

BROOKDALE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 14, 2015

The Brookdale Home and School Association was called to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Rafael Jimenez, Monica Lutz, Jenn Harvey, Jaennine Gonzalez and Jennifer Guidea.

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

Board of Education Representative: Ellen Rodgers reported that the SEPAC is asking that all of the HSAs provide a parent liaison who would be willing to be a part of the group. They meet every other month - if anyone is interested, please reach out to Ms. Rodgers. Ms. Rodgers wanted to reiterate the curriculum initiatives that are going on. She also reported that work is continuing on the buildings. The District is also hiring new staff. Ms. Rodgers stated that the District is getting very good ratings on our financial reports from the auditors.

A parent questioned why the request for two paraprofessionals was not approved for the second grade. Ms. Rodgers said she would find out what happened that resulted in approval for only one.

Principal's Report: Mr. Fleres welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on important events happening at Brookdale School.

- a. Class Parties:** Mr. Fleres reported that the list of class allergies will be going out this week, so that plans can be made for the Halloween parties. The policy of clearing foods with the nurse was put into place last year to deal with allergies. The list of pre-approved items is constantly being updated with Mrs. Jacobson. Anything that is not pre-approved by the nurse will be sent home. This applies to goody bags as well.
- b. Back to School Night:** Thanks for the great turn-out. The schedule was successful and gave everyone the opportunity to meet with the teachers. Hopefully this will be the beginning of on-going relationships between parents and teachers.

- c. **Second Grade Paraprofessional** - Mr. Fleres recommended Ms. Judy White to the BOE for the position. Ms. White is a former Jersey City teacher. She is currently being cleared and fingerprinted and should be in the classroom next week.
- d. **PARCC results:** Although the state has the results, they have not been released for individual schools or district. At this point, it is unknown what the passing scores will be, what will be done with the scores and how the data will be used to compare schools. Passing scores, what will be done with scores, etc. have not been released. The staff and Mr. Fleres have had meetings in advance of the scores to discuss the fact that in other states where scores have been released, the majority of the students have not passed. More information will be provided to parents when we have more information.
- e. **Illness Policy:** If your child is sick, please keep them home. If the nurse calls home, please come pick them up. This is for the benefit of all the students.
- f. **Coffee and Conversation:** The meeting went very well this morning with twenty-five parents attending. There was no agenda and there were several helpful suggestions made with regard to child safety, transition to the middle school and other ideas. We will likely do another one in February or March.
- g. **Parking:** Mr. Fleres has been in contact with the police and has asked that parents refer others to the policy, as well as notify the police department that this is a problem. Tomorrow morning each child will bring home a traffic safety bulletin. Mr. Fleres read the content of the bulletin verbatim:

Brookdale School Traffic Safety Bulletin

*Primarily, parents in grades K-2 have been leaving cars unattended in front of our school in the "Drop Off Zone." This is not only endangering our students but breaking the law.

*Recently, parents/guardians were seen driving up the school drive-way and into the staff parking lot during non-allotted hours, presenting a serious safety hazard to our student/staff population.

*It has also been brought to our attention that students and parents are jaywalking. We urge everyone to only cross at the crosswalks and where there is a crossing guard present.

ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENTS & STAFF OF BROOKDALE SCHOOL, I AM *STRONGLY* REQUESTING THE COOPERATION OF ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

THANK YOU,
Joseph V. Fleres
Principal

h. School Pride Day: Thanks to the HSA for helping out with custodian appreciation day and school pride day. It was a great idea by Ms. G and there were some great activities, including a school read-aloud, class photos with the mascots and other activities.

i. Chipotle fundraiser: Thanks to everyone for the Chipotle fundraiser. Over \$1600 was raised. We got over 50% of the sales that night from everyone who mentioned Brookdale School. We may do something similar with California Pizza Kitchen at Willowbrook Mall around the holiday season. We are currently in discussions to do Chipotle again around the holidays as well. Everyone had a great time.

j. Halloween parade: The Halloween parade will be on October 30th at 1 p.m. There will be permission slips going home this week. If your child is going home to change during lunchtime, the slip must be returned ahead of time. If the slip is not returned for that specific day, your child will not be released at lunchtime. This is a safety issue. There will be no exceptions.

k. Teacher Absences: Some of our teachers are out of the classroom more often than we would like because they are attending training sessions for readers and writers workshop. It is a huge time commitment for our staff and requires up to 15 training sessions per year. Many teachers have foregone personal appointments in order to complete the training. When the teachers are out of the classroom, we use our approved substitutes for classroom instruction.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved from the previous meeting of September 9, 2015. They are also available on line.

Treasurer's Report: The 2015-2016 budget was presented for approval. It is also available on the website. The budget was unanimously approved.

Faculty Representative: Ms. G and Mrs. Pico thanked the class parents for all their help on Back to School night. Also, a reminder please not to send Halloween treats without clearing them with the nurse. Ms. G thanked everyone for participation in the mum sale. Ms. G and Ms. Pico have started the basketball skills program for 4th - 6th grade.

News and Notes:

- **Gift wrap sale** - We have sold over \$10,000 of merchandise and we get 40% of that. Thanks to Jaennine Gonzalez for running the sale. There were some parents who had issues with the assembly associated with the gift wrap sale. Some of the children brought home information that was miscommunicated and with misinformation and we apologize for that.
- **Spiritwear** - Last month's spirit wear sale raised \$1200.
- **Chipotle Fundraiser** - We raised over \$1600 for the school in one night.
- **6th grade fundraising** - The sixth grade has already raised over \$2600 with various activities. Ms. G stated that they still need to raise about \$500 to meet their goals.

Upcoming/Ongoing Events:

- **Entertainment guidebook sale** - This sale will be on October 4th. Please contact Samantha Wallace with questions or to buy a book. The guide also comes with a coupon app that works on your phone regardless of your location. You can purchase the on-line app for \$20 or the book (with app) for \$30.
- **After school program:** This week the after school enrichment program began with cooking, dodgeball, painting/drawing. Dodgeball may not happen due to the board of education requirements for liability insurance from the company that runs the program. We think we have what we need and are waiting for a response. Painting/drawing is the only program that still has room.
- **Basketball** - Basketball registration for grades 4-6 is taking place now through Friday. Please reach out to Zeke Harvey who is the coach and runs the program.

- **Boo-Grams** - are being sold for the 5th grade. These are white chocolate lollipops in the form of a ghost. Kids can send them to each other for \$1 each. Please see Jody Polidoro with questions.
- **Halloween activities-** The Halloween dance is Friday, Oct. 30th from 6-8:30. Monica is looking for volunteers. The dance is open to the entire school. The parade will happen at 1 pm and will be followed by the class parties. If it rains, the parade will be held in the gym.
- **Calendar raffle** - Last year, the calendar raffle raised \$4000. We will bring this back again next month. Hopefully this will be out by November 2nd and will be sold for 2 weeks.
- **Farmigo** - We are starting a partnership with this on line food co-op from local vendors. The food products are all organic and non-GMO. We are likely to set up the food co-op and send out the notice this week. We would earn 10% on anything we buy. Everything is 100% money back guarantee. This has been done in schools in Montclair and they are happy with the program.
- **On-going “passive” fundraisers:**
 - Shop-A-Roo: This is an app that allows you to scan your shopping receipts . The school then gets “points” for your purchases.
 - On our HSA website, we have a section discussing passive fundraisers, including Amazon Smile, Box Tops, Coke Rewards, Target and Labels for Education. The links are on the website.
- **Thank-you Roster:** Special thanks to Jaennine Gonzalez for the gift wrap sale. Thanks to Monica Lutz for spiritwear. Thanks to everyone for the Chipolte fundraiser and thanks to Ms. Minneci for setting it up. Thanks to Samantha Wallace for the Entertainment book fundraiser. Thanks to Jackie Albaum for the after school program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next HSA meeting will take place on November 11 , 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Guidea, HSA Secretary