

BROOKDALE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 9, 2014

The Brookdale Home and School Association was called to order at approximately 8:09pm. Board members in attendance were Mike McLaughlin, Marlene Matulac, Monica Lutz, Jenn Harvey, and Nicole Bornemann.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Lutz presented the budget. Our current budget in the checking account as of March 31 is \$47,226.03 and total holdings amount to \$4,471.84. Monica Lutz stated that the Beefsteak fundraiser took in a profit of \$13,780.06. She thanked Pamela Malcolm on doing such an excellent job on the Beefsteak.

Board of Education Representative: Catzel Bumpus

Mrs. Bumpus stated that Mrs. Veda presented the Middle School Honors Program to the Board of Education and that students will be brought into the program starting in the Fall of 2014. There will be honors level courses and that the students will qualify for the different subject areas. She also stated that the Gifted and Talented Program will still continue and that the curriculum for this program will be reviewed over the summer break. A few parents raised questions about bring in the Gifted and Talented Program into the elementary schools and would like feedback on this issue. Mrs. Bumpus stated that the presentation is on the Bloomfield Schools website. She also stated that Mr. Joseph Correta of Bloomfield has been hired as the new facilitator of buildings and grounds and will be in charge of all maintenance in the school buildings. His past experience involves working in the area of buildings and grounds in New York City and in Bergen County. The Board has approved new doors to be placed in schools and that the high school will be getting a new roof. At the next Board of Education meeting, Mrs. Jenkins will give a presentation on the new elementary school schedule. The Curriculum Committee will also be meeting to discuss scheduling of specials. She also stated that Summer Arts will be occurring and that there will also be an iSTEM summer camp. The district will be giving \$10,000 towards the iSTEM Program. The final budget will be presented at the next Board of Education meeting to be held on May 6th. Laura Haraka asked if Basic Skills will be coming back into the schools and Mrs. Bumpus stated that the district will not be hiring back the Basic Skills teachers. Mr. Fleres stated that basic skills is being handled on a flex time basis and that it is only being provided to Title I schools. Mr. Fleres has looked into having Basic Skills and it will hopefully be brought back in the future. Mrs. Bumpus congratulated Melissa Bezerra, a first grade teacher at Oak View Elementary School, on being featured in the April issue of *Think Teachers Magazine*. Gail Dolan asked if the curriculum would include connected math. Mrs. Bumpus stated that the students will be taking connected math and the district has added Pre-Algebra for the Seventh Grade.

Faculty Representative: Ms. G. thanked the parents and Pamela Malcolm for doing such an excellent job on the Beefsteak. She also reminded parents that field trips are coming up soon and to have school tee-shirts and lunches for the students. She thanked everyone for coming to the Science Fair and that one of the Sixth Grade students from Brookdale won. The faculty expressed concerns over the NJASK testing coming up soon and that all students who are taking the test need to eat a good breakfast and have good sleeping habits well before test time.

Principal's Report: Mr. Fleres reported on important events that are happening at Brookdale School.

a. Parking: Mr. Fleres stated that parking in the front of the school and in the parking lot is a problem. Parents who park and leave their cars in the school drop-off zone during both morning and afternoon will be ticketed because of the increased police presence. He also stated that parents should not park in the faculty parking lot and that there will be a police presence there as well. Bea Spina stated that parking in the school parking lot is also a safety issue. Jody Polidoro asked if it was acceptable to park in the drop off/ pick up zone during the middle of the school day. Mr. Fleres stated that everyone should be cautious whenever they leave their car parked in this area.

b. Lates and Absences: Mr. Fleres stated that an increased amount of lates and absences will affect college and career readiness in regards to school ratings. He will be meeting with parents starting the week of April 7th who have brought their child late to school in an excess of twenty times or more. Letters will first be sent home to parents whose child is excessively late and both the nurse and the secretary will filter out why this is occurring. The issue of absences has not been addressed as of yet. He stated that if a student is late for over ten percent of the time it is a severe problem. Notes for doctor or dentist appointments should be given into the school. The excessive tardiness will affect the ratings of Brookdale School and if the ratings decline property values may decline as well.

c. Principal for a Day: Mr. Fleres stated that a student, Annie Chrzczon, won the Principal for a Day and did an excellent job.

d. Thank you Roster: Mr. Fleres thanked the Yogi Berra Stadium, Marlene Matulac for the St. Patrick's Day Bagels, the basketball team for a successful basketball season, Ms. G. for the Science Expo, Gina Perotta for Academically Speaking, and Pamela Malcolm and the HSA for the Beefsteak. Everyone had done an excellent job in supporting Brookdale School.

e. Important Dates: Mr. Fleres stated that the Talent Show will be taking place on April 11th at 7:00pm. On April 14th the students will be doing a health walk during the afternoon and family night will be taking place that evening. He thanked Ms. G. for the family night idea; no homework will be given so that families can spend some time together. Mr. Fleres will also be scooping ice at Rita's on April 15th between the hours of 4:00-6:00pm. Spring break will take place on April 17th and on April 18th. The NJASK will be taking place for grade 3 on May 12th

through the 15th, grade 4 on May 12th through May 16th, and grades 5-6 on May 5th through the 8th.

f. Playground: Mr. Fleres stated that no one is allowed to play on the school playground from dismissal time until 3:45pm.

The Thank you Roster:

a. Beefsteak Dinner: Marlene Matulac thanked Pamela Malcolm for doing such an excellent job on running the Beefsteak. Pamela Malcolm thanked everyone for helping her and that some people had spent many hours to help make this event a success. Mr. Fleres stated that the money from the Beefsteak might go towards a smart table and that a media specialist will be coming into the library to test it on April 10th. There was a SMART Table in the library at the meeting for parents to look at. The SMART table would cost between \$5,000-\$7,000. Money may also be needed to replace Mrs. Sedlacek's SMART board. Marlene Matulac thanked Jen Vigna for having the class parents bring in baskets for the Beefsteak. Jen Vigna also thanked the class parents for working on a time consuming event and for putting beautiful class baskets together. Pamela Malcolm stated that she will be sending out thank you letters to everyone who donated a basket.

a. St. Patrick's Day Bagels: Mike McLaughlin thanked Marlene Matulac for providing green bagels on St. Patrick's Day.

News and Notes:

a. Walk-a-thon: Mike McLaughlin stated that the students will be walking on Monday, April 11th and asked for volunteers to hand out refreshments.

b. Relay for Life: Mike McLaughlin apologized for the email problems that he has experienced and that the teachers' interest in the event is very low.

c. After School Programs: Mike McLaughlin stated that the after-school program will start at the end of the month which would involve a cooking class, a cardio class, and a snap lego class. He said that he is still coordinating this program. Gail Dolan asked how long the program would last for. Mike McLaughlin stated that it would run for one hour after school from 3:30-4:30pm. The children would be taken to the gym and the instructors would then take them to the class.

d. Fun Fair: Jody Polidoro stated that she might not have the race car amusement at the Fun Fair because the school could be able to afford two other amusements if we do not have the race cars. She sought parental input on making this decision. Laura Haraka stated that the boys are going to show an interest in the race cars. Jody Polidoro stated that she would like to have a photo booth and another ride. She also stated that she will be having mechanical toy rides and

bouncies for the Fun Fair. She would like a bank to sponsor the photo booth and to place their bank brand name on it for publicity. Marlene Matulac stated that parents can contact Jody Polidoro at or any of the HSA board members at if they would like to help out with the event.

e. Plant Sale: Gail Dolan stated that the plant sale will be taking place in the gym on Friday, May 9th and that she needs volunteers to help her set up on Thursday, May 8th, in the gym. She also needs volunteers to help with the sale on Friday.

f. Donation for Dina Wittner: Mike McLaughlin stated that he has sent a donation to the foundation in Dina Wittner's memory.

Discussion Topics:

a. Powerpoint: Mike McLaughlin gave a presentation on various topics for the HSA to discuss. He stated that bylaws must be set up so that the HSA has resources to refer to in the future. He spoke about the mission of the HSA, criteria on what the requirements are to be on the board, if the board should become larger, and if the funds from prior years should be carried over. These topics will be discussed during future meetings. Jody Polidoro stated that this would help by resolving any transparency issues. Jen Vigna stated that the members of the HSA have the right to know and decide on these issues. Catzel Bumpus stated that the idea was a good one because the HSA would have an understanding on what other HSA boards in the district are doing.

b. Co-President Position: Marlene Matulac stated that she will be resigning as Co-President of the HSA effective in June 2014 and has informed both Mr. Fleres and the HSA board of her decision. There should be an overlap in presidents so that the board will know how the HSA was run the year before. She stated that Mike McLaughlin will continue to stay on as President of the HSA and that she will continue to do paperless. Mr. Fleres stated that she has been a great help with paperless, has saved the school thousands of dollars, and that paperless should become a board position. Mike McLaughlin stated that she will be greatly missed as Co-President of the HSA board and that she has done so much for Brookdale School as Co-President. He stated that the bylaws allow the HSA board to select a new Co-President, but the board will offer the position to anyone who wants it. There will be an election if there is more than one person who would like the position. Anyone who is interested in the position as Co-President should express their interest to the board. An election will be held in June if there is more than one person interested in the position.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of March 12, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

The next HSA meeting will take place on May 7th at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Bornemann, HSA Secretary, on May 2, 2014.