

BROOKDALE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 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.

Board of Education Representative: Ellen Rodgers introduced herself to the members of the HSA. She stated that she is a lifelong resident of Bloomfield and that all of her children attended the Bloomfield Public School District. She resides on Cambridge Road and believes that her role is to serve the parents of Brookdale School and bring back any concerns to the Board of Education. She is very pleased about being our representative and she did attend Read Across America Day by reading to the Fourth Grade.

Faculty Representative: Mrs. Pico stated that her Third Grade class is the Box Tops champion. Ms. G. stated that the Hoops for Heart and the Jump-a-thon were great for the students and that the Sixth Grade Jump Rope and Basketball were great as well. Mrs. Pico stated that Mr. Mayer did a wonderful job and perfected the event this year. A collection was done for Mrs. Palmerri by having the students buy bracelets and saw a picture of her daughter who has a heart condition. Ms. G. stated that Read Across America was wonderful and that the teachers are encouraging that the students do Typing Club and Study Island.

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

a. PARCC: Mr. Fleres commended the students on their cooperation with the PARCC. The students are enjoying taking it by clicking on videos to watch stories and that the building handled the test well even though there were some minor technical issues. Server problems caused the entire district to have difficulties and there were many technical issues happening in other districts. The Third Grade has just completed the PARCC after it was delayed because of weather issues. The school will be in test mode for the months of March and May. The school does not have many hall monitors because of staffing and the students are taking the test in a relaxed setting. He stated that there will be a meeting this week about the test and the staff is not allowed to look at the test questions while the students are taking it. The test questions are staggered for each student. He acknowledged Mrs. McCartney for going above and beyond the call of duty in administrating the PARCC. There were 22 refusals to take the PARCC out of 371 students. The school does have a program in place for the students who are not taking the PARCC.

b. Mr. Mayer Day: Mr. Fleres stated that Mr. Mayer has been selected to enter the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame and that Bob Mayer Day was a great success. The press was also present at the event.

c. Jump and Hoop-a-Thon: Mr. Fleres stated that Mr. Mayer did a great job at the event and that a representative for the American Heart Association comes every year to take pictures. The students loved the event despite technical problems with the fire alarm.

d. Read Across America : Mr. Fleres stated that different members of the community came to read to the students.

e. Mrs. Jaffe's and Mrs. Lehansky's Maternity Leave: Mr. Fleres stated that Ms. Hawrylko is currently making the transition for taking over Mrs. Jaffe's class. He is interviewing six out of 100 applicants for Mrs. Lehansky's replacement as a Third Grade Leave of Absence Teacher. The name of her replacement will be given to the Board of Education on Tuesday.

f. Kindergarten Registration: Mr. Fleres stated that he is waiting on a date for Kindergarten registration for the 2015-2016 school year.

g. Spring Break: Mr. Fleres stated that Spring Break will take place from April 2nd through April 12th and hopes everyone enjoys their vacations.

h. Town Wide Concert/Nutrition Assembly: Mr. Fleres stated that there will be a town wide concert on March 30th and a Nutrition Assembly run by Mrs. Jacobson. He thanked the HSA for paying for part of the event and to Shop Rite for coming to the school.

i. Rosetta Stone: Mr. Fleres stated that there have been minor issues with Rosetta Stone because the computers are needed for testing. The program can be completed at home and he asked the parents to work on this with their children. He stated that this is not just a school based language program and that parents should reach out to the teachers in order to access the program online. The students from grades 3-6 know that they can do this. He stated that it has been difficult scheduling wise because of the snow days and missed time.

j. Parent PARCC Concerns: A parent asked if the Third Grade will be going back to its regular schedule after PARCC testing. Mr. Fleres stated that the Third Grade will go back to its regular schedule. Mrs. Pico stated that the gym days will not change. A parent asked about who is proctoring the PARCC. Mr. Fleres stated that Ms. Schimmenti, Mrs. Ritacco, and Mrs. McCarren are the teacher back-ups if there is an issue with substitutes. The PARCC will only be taking an hour and a half per day. A parent asked if the students are enjoying taking the PARCC. Mr. Fleres stated that they are and that the teachers have done an excellent job preparing them. The students stated that they did not find the PARCC to be that difficult and loved taking it on the computer. Mrs. Pico stated that there were no meltdowns and that it was taken in a relaxed atmosphere. Mr. Fleres stated that the students were well trained on the

PARCC and had homework assignments on PARCC sample questions. The school did not take a very test heavy approach, but did do practice rounds. There was less stress taking the PARCC than there was during the NJASK. Ms. G stated that the students know that the test is shorter than the NJASK. A parent asked if there were only seven questions on the test. Mrs. Pico stated that the test does go by much faster and that the students are engaged in what they are doing with no anxiety. Mr. Fleres stated that the school only had to troubleshoot technical issues. The test will be graded during the Fall of this year. A parent asked why the PARCC is given twice in the same year. Mr. Fleres stated that it is also an end of the year test and may be used as an exit exam. The procedures for the PARCC change daily and that taking a test for six weeks two times a year will be draining. The court system is involved as well as state bills, the teacher's union, and parents on PARCC procedures. The test will not go away because too much money has been placed into it. A parent asked if it was possible to purchase headphones instead of ear buds. Mr. Fleres stated that the district purchased Maxwell ear buds and that the information about other headphones was not made clear by the state. The ear buds are one size fits all.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Lutz presented the budget. Our current budget in the checking account is \$36,561.96 and that the total holdings amounted to \$3,658.67.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of March 11th.

News and Notes:

Talent Show: Mike McLaughlin stated that auditions for the event were held this afternoon and went smoothly. He thanked everyone who showed up for auditions and a rehearsal schedule would be put together. Jenn Harvey stated that they had auditions and that everyone made it into the Talent Show. Mike McLaughlin stated that not every child will get to do the talent that they want to do for the show. The event will take place in May and will be a two hour show. Mr. Fleres had a concern that one person in charge of the event should not be left in charge of supervising all of the children and that this is not a babysitting service. Parents are responsible for staying with their children during the practices and that this is a safety issue. Mike McLaughlin stated that the rehearsals will be staggered.

Football Program: Mike McLaughlin stated that James McDaniel proposed a flag football program for the district. The program is set up similarly to the basketball program and there will be a meeting about this. The teams can be coed and that there is flexibility. There will be a practice once a week. A parent asked about what grades will be able to participate. Mike McLaughlin stated that the older grades will be participating and that this program is being done with all of the elementary schools in the district. All information will be coming out about this program soon and flyers will be sent out. Mr. Fleres stated that the program will be for children

in grades 4-6, they will be able to keep their jerseys, and can pick a team name after an NFL team.

Spirit Wear: Mike McLaughlin stated that the second round of the Spirit wear sale will start ten days from now. The new Web site makes it easy for the HSA to adjust what they are going to sell.

St. Patrick's Day Bagels: Marlene Matulac stated that this event will be taking place in the morning and asked for at least 8-10 parents to butter and cream cheese the bagels.

Greeting Card Fundraiser: The Fifth Graders are running a fundraiser where children will draw their own cards, orders will be placed, and the parents will receive about fifty cards.

Book Fair: Mike McLaughlin stated that volunteers are needed and that a family night will take place. Jennifer Guidea is chairing the event and working with Scholastic.

Monte Carlo Night: Mike McLaughlin stated that all ticket forms have been sent home with the students. Jenn Harvey stated that the cost of a ticket to attend is \$60.00 for parents and \$50.00 for teachers. The Brookdale Board of Education Representative will be announcing this event at the next Board of Education meeting. There will be an extensive buffet that will include sundaes, beer, wine, soda, and a carving station. There will be a meeting on March 12th at Jenn Harvey's house regarding the event. There will be some baskets, but it will not be like the baskets in the past. Everyone will play games and this event has a different feel than the Beefsteak where people will have a wonderful time. In order for the event to be a great success, sponsorship money is needed and not gift certificates. Local businesses will advertise and sponsor a table. The money will go towards the casino costs. A parent asked how much money is needed for sponsorships. Jenn Harvey stated that the amount would be from \$50.00-\$500.00 and that there are also tiers for funding so that we can be able to work down from an amount. There will be larger baskets raffled and there will be class baskets. Dani Kennedy stated that she will be asking for \$10.00 per student to give towards the class baskets and that the class parents will not be going out and using the money to buy for the class baskets. A committee will be doing this instead. She will be attaching a letter for each class parent to remind people to pay \$10.00. Jenn Harvey stated that she would like to have top items be raffled off such as iPads and other electronics. There will be a question and answer sheet that will be sent out to parents next week and that fathers are encouraged to come to the event. There will be a credit card swiper, but there will not be tickets for "the best seat in the house for graduations" or "principal for the day." There will be a 50/50 raffle and she encourages people to sell them. There will be a DJ, but there will not be a large dance floor because of the gaming tables.

After School Program: Mike McLaughlin stated that Jackie Album has been helping review what will be in the program. There will be external providers to use and the teaching staff can also be involved. The district approves of this program. Mr. Fleres stated that the teachers are available. The HSA will offer up a short proposal and money for supplies. A parent asked if

other programs have difficulties with dismissals. Mr. Fleres stated that the teachers know who the parents of the children are and that parents need to come pick up their children because the crossing guards will be gone. Mike McLaughlin stated that there will be more information given out during the next meeting.

Assemblies: Mike McLaughlin stated that the HSA will have Dominic Rizzo run a one hour reptile assembly after Spring Break, which will include a large snake and a crocodile.

Board Elections: Mike McLaughlin stated that parents should volunteer between now and April 15th on whether or not they should decide to run for the HSA Board. Elections will take place in May and the members of the Board are available if anyone has any questions.

The Thank You Roster:

- **Jump-A-Thon:** The HSA would like to thank Amanda Pinales and all of the volunteers for doing a wonderful job on running this event.
- **Basketball:** The HSA would like to thank Terry Mullane, Zeke Harvey, Jenn Harvey, and all of the volunteers for doing a wonderful job running this event.
- **Small World Day:** The HSA would like to thank Monica Lutz, Kami Lacki, and all of the volunteers for doing a wonderful job on running this event. Monica Lutz thanked everyone who volunteered for this event and the students from Bloomfield College. Mr. Fleres stated that one of the issues in the past had involved a disruption in class time, but this time there were no interruptions. Russia had caviar and it was an excellent cultural experience.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.

The next HSA meeting will take place on April 15th.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Bornemann, HSA Secretary, on April 11, 2015.