

Minutes for the Darby PTO Meeting – November 13, 2007

Meeting Attendees: *Officers:* Christine Jeffay, President; Sharon Glassner, Vice-President; Leslie VanLaningham, Treasurer; Cindy Contizano, Secretary *Members:* Julie Bickle, Joni Carle, Cathy Daniel, Pam Moser, Madeleine Nikolaus, Karen Norval, Nancy Strohl, Assistant Principal Dawn Sayre and Principal Dave Stewart

Our meeting opened with a wonderful explanation by Debi Snyder of all the academic classes offered through the **Tolles Technical School**. The Sophomore Class is invited to an Open House to view two programs on December 6th. They need a signed permission slip to attend. The school also offers many customer service opportunities to the community in the areas of automotive, cosmetology, culinary skills and animal care. Check it all out at their website www.tollestech.com.

Melissa Abood, from our Guidance Offices, explained the responsibilities of the 6 school counselors and listed the 5 support groups currently meeting at Darby: Divorce/Separation, Grief/Loss, Substance Abuse, Study Skills and Anger Management. They list many resources for students and parents alike each month in the Darby Messenger. Be sure to check it out!

Joe Palazzo, also from Guidance, discussed with us the packet he had prepared about career choices, testing, college opportunities and financial aid. Check the Darby Website under the Guidance tab for much more information.

Secretary's Report:

Changes were made prior to the meeting to reflect corrected "Meet the Candidates" information and the accurate Cookie Day Date. Minutes were reviewed and Cathy Daniel motioned to accept them without any changes and Julie Bickle seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

Leslie VanLaningham reviewed the attached report. Motion to approve the report was made by Cathy Daniel and seconded by Karen Norval.

Thanks to Christine Morgan and North American Companies for Life and Health for donating 35 laser ink cartridges. We are "estimating" it will add around \$50 to our overall budget! If you know a business who could recycle their cartridges with us, please let us know.

Principal's Report:

Parent/Teacher Conferences are this Thursday evening from 3pm – 9pm. Email or call your student's teachers to set up your conference times.

Next Fresh Start Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 26 in the Performing Arts Center at 7pm. Officer Hyda Slone from the Hilliard Police Department will be our guest speaker for this very important topic of Internet Safety, including Facebook and My Space guidelines. Officer Slone will offer tips on how to protect yourself and your family from Cybercrime. All parents are welcome! Fresh Start will not meet in December. In January, Joe Palazzo will be talking to parents about careers and the college process.

Darby's Football Team continues to win and their next game is this Saturday at Upper Arlington against Dublin Coffman. If you purchase tickets at Darby this week they are \$6 and 20% goes to the school. At the gate tickets are \$8. Please note that the Darby Boys Basketball Schedule is changed each time the Football team attains another victory. GO PANTHERS!

A PTO member inquired about the policy regarding the presence of military recruiters at lunch periods. They are entitled by law to be able to visit students and their visiting schedules vary from once a month to once every 6 weeks. One suggestion was made to inform parents in the daily announcements of the visits from different branches of military so students and parents could better discuss the many options open after graduation.

Committee Reports:

Cookie Day – Madeleine reported she had another fantastic response for Cookie Day. The next cookie day is November 27th. Anyone who wants to participate need only to bake cookies – any amount and any kind – wrap them individually and send them to the school office the morning of the 27th. Feel free to come and help hand them out that afternoon from 11am to 1pm as well.

Greeters – Christine Jeffay informed us on behalf of Tracey Bennett that Greeters have been hard at work welcoming visitors into our building, signing them in and directing them to where they need to be. We have decided not to greet 6th and 7th periods due to the amount of students coming and going for early release and after school activities. We felt these time slots would be better served by the teachers more knowledgeable about the student expectations for this time. There are still a few holes but she's confident someone will step up to fill them. If you're interested in volunteering in this way contact Tracey at mstlb63@aol.com.

ISPTO Report – Denise Ford attended the October meeting. The presentation for the evening was about school building safety. Dave and Buster's was the vendor and attendees learned about their many fundraising opportunities.

Spirit Nights – Erika Lamont has really got the ball rolling with our Spirit Nights. Our first one was held on November 5th at Just Pie Pizzeria. We made \$103! Way to go Darby Parents! Come join us at BW3's on Wednesday, December 12th for our next one. A coupon will be needed this evening so look for more details coming soon!

Hospitality – Christine Jacobs has magnificently assumed our chair position for this committee. She has already contacted everyone signed up to help with hospitality and received many responses of parents willing to bring food, set up, serve and clean up. If you'd still like to make yourself available to help with this important PTO responsibility contact Christine at Cgj0623@aol.com.

Adopt A Family – Cathy Daniels has already contacted our counselors about identifying families in need this year. They have given her one name but she hopes to receive a few more. Once the families are confirmed we will send out an email to all members informing them of ways they can help with this project.

Old Business:

A Big Thank You from our school nurse, Natalie Robison, for all the donated individually sized drinks. She has plenty now to last her awhile. Thanks again PTO members!

Email Requests and Responses – In the last month our e-news membership recommended sending cards, meals or a gift to the student who was hit by a car on the way to school and to the student diagnosed with MRSA. After speaking with Mr. Stewart, the student with MRSA is fine and has been back in school awhile. A card was delivered to the office to be sent home with the student hit by the car with their homework. Secondly, it was also recommended that we show our support in some tangible way for our football team who is performing so well. After discussing several options and talking with the athletic department, the board decided on having an announcement read during the first playoff game held in Darby stadium that congratulated the football players, coaches and staff on their outstanding season and wished them continued success in the playoffs.

New Business:

Hilliard Education Foundation has requested a donation of \$250. We have contributed only \$50 the past few years. The foundation has granted more than \$9,600 in funds to projects within Darby High School over the last year. Please check out more information on their website www.hilliardeducationfoundation.org. This item is tabled until our January meeting.

Office Assistance is needed collating, stapling and labeling the Messenger Newsletter. The time frame will depend on when the newsletter comes back from the printer each month. Please look for an email informing when the office is ready for volunteers if you would like to support our secretaries in this way.

Book Fair Donations have been requested to help students who wish to purchase books but cannot due to their financial situation. Karen Norval motioned to allow the officers to decide the amount based on more information to follow and Julie Bickle seconded. Officers approved supporting 10 of the 70 kids identified with the recommended \$15 donation to each for a total of a \$150.

There will be no meeting in December. We will meet again January 15th in the Media Center at 9:30am. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Julie Bickle and seconded by Madeleine Nikolaus at 11:20am.

Know someone who would like to be informed about PTO happenings?? Invite them to visit our PTO website and sign up for our newsletter! We welcome any questions, suggestions or concerns you would like to share. Email them to connectwithcindy@columbus.rr.com and we'll do the best we can at getting them answered.