

MINUTES

The Hilliard Darby PTO met on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at the Hilliard Darby Media Center, Hilliard, Ohio. President Karen Norval called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

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

Staff Present: Assistant Principal Dawn Sayre

Guests Present: Bobbi Mueller, Hilliard Education Foundation; Brett Miller, Math Department

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

Bobbi Mueller – Hilliard Education Foundation

Bobbi Mueller started the meeting with an overview of the Hilliard Education Foundation (“HEF”). The HEF distributes funding through grants for the benefit of the students, and it supports staff in developing new and innovative educational projects that would not be available through traditional school funding. Many of these become long-term projects in the school system. HEF also administers scholarships to seniors. For more information, visit the HEF website at www.hilliardeducationfoundation.com.

The grant awards process takes place in the spring and in the fall. April 1 is the application deadline for funds for the following school year. October 1 is the application deadline for funds available the current school year. Any staff member is eligible to apply. Darby staff is great at submitting grant applications; and to date, it has received \$17,000.00 in grants that has included smart boards for the mathematics department, and a telescope, that is not available at other schools, for the astronomy department.

Ms. Mueller thanked the PTO for its support through its donations to fundraising events and its involvement with HEF events. The HEF is able to provide this funding through the donations of PTOs, local businesses, community, and local fundraising events such as: Mardi Gras Masquerade, the annual Casino Night scheduled for March 6 at the Makoy Center from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40.00, and you must purchase in advance. To purchase tickets online, go to www.hilliardeducationfoundation.com.

The Evening for Excellence celebration is a formal fundraiser that has been in existence for 21 years. The ticket cost is \$125.00. The WOW! for Hilliard Schools Program gives back 3% to HEF for each new and current customer enrolled in two or three services.

The Friends of the Foundation is an annual giving membership program that provides support to the HEF grants program outside of fundraising events. In return, HEF offers members a number of recognition benefits, and community discounts as a way of saying thanks. Each sponsor receives two tickets to the event. To participate, submit an application online at the website listed above.

Brett Miller – Math Department

Brett Miller is the Department Head of Mathematics and Computer Sciences who teaches only seniors. Mr. Miller advised that the Math Club is new this year, and it currently has 41 members. It meets on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of each month at 2:45 p.m. in Room 104. The club members work on logic problems, mathematical tricks, etc. Darby is competing in the annual Ohio Math League Contest, and the top 100 students compete at Capital University. Younger students passionate about math or problem solving are encouraged to join this year!

In January, the Math Club held a skittles fundraiser. For \$.25, a student could guess the number of skittles in the jar. In March, it will be holding a math t-shirt fundraiser. The Pi Day celebration is March 14. Students will watch a movie or some type of event. Younger kids are encouraged to attend as most attendees are seniors.

Next year, there will be changes to the Math Curriculum. Freshman will take either Algebra 1, 2, or Geometry. They can also take Algebra 1 with Workshop, i.e. a student spends its Panther Period with a math instructor. It is for those struggling in algebra class and it builds student confidence. Since its inception, there have only been six out of 400 failures thus far. Incoming freshman will need four credits in Math, two credits in Algebra.

Geometry and Algebra Connections (GAC) 1 and (GAC) 2 are two new courses coming next year. GAC 1 is for students who struggled in Algebra I. The student would take this course and then further develop their skills in (GAC 2) the

following year. It is a traditional algebra and geometry course split over two years. After completion of these courses, the student will move to Algebra II their junior or senior year. Honors Algebra 2 is another new course, and it is the same as Algebra II with one or two additional topics. This will now become a more basic course of the main standards. ITA is now Algebra 3, and KAP is now AP Statistics. AP Statistics is designed for students majoring in life science, physical science, architecture, engineering, business, pre-med, or any other math-related field etc. KAP is grant funded. He stated a student does not have to be a good math student to be good in statistics. This will save a lot of money and time. It teaches one how to collect data and get numbers that are reasonable and helpful; and then in the later year, they find out what to do with the numbers they have collected. The PSEO course at Columbus State Community College is the same thing.

The Fresh Start Freshman Program is a new process this year, and all of the freshman math teachers have joined the freshman team. As a result, it reduced five classes to three with each teacher teaching two courses rather than five courses.

Assistant Principal's Report – Dawn Sayre

There is 68% of Freshman with a 3.0 or higher GPA. The math teachers help all students struggling with math not just those students in the Algebra with Workshop class. The Key Room is no longer functioning due to lack of staffing. Staff will try to bring this back to Darby next year. Kids are on their own during study hall unless a student has been assigned a tutor. Kids are assigned star tutors and the philosophy is “no one will fail” and it offers mentorship with an upper classmate.

More students are signing up for the Leadership Development Program. Leadership Development 2 is a college approved program and it entails students teaching the class. Erika Golden assigns the kids, and there are 40 students involved from the sophomore class. There are approximately 50 kids from the freshman class involved in some type of activity with Darby, including the Freshman Student Council, which is creating more leaders. It is recommended that kids “buddy up” and attend a club so it is less intimidating for the student.

Students will be taking the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) from March 8-12, 2010. A tutor is assigned to a student needing help with testing. The freshman are taking the second round of the reading test. This will track improvement from the first round of testing.

President's Report – Karen Norval

The School Nurse, Mary Hamm, is still in need of juice boxes and cracker donations for the students. If you are able to donate, please drop the items off at the main office labeled School Nurse. Any donations are appreciated.

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

Laurie will reconstruct the minutes of the January meeting, send them to the members, and add the approval of those minutes to the March agenda. She will also update the website by next week (so long as there are no more problems with the website), and post the link to the Outreach Fund.

Treasurer's Report – Debbie Lomax

There has not been much activity since the last meeting other than a \$25.00 donation to the Outreach Fund, and a Cookie Day expense of \$50.00. A discussion ensued regarding donating \$125.00 to the Hilliard Education Foundation rather than the normal \$250.00 donation due to the decrease of membership this year.

Jodi Ransom made a motion to donate \$125.00 to the Hilliard Education Foundation and to publicize the HEF on the Darby website. Cathy Daniel seconded it. Motion carried.

Jodi Ransom made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Leslie VanLaningham seconded it. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Outreach – Cathy Daniel

Natalie Robinson extended Mrs. Daniel an invitation to discuss the Outreach Program at the Hilliard Helps Gathering. It is on March 11, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Norwich Safety Building. Many programs for Hilliard families are at the event. Information on the programs are printed in a booklet to be distributed to everyone whom attends.

If you have any questions or if you would like to make a donation, please go to hilliarddarbypto.com and click on the Outreach Program.

Hospitality – Joni Carle

The Parent/Teacher Conferences took place on February 11, 2010. Volunteers served tacos and staff enjoyed them. The students who volunteered their time assisting with serving dinner will receive recognition for their time and efforts. Thank you!

Cookie Day – Jodi Ransom

Cookie Day was AWESOME in spite of the snow days, and we had a great assortment of cookies! Thank you to all of the parents who were so generous in volunteering their time and for baking those wonderful cookies.

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

New Business:

Hilliard Prom Dress Boutique – Leslie VanLaningham

The Hilliard High School PTOs will be collecting clean, stylish, gently-used prom dresses, shoes, and handbags to use for the first ever Hilliard Prom Dress Boutique. Information regarding this event went out by a district-wide e-blast as well as in the daily announcement. Drop off locations are on Friday, February 19, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Hilliard Davidson High School; Saturday, February 20, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Hilliard Darby High School; Friday, February 26, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Hilliard Bradley High School; and Saturday, February 27, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Hilliard Darby High School. We anticipate needing approximately 100 dresses. Fairy God Mothers will receive any leftover prom donations.

The actual event is Saturday, March 6, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Hilliard Darby High School, and is only available to junior and senior students in the Hilliard community. Students must show their student I.D.

Great Create – Prom - Karen Norval

The PTOs will be responsible for pre-Prom and post-Prom. There will be an invitation sent out soon for a meeting next Thursday morning and Thursday evening to see what is happening with Prom. This will be the only meeting offered to be a part of Prom. Post-Prom will be at the school. Prom is on April 24, 2009 at the Makoy Center. Nancy Pratt and Brian Vogt are the Prom advisors.

Adjournment: Leslie VanLaningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Debbie Lomax seconded it. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Nelson
PTO Secretary