

BROOKDALE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 8, 2014

The Brookdale Home and School Association was called to order at approximately 7:05 pm. Board members in attendance were Marlene Matulac, Monica Lutz, Jenn Harvey, and Nicole Bornemann. Mike McLaughlin was not able to attend due to a business trip.

Mr. Fleres stated that the Brookdale HSA and the staff wish to offer their condolences to the Wittner family for their loss. Dina Wittner was an active participant in the HSA. Any student that needs to talk can always speak to Mr. Fleres or Mrs. McCartney. Dina Wittner's contributions were extensive in this school and she will be greatly missed.

Board of Education Representative: Marlene Matulac stated that Emily Smith of the Board of Education could not attend tonight's meeting due to the parent information session regarding the PSAT's being held at Bloomfield High School. She stated that there will be a free public forum on Sunday, January 12th from 1 – 3pm at the Montclair Fire Dept. meeting room, 1 Pine Street. The forum, entitled "Changing the conversation on assessments, One Size does not fit all", will discuss an alternative to standardized testing that helps students reach high standards. Parents are encouraged to register for the forum in advance. Mr. Fleres stated that Mr. Anderson of the Board of Education is taking a strong movement toward high stakes standardized testing and that Brookdale School will be holding a consortium on this issue within the next couple of months.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of November 13th, 2013.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Lutz presented the budget. Our balance a/o 12/31/2013 in the checking account is \$26,788.17 and that the total holdings amount to \$4,646.44. The total amount in profits from the Holiday Gift Shop amounted to \$1,620.62.

Thank You Roster:

a. Holiday Gift Shop- Marlene Matulac thanked Gail Dolan, Kami Lacki, and all of the volunteers for doing such a wonderful job. She also thanked Mrs. Luca for allowing the HSA to use the library for the event. Gail Dolan stated that the volunteers were a very big help in setting up and helping the event run smoothly.

b. Holiday Giving Tree- Marlene Matulac thanked Jodi Polidoro for doing a wonderful job on obtaining donations for the animal shelter. Jodi Polidoro stated that this event was very successful because so many families had donated pet supplies. The shelter thanked Brookdale School for its generosity.

c. Holiday Tree Decorating- Marlene Matulac thanked Gina Stambolian for doing such a beautiful job on decorating the Christmas trees for the winter concert.

d. Staff Holiday Gift Basket- Marlene Matulac thanked Jacyntha Persad on putting together a beautiful display. Mr. Fleres also thanked her and the HSA for the gift basket.

e. Assemblies- Marlene Matulac thanked Doris Copeck for organizing both of the school assemblies that Brookdale has held so far this year. The next assembly will be taking place in February.

f. New HSA Web Site and Amazon.com- Marlene Matulac thanked Peter and Dani Kennedy for all of their help in setting up the HSA website and amazon.com. She also thanked Rafael Jimenez for his suggestion. Brookdale has created new website, brookdalehsa.com, in order to position a banner for the Amazon.com link. Click on the banner and the HSA should receive 4% of most purchases. The HSA is still looking into a possible issue with receiving the credit and will keep you posted. Marlene Matulac also thanked Mike McLaughlin for all his work to make this happen.

Schedule Updates:

a. Small World- Monica Lutz and Kami Lacki are running Small World. The event will be taking place in the school gym on Friday, January 17th. The fifth and sixth grade classes will be presenting the countries of Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, and the Sudan. All parents are welcome to attend the event and a flyer has been sent out. Food is needed for the countries of Germany and the Dominican Republic.

b. Book Fair- The Book Fair will now be held from February 6th through the 13th with Family Night being held on Wednesday, February 12th. The event has been changed because Mrs. Luca has offered to co-chair with Jen Vigna. Jen Vigna could not make it to tonight's meeting because of the PSAT information meeting being held at Bloomfield High School. Marlene Matulac stated that this is a volunteer driven event where help is needed to help carry boxes and set up. A flyer will be sent home to ask for volunteers. The Kindergartners will only be browsing during the week of the Book Fair and making their 'wish-lists' and will not be purchasing the books themselves. We will fill the orders for them. Gift certificates will be available for purchase where parents can donate money. Parents will need to come in on Family Night if they wish to purchase books by credit card.

c. Beefsteak Dinner – Pamela Malcolm is the chairperson for the Beefsteak and stated that the event will take place at the Essex Manor on Saturday, March 29th from 6:30pm on. The amount to attend the event will cost the same as it did last year, \$50 per ticket. There will be a meeting at her home on Wednesday, January 15th, and to contact her at pamela_malcolm@hotmail.com if you would like to volunteer. Class parents should start collecting \$10.00 per family so that they will be able to shop for class baskets that will be raffled off.

d. Talent Show- Marlene Matulac stated that the talent show is being chaired by Jack Lynch and will take place on April 4th. Jack is currently looking into a theme at this time and information on the event will be sent out in a week or two.

New Business:

a. Matching BEF Smart Board Grant: Marlene Matulac stated that the BEF grant has gone through to put a new smart board into Mrs. Schimmenti's second grade classroom. Mr. Fleres stated that the smart board has been ordered and will be placed into the classroom in a few weeks. He thanked both the HSA and the BEF for their generosity.

b: Spirit Wear: Marlene Matulac stated that the samples that were sent before winter break were not of good quality and a flyer will be sent out next week.

c. School Supplies Fundraiser: Marlene Matulac stated that the teachers have decided to not have the HSA do the fundraiser. Ms. G. stated that the reason for this was based on the teachers not receiving the supplies ordered. The teachers were not happy with it in the past and the fundraiser will not happen again.

d. New HSA Web Site and Amazon.com: Marlene Matulac stated that amazon.com will be placed on the new HSA website which is brookdalehsa.com.

Discussion Items:

a. Afterschool Program Development: Marlene Matulac stated that Oakview Elementary School runs an afterschool program and that Brookdale will be running one soon as well. The program will be modeled after Oakview's program. Mr. Fleres stated that he has approved of the program to take place at Brookdale and has discussed how to put an effective one in place by speaking with the principal at Oakview. Marlene Matulac stated that there will be six afterschool programs focusing on art, science, and physical education that will run one day per week. Parents would have to pay for their child to attend and that the class would be run by an expert in the field. A parent raised the question on who would be in charge of selecting the people who would teach the classes. Mr. Fleres and the HSA stated that those selected would be people who are in this type of teaching job already. A parent asked how long Oakview has been doing the afterschool program. Mr. Fleres stated that they have ran the program for three years and have moved more towards using paid professionals to make the program work.

b. Morning HSA Meetings: Mr. Fleres added a new topic to the HSA agenda regarding having HSA meetings during the morning instead of at night. A parent raised the concern that this would not be in the best interest of parents who work during the day. Another parent responded that HSA meetings in the morning would be better because more parents could become involved. Mr. Fleres stated that the meetings in the morning would take place only once or twice a year for

those parents who could not attend in the evenings. The morning meetings would take place after children are dropped off. He stated that many parents had asked him about this and that it would be looked into for next year. He would like to see everyone become involved in HSA events.

Faculty Representative: Ms. G. thanked the HSA and all parents for the food and gifts during the holidays. She reminded parents to remember to send sneakers in with their children on gym days because of safety concerns.

Principal's Report: Mr. Fleres

Forensic Team: Mr. Fleres stated that Mrs. Jaffe's forensic team competed at the Essex County Forensics Tournament and won. Sixth Grade student Anna Haraka won first place in Essex County. He congratulated both the team and Anna Haraka for their accomplishments.

Holiday Activities: Mr. Fleres thanked all HSA members for the holiday activities, the staff gift basket, the principal's gift, and for making the holidays special.

Winter Concert and Christmas Trees: Mr. Fleres recognized Mrs. Fries and Mr. Colwell for putting together an excellent winter concert, and to Mrs. Artha for the stage decoration and Gina Stambolian for beautifully decorating the Christmas trees on stage.

Gym Days: Mr. Fleres stated that parents must send in sneakers with their children on gym days and for indoor recess because wearing boots in the gym is not safe.

School Arrivals: Mr. Fleres stated that 8:20 am is when indoor line-up takes place. Children have been arriving to school before that time and he has requested for parents to wait till 8:20 to drop their children off. Parents have not been parking in front of the school as asked.

Twitter Page: Mr. Fleres stated that every grade at Brookdale now has a twitter feed and that it is available for parents to follow.

Class Parties: Mr. Fleres stated that parents should check with their child's teacher if there are any questions about the type of food to be brought to class parties.

New Smart Board: Mr. Fleres thanked the HSA and the BEF once again for the new smartboard. It should be placed into Ms. Schimmenti's classroom in a few weeks.

Ipod Touch Grant: Mr. Fleres stated that both he and Mrs. Luca had applied for a grant to be able to purchase 20 ipod touches in order to become current with technology. The BEF grant was approved. He will meet with Ms. Decker, the Director of Technology, about using ipods and that the teachers will be able to use them in the classroom. A parent asked the question about

obtaining extra ipods. Another parent asked if it would be possible to get ipad minis. Mr. Fleres stated that the ipod touch is more durable and cheaper to repair.

PARCC: Mr. Fleres stated that Bloomfield has been chosen to pilot the PARCC assessment and he will be providing more information on this at a later date. Two sections in both the third and fourth grades will take the PARCC and the NJASK. The results of the PARCC would not be counted for this school year. This allows him to be able to test any issues in administering the PARCC and that typing lessons can be incorporated to help prepare students to take the PARCC. He is very happy that Brookdale will be able to experience this. The third and fourth grade students will also be able to share how the PARCC was.

Author's Contest: Mr. Fleres stated that Mrs. Sedlacek has introduced a contest for the author Jan Brett to visit Brookdale School. He asked parents to like Jan Brett on Facebook to win a free school visit at www.facebook.com/byjanbrett/app. If anyone knows of an author who could visit the school, please let him know.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm. The next HSA meeting will take place on February 19th.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Bornemann, HSA Secretary, on January 11, 2014.