

BROOKDALE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 12, 2014

The Brookdale Home and School Association was called to order at approximately 7:05pm. Board members in attendance were Mike McLaughlin, Rafael Jimenez, Monica Lutz, Jenn Harvey, and Nicole Bornemann.

Mr. Fleres and the HSA congratulated Mrs. Francesca Jaffe for being awarded the 2014 Exemplary Elementary Educator by the State of New Jersey. He stated that only a select few were picked as finalists out of thousands of applicants. He stated that she is a fantastic team player and an excellent educator. Mrs. Jaffe thanked everyone for congratulating her and announced that she and her husband are expecting. Congratulations to Mrs. Jaffe and her family.

Board of Education Representative: Catzel Bumpus was unable to attend the meeting. In reviewing the election results it was noted that Ms. Bumpus was not re-elected to the Board of Education. Mr. Michael Heller, Mrs. Emily Smith, Ms. Ruth Hidalgo, and Ms. Ellen Rogers have been elected as new members on the Board of Education. Mike McLaughlin and another HSA member attended the Board of Education election forum that was held on October 22nd.

Faculty Representative: Mrs. Pico thanked the HSA for the stipend for the teachers to get supplies. Ms. G. stated that the student council has started Thanksgiving donations which will be given to a women's shelter. Basketball drills have been fantastic for the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grades.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of October 8th, 2014.

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

a. Gifted and Talented: Mr. Fleres stated that Mrs. Barton will be running the program for the school district. There is a rubric that a teacher fills out involving a point system. Students are chosen based on grades, teacher recommendations, and the results of the PARCC test. Mrs. Pico is in charge of the program at Brookdale School. The program is only open to students in the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grades.

b. Cold Weather: Mr. Fleres stated that parents should dress their children for cold weather and not send them in shorts. He has a 32 degrees and above policy for outside recess. The students will have indoor recess if the temperature is below 32 degrees. On days where the temperature is below 32 degrees the doors to the school will be open at 8:20am. The school building will not be open before 8:20am.

c. Lates and Absences: Mr. Fleres stated that any student who misses 10% of school days will receive a letter regarding lates or absences.

d. Gym: Mr. Fleres stated that the children must wear sneakers on the days that they have gym.

e. School Concerts: Mr. Fleres stated that the Holiday School Concert is scheduled for December 19th and the Spring Concert will take place on April 17th. The starting time for both concerts will be at 1:30pm.

f. Thank You: Mr. Fleres thanked Mrs. Loccassio for taking over for Mr. Mayer and that he will be on leave for medical reasons. Mr. Fleres stated that Mr. Mayer is very enthusiastic about returning from medical leave after two weeks, but he may be out longer. Ms. Zarra will be the substitute for gym until he returns. Mr. Fleres also thanked the parents for putting out cones for the Halloween parade and that the Halloween dance was fantastic. He thanked Mrs. Jacobson for doing a wonderful job on the hand washing assembly and that Mr. Dan Yaccarino did a wonderful job during his assembly. The students loved the presentation on his book and that there are many book orders for it.

g. Upcoming Dates: Mr. Fleres stated that the following dates are important for parents to know:

-Thursday, November 20th, will be a half day for evening conferences

-Friday, November 21st, will be a half day for afternoon conferences

-Monday, November 24th, will be a half day for evening conferences

-Tuesday, November 25th, will be a half day for afternoon conferences

-Wednesday, November 26th, will be a half day for Thanksgiving recess

-November 27th and 28th there will be no school for Thanksgiving Day recess

-Monday, December 8th, the Holiday Gift Shop will begin

-Tuesday, December 23rd, will be a half day for starting off Holiday Break

h. Class Parties: Mr. Fleres thanked the parents for helping out with the class parties and that there had been some confusion on getting clearance for the ingredients for the party snacks. He and Mrs. Jacobson have discussed the issue and from now on everything will be going through the class parent. He asked that parents not email the ingredients the day of the class party and that the safety of the students should always be put first. All food items must be cleared by the nurse and that she has selected a list of items that she has approved for parties. He stated that all of the students had a wonderful time during the Halloween parties.

The following is a list of foods that the school nurse has put together for parents to use as a guide:

- Pillsbury Ready to Bake, Holiday Shape Cookies-24 pre-cut cookies
- Betty Crocker Fruit By the Foot
- Betty Crocker Fruit Roll Ups
- Dole Fruit in Gel Cups- diced pears, dice peaches only
- Mott's Apple Sauce Cups
- Musselman's Apple Sauce Cups
- Raisins
- Craisins
- Plain Ritz Crackers
- Original Wheat Thin Crackers
- Original Triscuits
- Graham Cracker- Nabisco, Keebler, Honey Maid, Shop Rite
- Nabisco Teddy Grahams- honey, cinnamon, chocolate
- Keebler Vienna Fingers
- Pretzels- Rold Gold, Shop Rite
- Tortilla Chips- Plain only, Tostitos, Utz
- Plain unflavored Potato Chips- Lays, Utz, Herr's
- Fresh Fruits- oranges (citrus), pineapple, watermelon, cantaloupe, coconut, apple (ask for specific fruit allergies by class)
- Fresh Vegetables
- Fruit Juice
- Water
- Flavor Ice-Ice Pop Tubes
- Angies Boom Chicka Pop popcorn

-Tasty Brand Organic Mixed Fruit Snacks

-Cherrybrook Kitchen: Sugar Cookie Mix

i. Coffee and Conversation With Mr. Fleres: Mr. Fleres stated that this event will be on Wednesday, November 19th, from 8:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. in the Media Center. Refreshments will be served.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Lutz presented the budget. Our current budget in the checking account as of amounted to \$29,498.14 and that the total holdings amounted to \$2,902.18. KidStuff earned a profit of \$1,212.50, Innisbrook earned a profit of \$2,689.14, and the Halloween Dance earned a profit of \$2,056.83.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the meeting for October 8th, 2014 were approved.

Items on the Agenda:

- a. **Book Fair:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the Book Fair will be taking place in April of 2015 and that parents of students in the younger grades are encouraged to run this event.
- b. **Holiday Gift Shop:** Mike McLaughlin stated that an email will be sent out to the parents on who would like to volunteer for this event that will run from December 8th through December 12th.
- c. **Assembly Chair:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the HSA needs an Assembly Chair and would like a parent to volunteer for this position.
- d. **Casino Night:** Jenn Harvey stated that she had attended the Franklin Casino Night with Jen Bogart and Tina Gallina. The idea is for Brookdale to have a Casino Night instead of a Beefsteak. Brookdale School used to have this event and Nancy Bsales confirmed that the event had brought in over ten thousand dollars. She stated that it is hard to get donations and baskets for the Beefsteak. For this event, the gambling tables are sponsored and it is more exciting event for the parents. This event would also be a great night for couples. A parent stated that the school could receive a decent amount of donations with this type of event and that it is more exciting. Jenn Harvey stated that the Essex Manor would be an excellent venue for this event because their management has been replaced since last year's Beefsteak. The Essex Manor is cheaper and the food has improved. Mike McLaughlin thanked Jenn Harvey and the other parents for attending Franklin's Casino Night.
- e. **Afterschool program:** Mike McLaughlin stated that he has checked with Mr. Dotoli on having an Afterschool Program and that we must have licensed providers with qualified instructors.

- f. **Fundraisers:** Mike McLaughlin stated that several new fundraisers will be carried out in the coming months, including:.

Calendar Raffle: Jody Polidoro introduced a 2015 Three Month Calendar Raffle where there would be only a ten dollar donation per sheet with 64 chances to win and all tickets would be available for all drawings. There would be \$4,000 in cash prizes and all net proceeds would go to benefit Brookdale School.

Thirty One Fundraiser: Jen Bogart stated that this is a direct sales fundraiser that sells business bags, totes, home organization items, and sports bags. It is a home based business and whomever sells that most products will receive items for free. Mike McLaughlin thanked her for this idea.

Brookdale "Walk of Fame": Mike McLaughlin stated that this fundraiser would involve parents donating money for bricks to be placed around the school with their child's name on it. This would be a wonderful idea for parents whose children are entering Kindergarten or are graduating from the Sixth Grade.

Other discussions included Spirit Wear, where a parent brought up the idea of Brookdale School Magnets. Rafael Jimenez stated that the HSA can try to do this online and add school magnets to Spirit Wear.

Lastly, Jody Polidoro noted that the donations for the Holiday Giving Tree will go to a local animal shelter. The Holiday Giving Tree will be set up on December 1st.

The Thank You Roster:

- a. **Kid's Stuff:** Rafael Jimenez thanked Gail Dolan for all of her hard work on running this fundraiser.
- b. **Halloween Dance:** Rafael Jimenez thanked Monica Lutz, Maria Rendfrey, and all of the volunteers for all of their hard work on putting together a fabulous event.
- c. **Beautification:** Rafael Jimenez thanked Mollie Smith and all of the volunteers for doing a wonderful job on Fall Cleanup Day.
- d. **Innisbrook:** Rafael Jimenez thanked Jaennine Gonzalez for all of her hard work on running this fundraiser.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm. The next HSA meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday, January 7, 2015. There will not be an HSA meeting in December.

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Bornemann, HSA Secretary, on November 22, 2014