



**Brookdale Home and School Association**  
**Board Minutes**  
**March 11, 2020**

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The Brookdale Home and School Association was called to order at 7:06 p.m. The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

Board members in attendance were:

President - Rafael Jimenez

Distributing Treasurer - Melanie Bitecola

Secretary – Amanda Pinales

Membership Engagement – Noel Gatts

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

- Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for heart - Thanks to the parents for their donations.
- Small World Day was fabulous.
- Thank you to the Student Council for running the drive for the animal shelter.
- Thanks in advance for Green Bagel Day. Kids look forward to it.

**Principal's Report** – Ms. Barton

- Read Across America Week - staff and students really enjoyed the diversity theme. Thank you to Ms. Luca and the teacher committee for all of your ideas. Thanks to the HSA for the breakfast. Maschio's provided all the breakfast food. Book tasting was a success. A week of guest and parents readers.
- Second set of Mindfulness visits from Core Yoga, the theme this week was gratitude.
- Small World Day was fantastic, very organized.
- World Down Syndrome Day - March 20th is mismatched sock day to support the W.D.S.D.
- Second trimester ends Friday, report cards come out March 20th.
- Security cameras are being installed in the hallway, doors, and blacktop. Mr. Miller, Ms. Minneci, and Ms. Barton will have access and can view them. YMCA does not have access to the cameras. Review permit with YMCA, review procedures.
- Alyssa's Law panic button has been greenlighted, the project will move forward.
- Hoops for Heart and Jump Rope for Heart was a success.
- Town Wide Music Festival - March 31st, 6th grade instrumentalists perform at Bloomfield High School.
- Brookdale is now on Instagram.
- Coronavirus updates are coming from the superintendent. Updates on the website. A coronavirus task force was convened by the superintendent to discuss aspects, scenarios and strategies as we approach the Coronavirus situation.
- Brookdale has extensive cleaning and sanitizing procedures. Custodial staff are taking extra care especially our night crew. Paying attention to high traffic services such as the doorknobs, desktops and telephones.

- Hand sanitizing dispensers to be installed in every room.
- Hand washing procedures are being enforced.
- The district is in the process of finalizing their learning plans as directed by the DOE. In the event of a health department mandated closing, K-5th grades are putting a plan in place to work remotely, digitally. No new learning will be going on. Online components like Google classroom, teacher websites and Newsela will be used. More reinforcement, less learning.
- Use the district website for up to date information.
- Reinforce good hygiene at home. Keep children at home if sick.
- Lunch tables are being sprayed and wiped between shifts.
- Blacktop only recess because the grass is very muddy and sinks.
- Kids were surveyed on technology accessibility.
- The safety drill notification letter's intent is to inform parents that there was a safety drill performed at the school in the case that a parent wanted to have a discussion with their child at home about it.

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

**Treasurer's Report** – Melanie Bitecola reported. Presented on a powerpoint slide. Noted that the holding date will be corrected to February 1st.

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

- Coronavirus task force convened by Superintendent.
- District is following protocol from the CDC, NJ dept of Education and Health Department.
- Google suite, power school, student portal will all be used for remote learning.
- If there is a mandated closure, refer to the district website.
- Protocols such as group handwashing are being enforced in the classroom.
- Installing hand sanitizer stations in the classrooms.
- March 18th is a special BOE meeting where the budget will be presented. Preliminary budget will then be sent to the county, then a public hearing will be May 5th.
- The BOE is a strong supporter of the Bloomfield Census 2020.
- Town Wide concert is coming up, be aware of the possibility of cancellation.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:**

**Election Committee** - Janet Treadaway, Salli Sochko & Danielle Kepler, Rafael Jimenez reported Will provide a full description of all the board positions shortly. Preparing for the upcoming election.

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

- Scheduled to open after spring break. 6 week program, 6-7 classes offered.

**Basketball** – Jenn Harvey & Zeke Harvey, Jenn Harvey reported

- Season is winding down. Planning an end-of-season awards party March 27th for coaches, the players and their families. Teams represented Brookdale very well.

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

- 1,034 tickets sold. Top sellers, 3rd to 1st place: Amelia Puleo (sold 60 tickets), Andrew Wallace (sold 101 tickets), Jasmine Caylor (sold 205 tickets). Fourth grade won the pizza party. Approximately \$5,500 in profit.

**Small World Day** – Fareeda Ehtesham, Michelle Lopez. Rafael Jimenez reported

- Featured in the Essex News Daily. Very successful event.

**Read Across America Breakfast** - Statement from Ms. Luca, presented by Rafael Jimenez

"The week was really successful! The classes and students participated in different activities every day that encouraged students to look forward to reading. This was the first year that we used Diversity and Diverse books as the theme, in addition to some of the Dr. Seuss activities that teachers have used in past years. One of the best parts of the week for me was that a lot of classroom teachers took the opportunity to invite their students' family members into the classroom to read diverse books. Those visits were really special! We also had a lot of visitors from the community (fire department, police department), Central Office, and our retired teachers (Mrs. Maturri, Mrs. Rizzo, and Mrs. Scott). The staff and students really enjoyed the Book Tasting and I think we will have other events like it towards the end of this year (summer reading) and into next year. This was also the first year that we used our food service provided, Mashio's for the Family Breakfast. Everyone seemed happy with that choice and we had even more families attend than in past years! Also, thanks to all the families that participated by helping their kids come dressed in the theme of the day."

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

- New payment option, E-wallet. Will receive a link about this. Parents will create an account that holds your credit card, and you can create a maximum amount to charge. Will post on the HSA website. Please send cash in a sealed envelope, labeled. Make all checks payable to Brookdale HSA. If school is cancelled, there will be online sales. If not, students need to use their own pencil when filling out forms and will enforce hand washing during the event. March 19th, family night, 6-7pm. Class parents will send out a link for online sales.

**Green Bagel Day** - Patricia Bailey

- All set. Has gluten free options.

**Montclair Film Festival Posters** - Armine Gallagher

- In the office, flyers are going out.

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

- Ticket sales are ongoing. Basket day is this Saturday. Student donation competition was a success, \$2,000 total in student donations. Need set-up volunteers for 9:30 AM. Concerned about low ticket sales. All schools are in conversation about group events in relation to the coronavirus. Still working through the logistics of cancelling, rescheduling or continuing on with the event.

**Brookdale on Broadway** - Noel Gatts

- Prepared to postpone, if need be. Will update once we engage with our Yankees contact.

**Brookdale in the Bronx** - Alyssa Belmonte

- Sold 59 tickets, \$580 profit.

**STEAM, Astronomy Night** - Meghan Nance, Armine Gallagher

- September 23rd is Astrology Night. Flyer will go out next year, first week of school.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Ms. Barton and the Board are still collaborating on school gifting for the 2019/2020 school year. Most requested program from the teachers was to bring back the Mindfulness program. Headset sterilizers for K-2nd grader, sensory pads and wall stickers throughout the building.
- Create a gallery wall of old photos that were found.
- Figuring out the back field (more a future project/goal), who owns it and what are our options for usage.
- The board has voted and decided that we are going to proceed with our First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day the first weekend in May. More details to follow.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**3/13/20-3/20/20:** Book Fair

**3/17/20:** Green Bagel Day

**3/26/20:** Tricky Tray

**3/27/20:** HSA Basketball Awards Ceremony

**3/31/20:** Town wide student concert

**4/1/20:** Montclair Film Festival Poster Submission Deadline

**4/1/20:** Spiritwear sale begins

**4/2-4/3/20:** Brookdale On Broadway

**4/7/20:** Spring Concert

**4/8/20:** HSA Meeting

**4/25/20:** Brookdale in The Bronx

## **THANK YOU...**

To all of our wonderful volunteers: Salli Sochko, Danielle Kepler, Janet Treadaway, Fareeda Ehtesham, Noel Gatts, Justin Misurell, Laurie Orosz, Jenn Harvey, Mary Spink, Laura Evangelista, Michelle Lopez, Fareeda Ehtesham, Ms. Luca, Megan Wilt, Melanie Bitecola, Patricia Bailey, Armine Gallagher, Meghan Nance, Mikiko Ruiz, Nadine Knapp, Alyssa Belmonte, Jaclyn Boudidy and all of our Class Parents.

**Additionally, our Small World Day Volunteers who helped to make this event a success:** Yoly Martinez, Stacy Lyons, Aida Mota, Yadys Martinez, Jose Espejo, Fareeda Ehtesham, Preeti Arya, Jean Beeks, Maeve McVeigh, Meghan Nance, Victor Domine, Militza Diaz, Nigel Wood, Michael Gallagher, Jennifer Barros and Anna Beam.

A special shout out to our awesome **HSA Basketball Coaches & Volunteers:** Jimmy Polidoro, Joe Weber, Jody Polidoro, Zeke Harvey, Chris Schwindt, Fred Pace, Jenn Harvey, Michele Camacho, Katie Perrotta, Michelle Lopez, Mike Poth, Kelly Bisignano, Louis Gonzalez, Patricia Bailey, Russell Harris, John Sochko, Jeff Gulley, Kevin Sullivan, Joey Kuilan and Sue Jones.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned 8:28 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Pinales

HSA Board secretary