

**Brookdale Home and School Association**

**Board Minutes**

**February 12, 2020**



The Brookdale Home and School Association was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

Board members in attendance were:

President - Rafael Jimenez

Vice President – Megan Augustowicz

Collecting Treasurer – Lisa Cheplic

Distributing Treasurer - Melanie Bitecola

Secretary – Amanda Pinales

Class Parent Liaison – Charina Schott

Membership Engagement – Noel Gatts

Intro: First meeting going paperless.

**Faculty Report** –Ms. Gaccione & Mrs. Pico

* Honored 2 third graders from Ms. Jaffe’s class at a BOE meeting on their posters and essays on traits of kindness.
* Brookdale 6th grader won the Geography Bee.
* Reminded parents to dress children appropriately for recess.
* One to One ChromeBook initiative going great.

**Principal’s Report** – Ms. Barton

* Every three years the district goes through a Quality Single Accountability Continuum review. Brookdale was selected to be reviewed. Along with reviewing the actual facility (cleanliness, organization, etc…), they look at instructional programming, curriculum, test scores, governance, operations, finance and personnel. A district needs to obtain a 80% passing rate in those categories. Proud to report we are deemed a high performing district by the Department of Education.
* Special recognition to Mr. Miller and his team, they were phenomenal in preparing the school for review.
* Please do not drop off or pick up in the driveway or parking lot.
* 3rd grade “math night” will be March 12th in the media center. Will also present an introduction to NJSLA.
* A reminder from Ms. Jacobson: Practice good hygiene and hand washing.
* Classrooms are being monitored for sick students so that way the maintenance team can target the classrooms that need to be cleaned from top to bottom to prevent the spread of sickness throughout the school.
* No school Monday (President’s Day), Hoops for Heart (6th grade) is February 27th at 1:30, Read Across America is March 1st through March 6th. Theme is diversity. Jump Rope for Heart is March 3rd for grades 3-5 at 1:30, teachers have scheduled mindfulness yoga visits this week as well.
* Townwide instrumental concert is March 31st at Bloomfield High School.
* Every three years, every district goes through a QSAC review. A Blue Ribbon School is based on growth, test scores and overall academic excellence of that individual school. A high performing district is a collection of schools in a district, which is more difficult to achieve.

**Board of Education Report -** BOE Representative,Ellen Rogers

* Schools continue to meet state and federal requirements for school security.
* District administration is currently compiling the 2020/21 budget cycle.
* State aid numbers will be released February 25th.
* On March 17th, a budget presentation meeting will take place on what will be sent to the county, then an official public hearing will take place late April/early May.
* 2019/20 “Professionals of the Year” were announced. Will be honored at a future BOE meeting.
* All students took part in the Holocaust remembrance activities, #weRemember
* Congratulations to all the 5th and 6th grade students for their efforts in the Civil Rights Commission essay contest.
* BHS seniors have started to receive college acceptance letters. Among the acceptances are prestigious schools such as Cornell, Princeton, Notre Dame and Rutgers.
* The first-ever BCWCA girls wrestling invitational took place, and three lady Bengals took home medals.
* 6 BHS students made the Regional choir.
* Bengal boys bowling team captured the NJ group 4 state championships.
* January 25th - BOE meeting
* February 4th - SEPAC meeting
* March 10th - BOE meeting

**Treasurer’s Report** – Melanie Bitecola reported. Presented on a powerpoint slide.

**Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from January 2020 were approved and seconded.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:**

**Election Committee** - Janet Treadaway, Salli Sochko & Danielle Kepler

* Concerned about the lack of candidates during election time, looking on how to get more people involved. Looking to have the election committee work with the HSA to encourage inclusion.
* Creation and purpose of the election committee was explained to membership. Spoke about the roles that need to be filled for next year: 6 positions - President, Collecting Treasurer, Distributing Treasurer, Secretary, Class Parent Liaison and Membership Engagement.
* If interested in filling a position, email the election committee at [brookdalehsaelections@gmail.com](mailto:brookdalehsaelections@gmail.com).
* Some position duties can be filled while at work.
* HSA is open to questions and feedback from membership.

**Winter Social** - Nadine Knapp & Wendy Rickman

* A smaller group then the last social. Looking to do the Spring Social on a Friday. Open to ideas on how to get more people involved.

**After School Enrichment Program –** Noel Gatts, Justin Misurell & Laurie Orosz

* Going well, lots of children. Brookdale on Broadway makes this time really busy. Possibly looking to reduce the number of classes during Brookdale on Broadway.

**Basketball** – A statement from Jenn Harvey, reported by Rafael Jimenez

“The program is four games into the season and all Brookdale teams are doing very well. The undefeated 6th grade girls team, coached by Zeke Harvey, Chris Schwindt and Fred Pace, continues their winning streak with no losses in 3 years. The 4th grade boys team, coached by Russ Harris and John Sochko, is currently undefeated. Most importantly, all 6 of our teams are doing a great job representing Brookdale. Opposing coaches and refs have complimented the great sportsmanship that our players and coaches have displayed! Thank you to all the teachers and students that have come out to support our teams. There are 30+ games remaining over the next 6 weeks at both Demarest and Oakview so I encourage everyone to try to attend one. See the schedule on our Brookdale HSA website. -Lastly, this Saturday & Sunday is the annual 3rd/4th Grade President’s Day Tournament at St. Thomas The Apostle Gym 50 Byrd Avenue Bloomfield NJ. The Boys Team plays Demarest at 10:30AM and the Girls Team Plays Demarest at 12 Noon on Saturday. The Girls Championship Game will be on Sunday at 1PM and the Boys Championship Game at 2:30PM. Admission will be $2.00 per adult and $1.00 per child (does not apply to players and coaches)”.

**Valentine’s Day Class Parties** - Charina Schott

* Drop off party this Friday, coordinate with the teacher.

**Calendar Raffle** – Laura Evangelist, Mary Spink

* Raffles due back by February 28th, start pulling March 2nd.

**Small World Day** – Fareeda Ehtesham, Michelle Lopez

* Have 8 countries represented. All children will receive a passport.

**Brookdale on Broadway** - Noel Gatts

* Going well, currently have 53 kids. Free show on April 3rd.

**Read Across America Breakfast** - Ms. Luca

* All activities will be in Virtual Backpack tomorrow.

**Jump Rope for Heart** - Salli Sochko

* 3rd - 5th graders participate, March 3rd at 1:30 in the gym.

**Book Fair** - Megan Wilt, Melanie Bitecola reported

* Ms. Luca met with Scholastic. Kicks off the week of March 16th, looking to purchase more books and less “junk” items.

**Tricky Tray** - Alyssa Belmonte & Nadine Knapp

* Student donation competition is underway. Ticket sales are open. March 6th is early bird deadline. Please check out the Tricky Tray Facebook page, trivia every friday. Basket day is March 14. Tricky Tray donations should all in by the end of the month. Need basket transport volunteers.

**STEAM** - Meghan Nance, Armine Gallagher

* Astronomy Night **-** Late September Early October, where the day is shorter and can see more planets. Finalizing dates.
* STEAM Night, June 11th. Number Drummer in the Fall and looking to do the Shakespeare assembly again. Montclair Film Festival reached out to the committee to see if Brookdale would like to participate again in the movie poster design that will be displayed around town. This is an attempt to gear up for the May festival. The children loved seeing their art work around the community.

**Brookdale in the Bronx (NY Yankees)** – Alyssa Heede

* Saturday, April 26, 1:05 pm VS. the Indians. Deadline for tickets is February 14th.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Ms. Barton and the Board are collaborating on the school gift for 2019/2020 school year.
* The Board reviewed the “pre-owned Spiritwear swap” vs. selling and voted to have this be a parent to parent initiative without the school or HSA’s involvement. The HSA can encourage parents to swap their Spiritwear, but we will not be involved.
* Going forward with HSA Meetings, we are going to try and be as ecologically responsible as possible by using less paper. All HSA related documentation going forward will now be posted on the HSA site instead of distributed at our meetings.
* Aside from new board members, the HSA will also be seeking a tech savvy individual to become our official webmaster in May 2020. If you’re interested, please see Rafael or reach out to anyone on the board.

**OTHER BUSINESS**:

* Looking to reduce programming next year. Also, possibly have a “media person” to do fliers and marketing for programming.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

* 2/14/20: Valentine’s Day Class Parties
* 2/28/20: Small World Day
* 3/5/20: Read Across America Breakfast
* 3/11/20: HSA Meeting, 7pm
* 3/13/20-3/20/20: Book Fair
* 3/17/20: Green Bagel Day
* 3/26/20: Tricky Tray
* 4/1/20: Spiritwear sale begins
* 4/7/20: Spring Concert

**THANK YOU…**

Nadine Knapp, Wendy Rickman, Jenn Harvey, Zeke Harvey, Janet Treadaway, Salli Sochko, Danielle Kepler, Charina Schott, Ms. Luca, Megan Wilt, Melanie Bitecola, Alyssa Heede, Noel Gatts, Justin Misurell, Laurie Orosz, Laura Evangelista, Mary Spink, Michelle Lopez, Fareeda Ehtesham, Armine Gallagher, Meghan Nance, Mikiko Ruiz and all of our Class Parents.

The HSA Board would like to take this moment to acknowledge our wonderful volunteer parents for putting in the time to help make our programming happen. Without you, it wouldn’t be possible. We are sincerely grateful! Thank you!

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned 8:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Pinales

HSA Board secretary