**Brookstone Parents Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 14, 2011**

**Present**

**Opening**

President Teresa Young opened the meeting at 11 a.m. on November 14, 2011.

**Minutes**

Minutes from the September 12, 2011, meeting were approved unanimously by the board without any corrections or additions (Motion – Jennifer Amos; Second – Patti Simkins).

**Treasurer’s Report**

Teresa Young reported that current BPA financial reports were available for review on the tables. She asked any questions be directed to Frank Bonner by email or phone.

**Committee Reports**

**Special Projects**

Jamie Lewis reviewed the process, guidelines and projects that were submitted and reviewed by the Special Projects Committee. The committee was able to approve all submitted projects totaling $54,620. The BPA board approved the projects as well. (Motion – Patti Simkins; Second – Jennifer Amos)

**Book Fair**

The Book Fair was successful. Part of the promotion was BPA board members emailing friends and alumni.

**Cougar Parent Pride**

Sherri McVay and Christy Jones continue to support all our athletic teams. They decided not to get the signs discussed in the last meeting due to the fact that it was unfeasible to support all sports. Winter sports teams will be recognized with a “treat or basket” starting November 14th week. The committee asked the BPA board to purchase plastic reusable cups made specifically for “fence art”. The cups come 50 to a sleeve and cost $9.00 per sleeve. They would need about 35 sleeves to start with at a cost of approximately $350 with tax and shipping. These could be used for all sports. Request was approved for the purchase of cups. (Motion – Patti; Second – Jamie Lewis)

**Literature Live**

Deborah Wiles was the guest speaker/author who provided three days of learning and teaching. Deborah will help find the author for next year. Kellie Alexander thanked the Book Fair Committee for the wonderful set-up for book signing and promotion.

**Magazine Drive**

Emily Trotter and Lauren Briscoe reported a successful magazine drive:

Total sales: $53,455.94

Internet sales: $37,355.00

45% to BPA: $24,055.17

Emily also reported that 7 classes had 100% participation and were getting a popcorn party, the dollar amount raised per upper school grade and the top student sellers school wide.

**Fine Arts**

Patti Simkins advised that the Arts Advisory Board consisting of faculty, administration and the BPA Fine Arts Chair had held the first meeting. One of their initiatives will be to sponsor various visiting artists next semester. Thirteen students competed in the GAISA competition. Here are upcoming special events (everyone is encouraged to attend):

Nutcracker Dance December 1, 2011 1 1st Assembly

Piano Recital December 7, 2011 7 pm

Evening with Fine Arts December 8, 2011 7 pm

**Service/Servant Leadership**

Jennifer Amos reviewed all the activities that had taken place to date. New this year was field trips to organizations coordinated by Cindy and Meghan. Their focus is to promote the reason behind service.

Cindy Sparks advised that the sophomore class raised $10,000. Cindy, what was this for? There are three alternative spring break trips based on providing service.

**School Reports**

Copies of school reports can be found at the end of these minutes.\*

**Administration**

**Advancement**

Catherine Trotter gave highlights from the survey on communication.

1. School announcements are posted on the website daily.
2. Brookstone received high marks on communication.
3. Grade chair letters from Middle School weekly are appreciated.

Cafeteria meals are getting positive feedback. New meat on sandwich line.

**Development**

Lisa White reported that GA Goal capped out at $50 million. There will be special recognition for Brookstone donors in the carpool line on November 30th and December 1st.

**New/Old Business**

Teresa Young reported that $2500 will be split between the school. Holly Kinnerly will be in charge of decorating committee. Brian Kinnerly stated that holiday trees are considered secular and will not have religious items on them. (Motion – Christy Jones; Second – Jamie Lewis)

Teresa also promoted a new initiative to Fill the Stands for at least one game/match for each sport.

**Headmaster’s Message**

* Food Task Force – They are looking at healthy options. There is a new employee to help with food availability for US students.
* Enrollment Task Force – This team, comprised of Board members, will focus on how to create more inquiries with the goal of getting them on campus. Once on campus, we are successful as indicated by our Open House.
* Uniforms – The Board has a committee headed by Steve Butler to review uniforms.
* Grade Specific Emails – The only downside to this is for families with multiple children in different grades.
* Strategic Planning – The Board is looking at what do we want to look like in 50 years? There will also be the creation of a Facilities Strategic Plan to address donors who want to give specifically to a facility (i.e., tennis courts); the school will have an answer and a Campus plan on the ready.
* Fundraising – They’re looking at how to do this without asking for money all year long.
* Brookstone Fund – This is tax deductible.
* Learning Center – This area will have increased staffing.
* Testing – Make sure that we’re aligned with curriculum. Sandi Smith’s role?
* Calendar – This Fall’s calendar seemed a little disjointed so we’re looking at clustering off days better. There will also be a master calendar.
* Rotating Class Schedule – Administration needs more time for communicating and training. Wednesday late start has had positive response. Program time is working well. Drop class needs tweaking.

**Adjournment**

Teresa Young adjourned the board meeting at 12:14 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Rashmi Hudson, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# \*Indicates Committee Report or other related information submitted and attached to official record of the Minutes.

**Intermediate School Report**

**October/November 2011**

**Highlights**

* **10/3-10/7** IS started the month of October with “Make a Difference” week of service.

**4th grade** became the “Brookstone Green Team”. Each class traveled to area charities to plant pansies and spread pine straw. The locations were Open Door, Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home and the Easter Seals Respite Home. They also cleaned up an area near the football field by collecting plastic bottles and trash to be recycled.

* **5th grade** collected children’s clothing for the Sara Spano Clothing Bank and visited the center to see firsthand the service this organization provides for our community. They then traveled to Fox Elementary to read to the Kindergarten students at Fox.
* **10/14** The 4th and 5th grade students in Mrs. Hearn’s 1st quarter music class presented a musical drama called “Joust”. Following the production the entire 4th grade presented their focus character trait RESPONSIBILITY for all LS/IS students.
* **10/18** Week of Service Reflection Assembly all LS/IS students.
* **11/4** 4th grade trip to Westville.
* **11/7-9** Literature Live with visiting author Deborah Wiles and the Book Fair in US Library.

**Dates to Remember**

* **11/16** Hat Day: $1.00 donation for students and teachers to wear hats to school. All money will go to all those that take such good care of our kids….cafeteria workers, maintenance, etc. for a holiday fund.
* **11/18** Midterm – 2nd quarter
* **11/21-25** Thanksgiving Break
* **12/9** 4th-5th grade 2nd quarter music class production.
* **12/16** Early dismissal for Christmas Break.

**Brookstone Middle School**

**Board Report**

**November 1, 2011**

* The first term of the 2011-2012 year has been very busy!
* September 15 – We had a wonderful turnout (parents of about 75% of student body) for **Classroom Visitation** night.
* September 20 – Brian Hicks talked to the MS student body, 7th grade boys, and 8th grade boys on the topic of “Astound Yourself”. His motivational talks were based on Thomas Edison’s quote, **“If we all did the things we are capable of doing,** we would literally astound ourselves.” Ken Henson has organized a group of men to mentor 7th and 8th grade boys. They have met in small groups twice this year: once to follow up on Brian Hick’s talk and another time to focus on calendars and goal setting. We appreciate their efforts with our middle school boys.
* Homecoming activities included a **Crazy Blue/White Day** with Musical Chairs on the quad on Friday afternoon.
* Kenneth Hoats is meeting with each homeroom to discuss **“Living Above the Line”.**
* The **MS football team** made it to the first round of playoffs. Thanks to Coach Vince Massey, Jimmy Thompson, and Jon Terrell for a great season! Kudos to Nicole Farley and Mitzi Gaynor for doing a great job with the **cheerleaders**.
* The **MS softball team** has completed a successful, winning season.
* The **MS cross country team** had a good season. They’ve won first place at two meets.
* MS students have performed in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade **plays**, 6th and 7th **band** performance, and **choral** and **piano** assemblies.
* The middle school students are enjoying the newly formed **Writing Fellows** group who work with Anna Flournoy. Anna and her fellows presented their program at a middle school assembly.
* Mrs. Laura Weisenreder resigned from the 6th/ 7th grade science position due to an on-going illness. **Mrs. Becky Kenimer** has accepted our offer to fill this position for the school year as an interim teacher.
* The **Beta Club** raised over $3,100 during their fall project which benefited the Alzheimer’s Association. Erin McClure did a great job with this project.
* The **8th grade outdoor education trip** was October 25-28 in North Carolina. Adventure Treks is led their adventure. The 59 students who went on this trip had a great time of building relationships, working together, solving problems, and learning about the outdoors.
* The **7th grade field trip** to Savannah was Oct. 26-28. Students See Savannah did a wonderful job planning an educational, yet fun-filled trip for our 54 students.
* 8th graders participated with the US students in taking the **PSAT** on October 12.
* **Grade Chairs** are continuing their conferences with parents of every student in their grade. We hear wonderful feedback from this interaction.
* Middle School students are looking forward to their **writing workshops** with our guest author during Literature Live.
* **A huge thanks** to the moms who stay to **serve ice cream** to our MS students! Even though they would like to help themselves, the cleaning folks appreciate the help!
* **Term 1 Honor Roll and Headmaster’s List** recipients were recognized with break snacks on Friday, Nov. 4. Thanks to Jeanne Hasty for organizing!
* **8th Grade speeches** began Tuesday, Nov. 8. A schedule can be found on the MS announcement page.

**Upper School BPA Board Report**

**November 2011**

* Congratulations to the following students for being inducted into the Cum Laude society on October 6th.
  + George Adams
  + Hendley Badcock
  + Laura Butler
  + Abby Kamensky
  + Brooks Land
  + Joo-Yeok Lee
  + Nick Lee
  + Henssey Ngo
  + Kate Thorne
  + Manal Zafar

Cum Laude, an organization modeled after Phi Beta Kappa, recognizes excellence in academics at the high school level. Brookstone Alum Ms. Katie Kimbrell, class of 2002, was the speaker for the event. Special thanks to Mr. Peter Parisi and Mrs. Shelley Wisely for organizing the assembly. Junior Avery Hudson played the piano both before and after the program.

* Below are the focuses for the Tuesday advisory meetings:
  + Freshmen: Upper School life (including study skills)
  + Sophomores: Character
  + Juniors: SAT prep
  + Seniors: College application process
* 2011 Homecoming Week (Sept. 19-24) was a huge success.
  + The junior class won the award for best decorated hallway (back after being gone for a few years).
  + The senior class won the overall award for spirit events throughout the week.
  + Only a tiny bit of paint
  + The Homecoming dance on the Quad was very well attended on Saturday night.
* Kathelen and Dan Amos addressed the Upper School during a Monday assembly on September 26th. Their topic was service and giving back to the community.
* There will be four trips for the students this year led by faculty members:
  + Cindy Sparks and Dee Dee Branham will be leading a trip to the Florida Keys (spring break)
  + Katie Sears and Magda Doyle will be leading a trip to France and Spain (spring break).
  + Billy Byrd and Anna Flournoy will be taking a group to Oxford, England (spring break).
  + Lisa Keller will be leading a trip to Costa Rica (June)
* Brookstone was the 2011 overall champion of the Gordon College Academic Contest. Sam Hatcher was the overall College Bowl winner. The following students had individual and team victories:
* Social Sciences - 1st Sam Hatcher, 2nd Andrew Dreelin, 1st place Social Science team with Sam, Andrew and Kate Thorne
* Math - 2nd Nick Lee
* 1st place Math team – Nick Lee, Bryan Lee and Hanseul Jang
* Science - 2nd Henssey Ngo
* 1st place Science team with Henssey Ngo, Joo-Yeok Lee and Joanna Leger
* Humanities - 3rd Abby Kamensky
* 1st place Humanities team – Abby Kamenky, James Graham and Laura Butler
* Vocal competition - 2nd Andrew Hearn
* Creative Writing - Prose 2nd Manal Zafar
* Poetry - 3rd Amanda Snell
* Congratulations to the entire cast of the one act play *This is a Test.* The play won for the region championship. The one act placed 5th at the state competition. Andrew Dreelin and Bill Flowers were named to the all-state cast.
* The upper school kicked off the “Talk About It” program on Thursday, October 27th during program time. “Talk About It” is a program that allows students to contact electronically a faculty member of their choice to address concerns in a safe and comfortable manner regarding such issues as emotional problems or drugs and alcohol.
* The sophomore class raised over $10,000 at this year’s Fall Festival.
* Below are some teachers who have gone above and beyond:
  + Magda Doyle did a fantastic job organizing the Hispanic Heritage Celebration Day on September 29th.
  + Cynthia Lingo took a big group of students to Fox elementary to show a classroom how to use a microscope.
  + Jacob Crowder and his Cougar Live group continue to get rave reviews from the Brookstone community for their broadcasting of sporting events across the globe.
  + Butch Chappelle is leading the effort for Habitat for Humanity again this year. The school will be working most Saturdays during October and November. Dr. Jim East is helping as well.
  + Jimmy Thompson, with help from Jon Terrell, continues to provide activities for the students on “Fun Fridays” during break and program time.
  + Pam Shuler did a wonderful job organizing the Fall Festival which was held Friday, October 28th.
  + Robert Mullinax has gained many compliments for his efforts with the band which are obvious during pep rallies and halftime at games.
  + The four Upper School Grade Chairs continue to do a good job in working with the students in their respective grades.