. Thank you to Gail Dolan for the Plant Sale.
- b. Thank you to Monica Lutz and Irek Lacki for Small World.
- c. Thank you to Ms. G, Donna Minneci, and everyone for Bengal Pride.
- d. Thank you to Monica Lutz for the 5th Grade Car Wash.
- e. Thank you to all of the 5th Grade Class Moms for the Ice Pop Sales.
- f. Thank you to the Kindergarten Moms for the Kindergarten Orientation.
- g. Thank you and congratulations to Ms. Kelly's class for Box Tops.
- h. Thank you to Marcia Adirim for the Yearbook.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Bornemann, HSA Secretary, on June 12, 2013.

Have a great summer!

