

MINUTES

The Hilliard Darby PTO met on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at the Hilliard Darby Media Center, Hilliard, Ohio. President Karen Norval called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

Members Present: *Officers:* PTO President Karen Norval, President-elect Jodi Ransom, Secretary Laurie Nelson, Treasurer Debbie Lomax. *Members:* Natalie Alter, Joni Carle, Cathy Daniel, Kathy Prosser, Julie Sislowski, Leslie VanLaningham

Staff Present: Principal Ryan McClure

Guests Present: Mary Bertholf, Media Center

President Karen Norval welcomed everyone to the meeting. Appropriate introductions were made.

Mary Bertholf –Media Center

Media Specialist Mary Bertholf started in 1997 when Darby first opened its doors. Mary distributed a research database handout that you can access on the home page of the Media Center website. She explained that the Media Center is much more than checking books in and out of the library. She must learn the personalities of the student body and staff in order to provide them with the materials they need.

Darby implemented a book club for teachers introducing young adult fiction to readers. These books are used in the classroom offering a variety of topics and books to the readers. In other words, it is a journal of self-discovery and problems they are experiencing. This allows the students to turn to books rather than friends for answers. It is Mary's hope to develop a body of readers to speak with the students. She would like to develop a "Book Club for Parents" to discuss the books.

Darby has a "Growing up Online" video that is owned by Frontline. They examine and talk to kids regarding behaviors, cyber bullying, self-expression, taking on different identities, etc. Many of the students have seen this video and have had an emotional response to it. Many parents are not aware of the video so parents can come with their kids to the media center and review it. You can also access the video at www.pbs.org.

To access the Media Center, go to the staff section of the Hilliard Darby website, click on Staff Web Pages and then click on Mary Bertholf. The home page contains useful information for parents and students.

The federal government has a website that offers a wealth of information regarding college planning. You can access it at www.students.gov. Another website designed specifically for teenagers is Teen Health and Wellness. You can access it at www.teenhealthandwellness.com.

Principal's Report – Ryan McClure

Principal McClure advised that the teacher's lounge is being converted into the on-line store that will be a part of the Business curriculum. The pre-engineering program is in its second level with 138 students currently enrolled in the program.

The Choir has had many requests for it to come out and perform. They had to turn down five to six of those requests due to exams. Mr. Montgomery will be invited to the next PTO meeting to discuss any concerns parents may have with their students missing class due to Choir performances. Parents are encouraged to email Principal McClure at ryan_mcclure@hboe.org with any questions or concerns.

Semester exams are finished up. Next year, there will be 380 incoming Freshman. There are currently 376 Freshman with a total head count of 1,619 students enrolled at Darby versus 2,355 students enrolled last year. There are more students signed up for AP & Honors classes and more parents showed up for Freshman orientation.

The Renaissance Program was discussed and questions were answered. A discussion ensued regarding summer homework for students taking AP & Honors classes. Mr. McClure mentioned parents will see more of the e-campus learning this summer as the students are seeing it as fun rather than homework.

President's Report – Karen Norval

Please remember the PTO's "clearinghouse" for used clothing and shoes. If you have any old clothing or shoes you would like to donate, the PTO would greatly appreciate your contributions. Just drop them off at the main office and indicate it is for the PTO "clearinghouse."

If you are interested in recycling your gently used tablecloths, please consider donating it to the PTO. We can use long, square, or round -- in cloth or plastic - and in any color or pattern! Please drop your donations off at the main office.

Secretary's Report – Laurie Nelson

Cathy Daniel made a motion to table the approval of the October 15, 2009 minutes to the January meeting. Leslie VanLaningham seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Debbie Lomax

There has been no activity since the last meeting. Reimbursement requests were dispersed today. There is usually no activity since the initial membership drive. There were a few flip-flop sales.

Jodi Ransom made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kathy Prosser seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Outreach – Cathy Daniel

We launched the Outreach Program due to the number of inquiries received regarding the Adopt-A-Family program. This is still a "work in progress." We will provide more information in the future. If you are interested in making a long-term commitment to this project, please contact Cathy Daniel at cdaniel5689@sbcglobal.net.

Hospitality – Joni Carle

The Parent/Teacher Conference is in February, and we will be preparing dinner for 130 teachers. If you are interested in assisting Joni with this project, please reply to this email.

Cookie Day – Jodi Ransom

Once again, Cookie Day was great! There should be no more conflicts concerning sales during Cookie Day. A "thank you" goes out to all of the parents who were so generous in volunteering their time and for baking those "yummy" cookies!

Cookie Day is the second Wednesday of each month, including May. It is an incredible time to build relationships with students. Anyone willing to volunteer their time passing out cookies and/or baking cookies is always welcome.

New Business:

After Prom – Jodi Ransom

The PTO continued its discussion regarding After Prom this year. Prom is on April 24, 2009 at the Makoy Center. Nancy Pratt and Brian Vogt are the Prom advisors. More information will be coming in the future.

Great Create – Karen Norval

Volunteerism has decreased so it is imperative that we have a commitment from volunteers to complete a project from beginning to end rather than discussing at the monthly meetings. The goal is to create a "spirit of longevity" when a leader has completed its term. Members present today stated their interest in volunteering with Prom, Cookie Day, and the Outreach Program.

Adjournment: Julie Sislowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joni Carle seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Nelson
PTO Secretary