

# **BROOKDALE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**May 7, 2014**

The Brookdale Home and School Association was called to order at approximately 7:06pm. Board members in attendance were Mike McLaughlin, Marlene Matulac, Monica Lutz, Jenn Harvey, and Nicole Bornemann.

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

**a. Paperless:** Mr. Fleres thanked Marlene Matulac for doing such a wonderful job on Paperless and that she has saved thousands of dollars for the school budget. He is looking forward to working with her in other areas.

**b. Talent Show:** Mr. Fleres thanked Jack Lynch for doing a wonderful job on the Talent Show and that he liked what he saw. He also stated that there needs to be more parental supervision during the practices and if there is no parental supervision next year, then there will be no Talent Show. He stated that he cannot have children running around unsupervised and that the event will have to be permanently cancelled if parents do not supervise their children. He stated that he will see how everything goes next year.

**c. Teacher Appreciation Day:** Mr. Fleres thanked the HSA and the parents for all of the gifts that the teachers and staff have been receiving and that the teachers love what they have received.

**d. Class Lists for 2014-2015:** Mr. Fleres stated that the class lists for the next school year are up to the principal and not the parents. He and the staff must consider issues regarding special education, personalities, and on other issues. He will not be giving parents a say on what teacher their child will have. Jody Polidoro asked about class sections for next year. Mr. Fleres stated that he does not know when the district will be able to reveal that and that forty-seven children have registered for Kindergarten next year. He is going to start with two sections and wait for enrollment of students. The Third Grade for next year will be condensed and have two sections. He would like three sections for Kindergarten next year. At the present time, there will be three sections for First Grade, three sections for Second Grade, two sections for Third Grade, three sections for Fourth Grade, two sections for Fifth Grade, and two sections for Sixth Grade. Jen Vigna asked about the PARCC pilot testing. Mr. Fleres stated that the PARCC will be piloted using ipads. Mr. Alban and Ms. Lindsay have been wonderful in helping their Fourth Grade students become prepared. The school building will be able to support the technology for the PARCC starting this year.

**d. Change of Addresses and Phone Numbers:** Mr. Fleres stated that parents must let Donna Minneci know about any change in a student's phone number or address so that she can get the system up to date.

**e. School Budget:** Mr. Fleres stated the Board of Education passed the budget and voted nine to zero. They also did not cut any staff for this year. The Board of Education is looking into a budget plan for a three to five year period. He also stated that the schedule for elementary education will be a positive one. The district will see a double physical education time and the district will be hiring three more physical education teachers. He stated that Mr. Dotoli and Ms. Jenkins have worked very hard.

**f. Rita's:** Mr. Fleres thanked Rita's for hosting the Rita's Scoop during spring break and that it was a great experience despite the rain. He would like to have an end of the year celebration with Rita's and that Rita's would love to have the school come back. He also stated that \$220.00 was raised even though it had rained.

**g. Congratulations:** Mr. Fleres congratulated Ms. G. for being the teacher of the month and Mrs. Kenny Simpson for being paraprofessional of the month.

**h. Ideas for HSA Gift:** Mr. Fleres stated that he is proposing one small idea and one large idea. He has been in contact with Joanne Decker, the Director of Technology, about the first part of the gifting go towards getting Mrs. Sedlacek new SMART Board parts. The projector parts that are needed would cost \$2,500 or less. Every classroom in Brookdale School would then have a working up-to-date SMART Board. He has been in contact with Joanne Decker about the large part of the gift to go towards a cart of twenty iPads. Ms. Decker has kept a cart of twenty iPads at Brookdale School and that they are not technically Brookdale's. The iPads are currently flying off of the shelves because teachers are signing up for them and have done great lessons with them. He will be looking into a price from Apple on purchasing a cart of twenty iPads and believes that this gift would be a great benefit to the children. He believes that this would be a great step technology wise, but does depend on the cost. He stated that the iPads could be used in the classroom four times a week.

**i. Important Dates:** Mr. Fleres stated that the parents should refer to the list that had been given out during the HSA meeting and that they can also follow the dates on the school twitter page @BrookPrincipal or <http://brookdale.bloomfield.k12.nj.us/pages/Brookdale> School. Donna Minneci has done an excellent job in putting the list of dates together. Mike McLaughlin and Marlene Matulac will also be emailing the list out and placing the dates on the HSA website. Marlene Matulac stated that the HSA gift will be decided at the next meeting. Mr. Fleres stated that he supports any ideas that anyone has and to reach out to him.

**List of Important Dates:**

- \*Town-wide Music- May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm
- \*Kindergarten- Bracken Testing- May 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>
- \*Kindergarten Orientation- May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm
- \*Kindergarten Visitation- June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm
- \*DARE Picnic- May 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00-2:00
- \* Awards Ceremony- June 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm
- \* Bengal Pride- June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am
- \*6<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Breakfast- June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00pm
- \*FunFair- June 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm
- \*5<sup>th</sup> Grade Car Wash- June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am
- \*Class Day- June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm
- \*Kindergarten Promotion- June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Half days start.
- \*Fiesta Day for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade- June 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30
- \*Last Day of School for Students- June 20<sup>th</sup>

**j. Professional Development:** Mr. Fleres stated that he promotes professional development during staff meetings and that this was one of the areas that had been cut. Parents who are in the educational field have been coming in to do this service for free. He stated that if anyone knows of a professional development topic or if they would like to contribute please send him an email if they are interested. Presentations would run for an hour from 3:30-4:30pm.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of April 9, 2014.

**Treasurer's Report:** Monica Lutz presented the budget. Our current budget in the checking account as of April 30, 2014 is \$39,358.01 and that the total holdings amounted to \$ 4,430.84. Monica Lutz stated that the Talent Show fundraiser brought in a profit of \$1,894.93 as of now. Thank you to Jack Lynch for putting on a wonderful show.

**Board of Education Representative:** Catzel Bumpus was not present.

Nicole Bornemann stated that the district is in a much better place than it was last year and the Board of Education is planning some wonderful things for our schools. There will be an ISTEM camp that will be put into place this summer and that the child study team will be brought back into the district

**Faculty Representative:** Ms. G. thanked the parents for getting the children to bed on time during the week of the NJASK. She described the teacher evaluation process for the coming school year. A tested teacher will be graded as of next year and will have to set a goal and their students into categories that they will improve and maintain. They will produce evidence that they have achieved their goals in April of next year, give a self-evaluation, a principal evaluation, and take the NJASK scores into account. The process is strictly to determine whether or not to reform tenure. She thanked the children in the younger grades for keeping quiet during the NJASK testing. She also thanked the parents for the teacher appreciation gifts and that all of the teachers love working at Brookdale School.

**HSA School Gift:** Mike McLaughlin stated that we have had a wonderful year for fundraising. He stated that the HSA has to vote on what can be given as a gift. A parent asked if there are any ideas for the gift. Mike McLaughlin brought up the idea of flooring for the playground or not do a gift and save the money for next year. Jen Vigna asked if more money can be used for the gift. Monica Lutz stated that the Fun Fair is coming up and she estimated that we have \$8,000 more of expenses that are coming up. She stated that we have \$23,000 to work with. Dani Kennedy recommended that IPOD cases have to be bought in bulk and that there can be an allowance towards purchasing apps. Ms. G. stated that the school would have to go through central offices to purchase apps and that we cannot create our own iTunes account. Gail Dolan stated that the school does need excel and word. Jen Vigna stated that the gift should go towards what the teachers want or need. Mike McLaughlin stated that we should try to spend more money towards a gift. Marlene Matulac stated that if anyone wants to speak to Mr. Fleres about a grant that would be great. She suggested that the school buy twenty-five iPads instead of twenty so that every child would be able to have one. Mike McLaughlin stated that we could spend more money on iPads. Pamela Malcolm asked about the floor for the playground. Dani Kennedy stated that she would rather see the money go towards iPads than a new playground floor. Jody Polidoro stated that the playground floor needs to be replaced and that a floor similar to Brookdale Park should be placed in. The cost of the floor would be \$15,000 and that there would be a ten year warranty. She also stated that extra fundraisers can take place if parents would like to do that. A parent asked about what the advantages would be in putting in a new playground floor. Jodi Polidoro stated that the children would not be able to throw the wood chips and that the present floor would not last. She stated that it would need to be replaced every couple of years. Beth Japhet asked if there is a maximum amount of mulch that can be put down. Mike McLaughlin stated that this idea could be discussed over the summer break. Jody Polidoro stated that the YMCA might want to consider donating some money towards new mulch because aftercare uses the playground.

### **The Thank you Roster:**

- a. **Talent Show:** Marlene Matulac thanked Jack Lynch for doing an excellent job on the Talent Show.
- b. **Spring Break Walk-a-Thon:** Marlene Matulac thanked the parents who volunteered for the Walk-a-Thon and that the children were dancing and having a great time. She also thanked the HSA for the refreshments.
- c. **Principal's Scoop:** Marlene Matulac thanked Mr. Fleres for participating in Rita's scoop because he did this entirely on his own.
- d. **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Marlene Matulac thanked Beth Japhet, Kami Lacki, and all volunteers for providing the teachers with the gifts and that they did a fantastic job.

### **News and Notes:**

- a. **Upcoming Events:** Jen Vigna asked about the Kindergarten Tea and promotion. Also, if the Fourth and Fifth Grades will have to reach out for Class Day. Mike McLaughlin stated that the ice pop sales will be on Fridays and that Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, will be a breakfast for Teacher Appreciation Day. Gail Dolan and Tina Gallina will be running the Plant Sale on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Gail Dolan stated that the set up for the Plant Sale will take place on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, and that anyone can come and help out. Marlene Matulac stated that all children should bring in a shoe box to school to take home the plants and Gail Dolan asked parents to bring in scissors to cut the wrapping during the set-up.
- b. **Bingo Night:** Mike McLaughlin stated that this event will no longer be taking place but will be revisited for next year to see if we can make it happen legally.
- c. **After-School Programs:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the program is now two-thirds full.
- d. **Yearbook:** Dani Kennedy stated that the yearbook is completed and that it looks wonderful. The final books will be available before Memorial Day. The Sixth Graders each will have a half page and that the yearbook is made up of eighty-six pages. The Yearbook Breakfast will be taking place on June 6<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that the yearbook is something that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students can work on themselves next year.
- e. **Fun Fair:** Jody Polidoro stated that she will not have the race car amusement at the Fun Fair and that there will be new attractions for the children to enjoy. Dani Kennedy recommended that a chaperone is needed to handle the lines for the bouncy houses because of safety issues. Jody Polidoro stated that the rock climbing attraction will not be at the Fun Fair. Marlene Matulac stated that a flyer will be sent out to the parents to buy tickets for the Fun Fair in advance.

**f. Car Wash:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the Fifth Grade Car Wash will take place on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00am. The rain date will be Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00am. A flyer will be sent out to all parents and all 5th grade students are asked to participate.

**g. Relay for Life:** Mike McLaughlin stated that only three parents were interested in doing this activity and will be involved in this on their own.

**h. Planners:** Mike McLaughlin stated that there would be a vote on whether or not the students would have planners because some grades do not need them. All parents who attended the HSA meeting did a closed vote on whether the HSA should pay for planners. Marlene Matulac passed out the voting cards to the parents who attended the meeting and Jenn Harvey counted them after everyone submitted their vote. Jenn Harvey counted the votes and stated that everyone had voted for the planners.

**i. HSA Co-President:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the HSA has two candidates vying for the position as Co-President of the HSA. The two candidates are Maria Rendfrey and Rafael Jimenez who have both spoken to Mike McLaughlin and Mr. Fleres. The election will take place at the next HSA meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Maria Rendfrey stated that she is Chase Rendfrey's mom and would like this position to help our children and our school. Rafael stated that his daughter attends the school and that his son will be starting in September. He stated that he is looking to help out the school. Mike McLaughlin thanked both candidates for showing an interest in taking on the position of Co-President. Jody Polidoro asked the candidates if they were able to commit their time to this position. Rafael stated that he has a flexible working schedule, has inquired on what is involved in holding this position with Marlene Matulac, and that he is very dedicated. Maria Rendfrey stated that she can be flexible with her work schedule and that her mother can take over on the times that she cannot. Mike McLaughlin stated that this position is a difficult one and believes that the candidates should be concerned with time commitment as well as hoping that we can find a great person to do the job as Co-President. He stated that he would like more people to become involved so that the workload can be shared. Marlene Matulac suggested that anyone can approach the two candidates if they have any questions. Jody Polidoro asked the candidates what committees they had served on. Rafael stated that he had participated in the amazon.com fundraiser. Maria Rendfrey stated that she has been involved in Birthdays, the Halloween Dance, has been class parent, that her son was in the Talent Show, and that her mother is also actively involved.

**j. Class Trip Pictures:** Jenn Harvey stated that if any parents are going on a class trip that they should send in pictures so that they can be posted on the Bloomfield Patch and that the pictures should have many children in them.

**k. Fifth Grade Wax Museum:** Marlene Matulac stated that the Fifth Grade wax museum event will be taking place where the students will dress up as a character from history and that it is an amazing activity. All parents are encouraged to attend.

**l. Walk for Dina Witter:** Pamela Malcolm stated that \$13,000 was raised in the walk for Dina Wittner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

The next HSA meeting will take place on June 11th at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Bornemann, HSA Secretary, on May 12, 2014.