

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

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**February 11, 2015**

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

**Faculty Representative:** Ms. G. stated that the Student Council has sold 640 lollipops and that they are now sold out. All proceeds from the lollipop sale will be going into school funds. She thanked the parents for their support. The lollipops will be delivered on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. A parent asked how the lollipops would be delivered. Ms. G. stated that it is up to teachers on how they would be handed out. Mrs. Pico stated that the teachers will have Valentine bags and the lollipops would be placed in the bags. Ms. G. stated that students have had indoor lunch because of the cold weather and they have been fantastic and are getting 20 minutes of gym time. Mrs. Pico stated that the Jump-a-thon will be taking place on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Third, Fourth, and Fifth graders will participate in the Jump-a-thon. The Hoops for Heart will be for the Fifth and Sixth Graders. The Bloomfield School District will be holding the “Parents Take the PARCC” on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Middle School Media Center.

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

**a. Mr. Mayer Day:** Mr. Fleres stated that Mr. Mayer has been selected as the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame and that he would like to have a Bob Mayer Day. This day would be held on Friday at Brookdale School and he is working on a couple ideas for the event. He is also going to ask the town mayor to participate. He requested that everyone wear Brookdale spiritwear or Brookdale School colors on Bob Mayer Day. The school will have a parade and Mr. Mayer will be the Grand Marshal. Jenn Harvey has contacted the Bloomfield Life and the Independent Press to report on the event. Bob is so grateful for what is going on. The school’s Twitter page will inform families on this event.

**b. Korean Educators:** Mr. Fleres stated that the teachers from Korea have done great lessons with the students and that Brookdale has a wonderful partnership with Bloomfield College. The teachers from Korea have taught lessons in Ms. Pico’s class, Mr. Alban’s class, and Ms. G.’s class.

**c. The Fifth Grade Recital:** Mr. Fleres stated that the Fifth Grade did an excellent recital and he publically thanked Mr. Colwell for doing a great job. Brookdale School is looking forward to changing instruments and for music lessons in the future.

**d. Mrs. Jaffe's and Mrs. Lehansky's Maternity Leave:** Mr. Fleres stated that he has interviewed six applicants for the Leave of Absence Kindergarten position for Mrs. Jaffe. He is presently getting resumes for Mrs. Lehansky's replacement as a Third Grade Leave of Absence Teacher. He has interviewed seven people and the parents would be notified on who will temporarily replace Mrs. Lehansky as soon as possible.

**e. PARCC:** Mr. Fleres stated that the Board of Education and the Bloomfield Education Foundation will be sponsoring a "Parent Take the PARCC Night" and parents are encouraged to attend to experience what it is like to take the test. Parents are also able to Google PARCC and take the sample test online. The PARCC will be taken in March and in May. The PARCC is scheduled for the Third Grade from March 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>. The Fourth Grade will take the PARCC from March 9<sup>th</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Fifth Grade will take the PARCC from March through. The Sixth Grade will take the PARCC from March through. March 27<sup>th</sup> is the final day for testing and some of the days had to be doubled up for the higher grades. The end of year PARCC testing will take place in May. Parents must assist children with typing if they are going to do well on this test. The PARCC test involves typing and the student should work on this at home. A parent asked if the HSA did the right thing in purchasing the iPads. Mr. Fleres stated that the PARCC is more accessible through Chromebook than iPads. Chromebooks are also more affordable. A parent asked about test accommodations with the iPads. Mr. Fleres stated that the pilot test last year showed that there were fewer problems with iPads. He stated that PARCC training was done with principals, test administrators, and trainers. The iPads are more student-friendly and are easier to use. He would opt for everyone to take the test on the iPad because of certain technology issues in using laptops (e.g., Java updates, logging students on). The iPads had their own issues, but they were solvable issues. A parent asked if the technology to be used for the PARCC would create problems for the students. Mr. Fleres stated that Brookdale is putting a positive spin on taking the PARCC test and that the District is mandated by the state to administer the test. Last year, the Fourth Grade took a practice PARCC test on iPads last year and the Third Grade took it on laptops. Brookdale School has enough iPads and laptops for all of the students to take the PARCC. A parent asked why there are no typing classes available for the students. Mr. Fleres stated that there is Typing Club (online tool). Mrs. Pico encouraged the student to practice typing lists. Mr. Fleres stated that there is not enough time available during the school day to have a typing class and that this should be up to parents. A parent asked if the typing club can be completed on an iPad or laptop. Mr. Fleres stated that the Typing Club can be done on a tablet and that all of the students have been exposed to a practice PARCC test. The teachers have made PARCC practice question a part of the students' morning work and it is being done as a class. Mrs. Lehansky had a PARCC reading lesson in her class. The students also have tutorials on how to take the PARCC test. The staff has the students work on access tools on the iPad and that Brookdale is in the same boat as everyone else. The state has not specified criteria for what will constitute "passing" for the PARCC. He recommends that students take test seriously and to just do the best that they can. A parent asked when the PARCC will count. Mr. Fleres stated that the information of the PARCC changes

daily. The first test is an assessment and more open ended and the end of year test is a wrap up test. Teachers and principals will be evaluated and the results will be back in the Fall. Mr. Fleres stated that he does not know if the PARCC would be used to determine if a student will be in the Gifted and Talented Program or in Honors. A parent asked if you have to preregister to attend the “Parents to Take the PARCC Night” or to see the movie “Standardized”. Mrs. Pico stated that the PARCC test will be the same experience that the students would be experiencing. Mr. Fleres stated that parents must register in advance to attend both of these events.

**f. Read Across America:** Mr. Fleres stated that Read Across America week will have theme days and that it will be a very exciting week. Parents should look out for what to wear and for what is planned.

**g. Small World:** Mr. Fleres thanked everyone who volunteered for this event, which is set for February 27th. Ms. G. stated that Brookdale School will have two student teachers from South Korea and that they would be willing to help out during the event.

**h. Lates and Absences:** Mr. Fleres stated that he tries to do his best and apologized for the letters regarding problems with excessive lateness and absences. He stated that this has improved over the last couple of months. Lates and absences affect the school’s ratings for college and career readiness.

**i. Parking :** Mr. Fleres stated that the parking issue was going smoothly until the snow storms occurred. There are three medical clearance vehicles that are currently allowed to go into the faculty parking lot and that parents cannot leave their cars parked out in front of the school or they will be ticketed. Parking issues have improved and the police officer has had to physically block the driveway. Staff has to come into the parking lot with a pass or they will be ticketed. Some parents still are not adhering to the school parking rules. He does appreciate everyone’s effort with this safety issue. Parents not adhering to the parking rules will be ticketed and he needs help with this issue and asks for parents to get license plate numbers and to give the police the information. Tickets will be sent in the mail. Drop off time is from 8:20a.m.-8:40a.m. and pick up time is from 3:10p.m.-3:45p.m.

**j. Talent Show:** Mr. Fleres stated that this event will be on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Monica Lutz presented the budget. Our current budget in the checking account is \$35,661.08 and that the total holdings amounted to \$3,742.90. The estimated profit from the Calendar Raffle totaled to \$3,370.01 and the profit from the Box Tops totaled \$915.80.

**Secretary’s Report:** Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of February 11th.

## **News and Notes:**

**Bob Mayer Day:** Mike McLaughlin asked if the HSA would fund the lunch at a total of \$285.00 and a vote was taken to decide on whether the parents would have HSA funding go towards this. The parents voted in favor of funding the lunch.

**Small World Day:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the planning for this event is going well and there is still a need for last-minute volunteers if anyone is interested.

**Book Fair:** Mike McLaughlin stated that this event will take place on April 14-20, 2015, after the students come back from Spring Break. Jennifer Guidea has volunteered to be chair. Jennifer stated that she has met with the representative from Scholastic and that volunteers are needed.

**Monte Carlo Night:** Jenn Harvey stated that a lot going on regarding this event and had eight people attend the last committee meeting. Many people have shown interest in being a part of the event and emails will be sent to class moms. Tickets will be sold during the first week in March and the event will take place on April 18, 2015. Mike McLaughlin wanted everyone to have an understanding on how this event would work. Jenn Harvey stated that there will be a lot of questions on how this would work and the committee will tweet information and would like parents to have questions. A parent asked what kind of games would be played, what happens, and if you do not gamble how will you enjoy yourself. Ms. G. stated that the school has done a casino night before. Mike McLaughlin stated the HSA will make sure to share all relevant information on the event and it will be a lot of fun.

**Talent Show:** Mike McLaughlin stated that this event will take place on May 8<sup>th</sup> and that both Greg Pavliv and Carrie Miller will be the chairpersons. Information will go out this week on auditions for the Talent Show.

**After School Program:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the Board understands that it needs people to help with this program and that there is still a goal of having class options this year. If all logistics are put in the place the courses will likely occur in April/May.

**Assemblies:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the HSA will have a reptile assembly with scheduling being figured out.

## **The Thank You Roster:**

- **Jump-A-Thon:** The HSA would like to thank Amanda Pinales for doing a wonderful job on running this event.
- **Fundraising:** The HSA would like to thank Jody Polidoro for doing a wonderful job on running the Calendar Raffle.

- **Small World Day:** The HSA would like to thank Monica Lutz and Kami Lacki for doing a wonderful job on running this event.
- **Spiritwear:** The HSA would like to thank Monica Lutz and Rafael Jimenez for doing a wonderful job on running this event.
- **Brookdalebuzz.com:** The HSA would like to thank Rafael Jimenez for doing a wonderful job on putting together and updating this website.

**Spiritwear:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the sale of Spiritwear went smoothly and that there will be a spring sale before spring break. Rafael Jimenez did an excellent job and was so professional.

**Board Terms:** Mike McLaughlin stated that the Board members' terms, with the exception of one co-president position, are up this year and anyone who is interested in these positions should run. This will be discussed over the next couple of months.

**Mrs. Jaffe:** Mr. Fleres stated that Casey Harliko will be the Leave of Absence Kindergarten Teacher for Mr. Jaffe's class and will start on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

The next HSA meeting will take place on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Bornemann, HSA Secretary, on March 6, 2015.