

BROOKDALE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 9, 2013

The Brookdale Home and School Association was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm. Board members in attendance were Mike McLaughlin, Marlene Matulac, Monica Lutz, Jenn Harvey, and Nicole Bornemann.

Board of Education Representative: Emily Smith (President of the Bloomfield Board of Education)

Emily Smith stated that the district is back to where it should be financially. There had been a second executive meeting and a candidate has been chosen to be Blomfield's next Superintendent. The Board of Education will meet on October 16, 2013 to vote on the candidate that was chosen. The next Board of Education meeting will also involve publically interviewing the four candidates who are vieing for a position as Board of Education Representatives. A parent, Jenn Vigna, expressed concern over people changing their mind about the candidate before the October 16th meeting. It was assured that this would not happen

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of September 11, 2013.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Lutz presented the budget. Our current budget in the checking account is \$23,767.01 and that the projected funds for the Home and School Association amounts to \$29,030.00 for the 2013-2014 school year.

Old Business:

a. Mum Sale- Marlene Matulac reported that the Mum Sale was very successful this year and raised a total of \$1,508.00. Thank you to Sharon Drucker and all volunteers who helped to make this event successful.

b. Beautification Day- Thank you to Penny Tenbekjian, Jimmy Polidoro, and all of the many volunteers for making this event a great success. There were fiftenn parents that day helping our school look beautiful and there was twice as much mulch to use.

c. School Directory- Marlene Matulac reported that directories were sent out during the week of September 30th to one child per family. She thanked all of the class parents for their hard work in helping to put the directory together. One copy went out to every family.

d. Paperless Update- Marlene Matulac reported that 90% of Brookdale parents have signed up for paperless. The only flyers that will be sent home will be for dances and forms that require a parent's signature.

e. **Membership Update-** Marlene Matulac reported that presently the Brookdale HSA has received membership funds totaling \$4,264 this year. Last year's membership funds totaled \$4,330.

f. **Back to School Night-** Marlene Matulac reported that Back to school night took place on September 17, 2013 and thanked all of the class parents for their participation.

g. **Bloomfield Life Subscriptions-** Marlene Matulac reported that a flyer has been sent out regarding Bloomfield Life subscriptions.

h. **Amazon.com on the HSA Website-** Mike McCloughlin reported that he was facing some technical difficulties putting information on the website because it has wordpress. A parent volunteered helping him on how to place certain software into the system.

i. **Passive Fundraising Opportunities-** Mike McCloughlin reported that fundraising is an excellent way to raise money for our school. A parent asked if there was a school identification number on the Target cards. It was requested that they call Target's customer service center to place the school's identification on their card.

Typing Pal Program:

a. **Introduction-**

b. **Voting-**

New Business:

a. Prismatic Laser Light Assembly: The anti-bullying assembly will take place on Thursday, October 10th at Brookdale School.

b: KidStuff Sale: Gail Dolan reported that the KidStuff Sale has ended and if anyone was still interested in receiving a coupon book, she would provide one to them before October 15th. A total of \$1,000 has been raised and she thanked the parents for participating in the fundraiser.

c. Innisbrook Sale: Jenn Vigna reported that the Innisbrook fundraiser has been very successful this year. She thanked the Williams family for their large order totaling over \$1,000. Mr. Stanly Williams stated that he felt that it was the least that he could do for the school. He stated that even though he is unable to attend HSA meetings, he works hard to raise money through the fundraiser. Brookdale student, Nicholas Williams, received a gift on behalf of the HSA and the HSA personally thanked the Williams family for being dedicated supporters of the school.

d. Halloween Dance: Monica Lutz reported that the dance is a fun event and that she still needs volunteers to help her with it. Mr. Flores reported that parents must supervise their children for safety purposes because the gym will be dark.

e. Basketball: Marlene Matulac reported that basketball is in the process of being organized and information will be coming out shortly.

f. Sprit Wear Chairperson:

g. Beefstake: Pamela Malcolm reported that this year's Beefstake will be held at the Essex Manor and that she is looking for volunteers. She thanked Jenn Harvey for helping to save money for this event and that the planning process will begin once she receives volunteers. She stated that at this time ticket prices are undecided and that each class will donate a basket. This is a fun night for parents and there will be extended hours for this year's event. Jenn Vigna reported that she will organize the class mothers to help get baskets together. She explained that every class would come up with a theme for the basket and it would be raffled off that evening. All class mothers would receive reimbursements from the HSA for any checks.

Mike McLaughlin stated that some adjustments will be made to the HSA budget projections for this school year. Laura Haraka questioned the budget and if there are any changes from last year involving increases and decreases. Monica Lutz stated that the basketball dues have not been included as of yet and that there are not many changes such as anything being added. The basketball dues were taken out. Mike McLaughlin stated that it is a modified financial document because the HSA is being conservative on projecting income. He stated that there is some fluidity to it and that this is being done so that there will not be any dramatic spending unless it is voted on. There were no objections from the parents regarding this decision.

Faculty Representative: Ms. G. thanked the HSA for the back to school gift to the teachers to help them decorate their classrooms. She stated that we have a new student council and that many activities are being planned for this school year. She also reported that the school has raised \$500.00 on the purchase of smencils this year

Principal's Report: Mr. Fleres

Mr. Fleres thanked everyone for the well wishes and gifts. He stated that everyone has been so gracious and it is much appreciated. He stated that both he and the staff are excited to be back. The teachers have been working all summer to ensure that the school year will be a successful one. He is in full support of not having high stakes standardized testing but does feel that it is a

necessary evil. He supports Mr. Anderson on the issue of high stakes testing. He also takes standardized testing seriously and wants to make it as calm of an experience as possible for the students. He would like to have a positive notion to testing and is looking to have a pep rally this year. Mr. Fleres stated that parking is a safety issue and that parents should not park and leave their car on front of the school to pick up their child because it is a safety hazard. He stated that if a parent leaves their car there, they will receive a ticket if a patrol car is present. He also asked that parents not park in front of the school or double park in front of the nail salon because it is a safety issue. Mr. Fleres stated that there is a new classroom downstairs for the Second Grade and he wanted to thank the parents for understanding about waiting for class sections. He had been working since May for class sections and shows a concern for the students at Brookdale. He thanked the school secretary, Mrs. Minnici, for coming in to make phone calls to parents letting them know who the child's teacher was. She was not paid for coming in and she informed parents quickly. The old gym is now a fully functioning classroom for the Second Grade and the HSA is willing to match the BEF to put in a smart board. Brookdale School will be fully functioning with smart boards in every classroom throughout the school once the basement classroom receives one. This will happen very soon with thanks to the HSA and the BEF. He also stated that there are three sections for the Third Grade and he would like to thank the parents for understanding on the delay. He stated that the parents put in a grassroots effort to pursue additional sections. Mr. Fleres welcomed the new staff members at Brookdale as Ms. Quinn who came from Franklin School and is placed as a Kindergarten teacher. He stated that she worked as a team player in starting a new position. He thanked Ms. Perucki for working along with Ms. Quinn until she begins her maternity leave. Ms. Perucki is not being paid at this time to be here and that she represents the type of dedicated teachers that we have here at Brookdale School. He stated that Mrs. Schimmenti will be the teacher for the third section for Second Grade and will be in the new classroom. Mr. Fleres stated that at this time, there is no more class space that is available at Brookdale School. A parent addressed the concern about Mrs. Schimmenti's class being in the basement and that it is a safety hazard because it is separate from all of the other areas of the school and that there are no windows. Mr. Fleres stated that a safety plan will be discussed for the parents on Back-to-School Night and that there are exits for fire safety. He also stated that a trailer would have to be put into place if the classroom was not available. The parent expressed concern about safety and location.

Mr. Fleres stated that test scores are filtering in and that he is very proud of what he has seen. He stated that there are some peanut free tables in the lunch room and that he has placed in certified staff that are trained on a peanut free cafeteria. He and the teachers thanked the HSA for the smart boards. He asked that everyone check for updates on the school's website. Ms. Luca has done a terrific job updating the website. He stated that the school has a twitter account and there has been positive feedback. He also stated that it can be used to inform parents of an emergency if one should occur. He thanked the children for participating in the first day of school video. There has been a lot of positive feedback regarding the video from the Independent Press, Bloomfield Life, and the Patch. The link to the video is on the patch, the

school's website, and the school's twitter page. A parent asked a question on what had happened to Ms. Perucki and it was explained that she was cut because of the budget. A parent asked about lunch cards and it was explained that he would reach out to Chartwells regarding lunch cards. He also stated that he has an open door policy and welcomes any parent who has any concerns.

Mike McLaughlin thanked Pamela Malcolm for helping provide the gift to Mr. Fleres. He encouraged everyone to sign up for paperless. Mr. Fleres stated that going paperless has saved the school money. A parent inquired about edline and it was explained that it is very important that parents sign up because Homework Now will be replaced. Instruction for edline will be given to parents as well as the codes. Mr. Fleres stated that the new teachers websites will be up and running very soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Bornemann, HSA Secretary, on October 18, 2013.