

BROOKDALE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 11, 2014

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

Mr. Fleres announced the district-wide award winner for the Chess Competition at Brookdale School: Asher Kaufman won second place in the entire Fourth Grade class in the Chess Competition. Congratulations to Asher and his family.

Board of Education Representative: Catzel Bumpus stated that the district presented awards to many of the students and that the Board's focus is based on the positive aspects of the district. The Board is in the process of getting the Pre-Kindergarten and the Bridges Program ready for September. School building projects will also be taking place this summer. Mr. Goncalves is keeping a close eye on the issue of class size and that he is being very conservative. Any parents with concerns should contact him and he will respond. A new student management system was put into place and this had been presented at the last meeting. The next Board of Education meeting will take place on June 24th and there will be meetings over the summer regarding the district's goals. A parent asked if the Child Study Team members will be brought back into the district. Mrs. Bumpus stated that the Child Study Team will be put into place this month.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Lutz presented the budget and thanked Jody Polidoro for doing a wonderful job running the Fun Fair. Our current budget in the checking account as of June 10, 2014 amounted to \$42,447.98 and that the total holdings amounted to \$3,952.18. Monica Lutz stated that the Spiritwear fundraiser brought in a profit of \$753.72 and that the Fun Fair brought in a profit of \$3,165.13.

HSA Voting Issues:

a. Freespace Dance Program: Mike McLaughlin asked Lisa Grimes to present the Freespace Dance Program to the HSA. Lisa Grimes stated that she is the Manager of Freespace Dance which is involved in placing performing arts into school systems. She stated that dance is not offered in either gym or art within school districts. She chose Bloomfield because she has children attending Brookdale School and that the Dodge Foundation has funded the program for the first two years. The program's curriculum focuses on teaching children about creative movement. Flyers had been sent out over the school year. She has spent time with the Third Grade and may work with some of the students in both the Second and Fourth Grade next year. She stated that the Dodge Foundation asks the school to help fund the program after a two year period. She also encouraged the parents to speak to Mr. Fleres about the program, that it is based

on the Core Curriculum Content Standards, and does not replace the physical education program. The program's website is under construction and should be up the following week if parents are interested. A parent asked if the program would be funded every school year. Lisa Grimes stated that it is funded every year and that this is the third year that the school has participated in this program. Mike McLaughlin asked if the funding comes with a package. Lisa Grimes stated that the grades can be split and that the students work together to choreograph a piece. She stated that this would be a four year consecutive program and that the Dodge Foundation gives about \$8,000 per year. The funding pays for the dance teachers, artists, and for the company to come and do dance performances at the school. Marlene Matulac asked if other schools are having the First Grade participate in the program. Lisa Grimes stated that other schools are doing that and that the cost of a program for one grade costs \$1,000. Mr. Fleres stated that he would prefer to keep the participation in the program to one grade because of tough standardized testing and that it would be hard on the teaching schedule. Dani Kennedy asked if this could become an after school program. Lisa Grimes stated that this could become one and that it is a valid question. Mr. Fleres stated that this could be discussed as an after school program. Beth Japhet asked how the age range would be dealt with between the children. Lisa Grimes stated that it would depend on their experience. Mr. Fleres stated that the children had a wonderful time participating in the program and that all children would benefit from the assembly.

b. HSA School Gift: Mike McLaughlin stated that the HSA will end the year with a balance of approximately \$30,000 and that the HSA would vote on a gift for the school. The annual gift is for a set of 25 iPads with a charging cart, parts for a SMART Board, a replacement refrigerator, and a replacement microwave. The Board has expanded the iPads so that every child in a given class can be able to work on one, an iPad cart is required, and that the SMART Board parts are needed. All of this would total approximately \$17,000. Mr. Fleres stated that the amount of money available to spend on the gift should impact a large amount of students. He also stated that the iPads are always being used and that every grade level has benefitted from using them. The Technology Department at central offices owns the iPads that the school has now. He stated that one SMART Board needs to be updated in Mrs. Sedlacek's classroom because it needs a new projector and new speakers. The iPad cart is needed in order to charge the iPads. He would like to keep the Technology Department's iPads and cart for the first floor and house the new cart on another floor. The iPads would be used for a class period or for a block of time. They are excellent to use in the classroom and for our special education population. They can also be used during recess for the students who are not able to play on the playground. Ms. G. talked about Edcreations and that the student council gift to the school would be new adaptors to be used on SMART Boards and the Edcreations Program where classes are filmed and students can interact with each other. The use of the program would allow for group learning, differentiation, and for students to make their own videos. A parent asked why iPads should be used. Mr. Fleres stated that Androids and other types had been looked at and would be more expensive to upgrade. Mike McLaughlin stated that two large purchases would include replacing the refrigerator and the microwave. The items would be used for HSA events and to hold groceries

for the school. He stated that the HSA would need to vote on whether or not they should be replaced at an approximate cost of \$800.00. Marlene Matulac stated that any purchases that cost over the amount of \$200.00 must be voted on. She also stated that if anyone is willing to donate the items they can do so. A parent volunteered to donate a microwave to the school.

c. Voting for Co-President: Mike McLaughlin presented the candidates vying for the office of Co-President. Rafael Jimenez stated that he moved to Bloomfield 3 ½ years ago and grew up in New York City. He believes that education is paramount and that family is everything. He believes that it takes a village to raise a child and that his children are going into the First Grade and in Kindergarten. His background is in industries that are very collaborative. He is very dedicated and passionate in what he sets out to do. Jen Vigna asked him about his time commitment. He stated that he works for himself and can arrange his schedule. He also stated that this is the first time experience he has with the HSA. Jenn Laino asked him what committees he has worked on. He stated that he had not worked on any as of yet, but has supported many of the committees. He does have the resources, contacts, and the energy to fully commit to the job. Dani Kennedy asked him what new ideas he would bring to the HSA. He stated that he would sit down and collaborate with others on putting new plans into place. Amanda Pinales stated that the Co-Presidents must have a presence at school events. Dani Kennedy asked him on what his position was on delegation. He stated that he has many ideas and is for delegation. He also stated that he was responsible for the Amazon fundraising idea. A parent asked him why he wanted to become Co-President. He stated that his wife recommended that he run for the position and that the decision to run was discussed in depth with his family on why he would make an excellent Co-President. Mr. Fleres each candidate did consult with him about running for the position.

Maria Rendfrey stated that her son Chase is in the Second Grade at Brookdale and that she is a lifelong resident of Bloomfield. She has chaired the Halloween Dance and has been on the committee for the plant sale and the Beefsteak. She is very interested in being involved in the HSA. Jen Vigna asked her about her time commitment. She stated that she would make time for her child. Mike McLaughlin asked the parents and members of the Board to fill out their ballots and then place them in a basket. The parents and Board voted for the Co-President. Mike McLaughlin thanked the candidates and stated that he has spoken with both of them over the last two months. He has a great respect for both of them and thanked them for running.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of May 7, 2014.

Faculty Representative: Ms. G. thanked the parents for a great school year and for their support during the NJASK. She asked that the parents keep their children reading over the summer, do Study Island, Math Playground, and Cool Math. She wished everyone a wonderful and safe summer. Mr. Fleres stated that twenty percent of all material learned during the school year is lost over the summer and that the children should do educational activities.

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

a. Co-President: Mr. Fleres thanked Marlene Matulac for doing such a wonderful job as Co-President of the HSA and on Paperless saving the school thousands of dollars. He stated that being the Co-President is not an easy job and that it requires much work behind the scenes.

b. Class Lists: Mr. Fleres stated that the class lists for the next school year are going to be worked on and finalized before the end of the school year. Many considerations are taken into account regarding class lists based on the needs of special education students, the IEP's of students, academic abilities, and personalities. He stated that class lists are put together by himself, the school nurse, guidance, and the special education teachers. He is the person who makes the final decision on the class lists. He wanted the parents to understand how the decision process works when determining class lists. This system was implemented last year and the selection process is not done randomly. Most of the students will be notified when report cards are issued and that some might receive a TBA on who their teacher will be, but they will be informed earlier than they were last school year. There are currently 53 students enrolled for Kindergarten and there will be three Kindergarten sections. 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.

c. ISTEM: Mr. Fleres stated that he is proud to announce that Brookdale School has been selected by Montclair State to have an ISTEM program for the Sixth Grade in September. The program has been very successful in the Middle School and that Montclair State had learned about Brookdale through our twitter page and our push for technology. Ms. G. and Mr. Triano will be involved. Ms. G. stated that the program is based on hands on and real life application.

d. Summer Reading: Mr. Fleres stated that the book this year for summer reading that has been chosen by Mrs. Luca and Mrs. Gallagher is *Lunch Money* by Andrew Clementz.

d. Thank You List: Mr. Fleres thanked the parents for the Teachers Appreciation Day Lunch, Kindergarten Orientation, The DARE picnic, Bangel Pride, the Fifth Grade Car Wash committee, and to Ms. G. He also thanked Dani Kennedy and the yearbook committee for doing such a wonderful job on putting together a fabulous Sixth Grade yearbook. He thanked Mrs. Sedlacek for the idea of the Battle of the Books and that this will be done district wide. He thanked Ms. Kalutis for the Zumba classes for the Brookdale staff and that she ran the class free of charge. He stated that the Zumba classes will possibly be done once a month for the next school year. He thanked all of the parents for the free professional development classes that helped staff members receive free professional development credits. He asked the parents to please reach out to him if they were interested in teaching a professional development class. He thanked Jody Polidoro and the Fun Fair Committee for putting together such a wonderful event enjoyed by all. He also announced that the principal, Mr. Jennings, of Bloomfield High School

had the top ten students come to talk to the Sixth Grade students to tell them what it takes to become successful in school. The high school students shared real life experiences about what both middle and high school is like. He also thanked Mr. Mayer for doing a wonderful job on the Town Wide Track and Field event. He congratulated all of the students who won awards at the District Awards Ceremony. He thanked all parents, staff, and students for a great school year.

e. **PARCC:** Mr. Fleres stated that any issues that the school had with the PARCC were based on the PARCC system and not on the Bloomfield School District. The PARCC was piloted on iPads and laptops. He thanked Mrs. McCartney for putting together the testing schedules.

The Thank you Roster:

a. **Box-Tops:** Marlene Matulac thanked Tina Gallina for doing a fantastic job on Box Tops for Education and that the winner of the pizza party is Mrs. Matturri's First Grade class. The second place winners were both Mrs. Jaffe's Kindergarten class and Mrs. Goldsworthy's First Grade class. The total amount of box tops was 13,718 and everyone should keep collecting box tops for the summer.

b. **My Coke Rewards and Recycling:** Marlene Matulac thanked Bea Spina for doing a fantastic job on My Coke Rewards and for recycling ink cartridges. The school has received 1,800 points from My Coke Rewards and will be receiving supplies such as construction paper and tape.

c. **Campbell's Labels:** Marlene Matulac thanked Jen Vigna for collecting Campbell's soup labels for education.

d. **Assemblies:** Marlene Matulac thanked Doris Copeck for organizing excellent assemblies for the school throughout the year.

e. **Sixth Grade Activities:** Marlene Matulac thanked Laura Haraka and Karen for doing an excellent job on organizing the Sixth Grade activities this year.

f. **Beautification:** Marlene Matulac thanked Jimmy Polidoro and Penny Tenbekjian for doing a fantastic job on making our school look fabulous all year.

g. **Basketball:** Marlene Matulac thanked Terry Mulane for doing a fantastic job organizing and coaching Brookdale School's basketball team.

h. **Membership:** Marlene Matulac thanked Jenn Harvey for doing an excellent job with Membership and for taking pictures of events throughout the year.

i. **Hospitality:** Marlene Matulac thanked Jacintha Pinales for doing a wonderful job as Hospitality Chair.

- j. Board of Education Representatives:** Marlene Matulac thanked Nicole Bornemann and Griselle Cabrera for doing a wonderful job as Board of Education Representatives this year.
- k. Head Class Parent:** Marlene Matulac thanked Jen Vigna for doing a fantastic job as Head Class Parent. She thanked her for all of the hard work that she has done throughout the year.
- l. Scholarships:** Marlene Matulac thanked Anita Soja for organizing the scholarship program. Mike McLaughlin presented scholarship awards to two students. A total of nine candidates applied.
- m. Teacher Appreciation:** Marlene Matulac thanked Beth Japhet and Kami Lacki for doing a fantastic job for Teacher Appreciation Day. The teachers wrote thank you notes to the HSA for providing this for them.
- n. Spring Plant Sale:** Marlene Matulac thanked Tina Gallina and Gail Dolan for all of their hard work running the plant sale.
- o. Kindergarten Orientation:** Marlene Matulac thanked all of the Kindergarten class parents, for doing an excellent job and for providing food at the event.
- p. Spiritwear:** Marlene Matulac thanked Monica Lutz for doing a fantastic job in running Spiritwear.
- q. Fun Fair:** Marlene Matulac thanked Jody Polidoro for doing a fantastic job on the Fun Fair. Jody Polidoro thanked all of the volunteers for helping at the event. She stated that each teacher was given three tickets to attend the Fun Fair this year.
- r. Yearbook:** Marlene Matulac thanked Dani Kennedy and Gail Andreu for putting together a beautiful Sixth Grade yearbook.
- s. Fifth Grade Car Wash:** Marlene Matulac thanked Susan Coulter for doing a fantastic job on the car wash this year.
- t. Teachers Luncheon:** Marlene Matulac thanked Doris Copeck for doing a fantastic job in organizing the teachers' luncheon.
- u. After school Programs:** Marlene Matulac thanked Mike McLaughlin for bringing this program to Brookdale School and for doing a fantastic job in organizing it. The students enjoyed the program and the HSA is thinking of doing a dance program for next year.
- v. The Beefsteak:** Marlene Matulac thanked Pamela Malcolm and the committee for doing a fantastic job on organizing and running the Beefsteak.
- w. HSA:** Marlene Matulac thanked all of the parents at Brookdale School for electing her and for everything that they have done for the HSA. She thanked Mr. Fleres, the HSA Board, Laura

Haraka, and Karen. She also thanked Nicole Bornemann, Jenn Harvey, and Monica Lutz for all of their hard work. She stated that Monica Lutz has done so much in her job as Treasurer that the HSA has gained so much from her. She thanked Mike McLaughlin for doing always what is in the best interests for Brookdale School as Co-President and that the new Co- President should reach out to her if they have any questions. She thanked both Maria Rendfrey and Rafael Jimenez for volunteering to run for Co-President. She looks forward to seeing them both next year and that they should consider volunteering on committees. Mike McLaughlin stated that over the last calendar year, Marlene has emailed him 1,006 times regarding the HAS. She is very committed and that she has unique capabilities that can never be replaced. The HSA is very grateful for all of her efforts.

Voting Results:

a. HSA Gift: Marlene Matulac stated that the HSA has voted in favor of purchasing the iPads and cart, the SMART Board parts, the refrigerator, the microwave, and the Freespace Dance Program.

b. Co-President of the HSA: Marlene Matulac stated that the HSA has elected Rafael Jimenez to be the new Co-President of Brookdale School's HSA. Congratulations to Rafael Jimenez and thank you to Maria Rendfrey for wanting to run for the position.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Bornemann, HSA Secretary, on June 20, 2014.