

MINUTES

The Hilliard Darby PTO met on Thursday, September 17, 2009 at the Hilliard Darby Media Center, Hilliard, Ohio. President Karen Norval called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members Present: *Officers:* PTO President Karen Norval, President-elect Jodi Ransom, Secretary Laurie Nelson, Treasurer Debbie Lomax. *Members:* Ginny Adams, Joni Carle, Cindy Contizano, Cathy Daniel, Jerri DelRiesgo, Christine Jacobs, Christine Jeffay, Jessie Kapoor, Margaret Martin, Leslie VanLaningham.

Staff Present: Assistant Principal Dawn Sayre at 9:00 a.m. and Principal Ryan McClure at 7:00 p.m.

Guests Present: John Riegel, High School Orchestras

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

John Riegel – Performing Arts Department

John Riegel started the meeting with an overview of the Performing Arts Department. He mentioned that there have been several students selected for honor groups such as Region Orchestra, All-State Band, Orchestra and Choir and others. Some students have even furthered their careers at Tanglewood, Interlochen, Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp, and other prestigious national and international programs. The growth of enrollment has outpaced growth in school population. Upcoming events are the Choir Fall Concert at Der Dutchman on October 5 and 6 at 6:00 p.m., and the Darby & Heritage Orchestras Spaghetti Dinner at Heritage Middle School on October 13 at 6:00 p.m. For more information on the Performing Arts Department, go to www.darbytheatre.com or click on the theatre link on the Hilliard Darby website.

Principal and Assistant Principal's Report – Ryan McClure & Dawn Sayre

There are 1,610 students enrolled at Darby and 112 staff employees. There were 2,300 students enrolled last year. Darby continues to see enrollment from Southwestern and from individuals who were transferred from out-of-state. Both seem to be equally distributed. There have been 100 enrollments since the start of school, and there could be additional enrollment in the winter depending on the results of the November levy.

Scott Dietrich is currently teaching the Pre-Engineering Program and there are 190 students enrolled. The PTO has been invited to visit the program.

MAP testing is taking place this week. There will be an individual assessment of each freshmen student that links reading grade level and exile ranges. MAP testing will ensure all students are reading books at their grade level, identify those needing intervention, and increase the passage rates on the OGT. The goal is to catch problems early and to show continued growth throughout the testing. Goals sheets will be prepared for each student and result reports will come home to the families the first week of October. The students will be retested in the spring to assess improvements. Parents can also take the test, if they wish to do so.

L.E.A.P. 9 is another available resource for incoming freshmen who have been identified by OAT performance, MAP data, and/or teacher recommendation. Assistant Principal Dawn Sayre and Guidance Counselor Eric Cable are both working with the kids on their individual goals.

There will be a two-hour late start on October 23 for teacher professional development. For information on the bell schedule, visit <http://www.hilliardschools.org/dby/news/48lateschedule.asp>

Chad Schulte is the new Athletic Director. The Darby/Bradley football game is September 25 at Darby. Both bands will be performing the National Anthem.

The announcement machine is currently non-functioning; therefore, parents should share the E-news emails with their children. The students will notify us when it is re-functioning.

There was discussion about President Obama's speech. There were six students who chose not to watch it. Principal Ryan McClure is looking into some parents' concern that not all students were afforded the same opportunity of those that were able to watch the speech.

Next year, the Open House will be held at a later time to accommodate those parents with children in multiple schools.

Details were discussed about the implementation of a one-hour casual dance at the tennis courts after the football games that would be sponsored by the PTO. More information will be coming in the near future.

President's Report – Karen Norval

The PTO is experimenting with the a.m. and p.m. meeting times to allow all individuals (including staff) an opportunity to attend the meetings. The November PTO meeting is the same evening as the Parent/Teacher Conference. This will be a great opportunity for all parents to stop by the Media Center to meet and interact with the PTO. The PTO will be offering daycare at a cost of \$1.00 per child! More information will be coming in the near future.

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

The May 12, 2009 minutes were distributed and reviewed. Jodi Ransom made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Cathy Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Debbie Lomax

The 2009-2010 proposed budget was distributed and reviewed. Discussion ensued and questions were answered. The beginning balance is \$3,475.75. Leslie VanLaningham made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Christine Jeffrey seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Outreach – Cathy Daniel

A letter was presented to the PTO regarding the creation of a "benevolent fund" for families in need. The PTO will be having continued discussion of this subject and will report back to the membership once the plans have been finalized. Bradley High School currently has a fund in place.

The PTO is also developing a "clearinghouse" for used clothing and shoes for those in need. This will help the students, and it will offer support to the teachers. If you have any old clothing or shoes you would like to donate, the PTO would greatly appreciate your contributions.

Officer Nominations:

Christine Jeffrey made a motion to nominate Jodi Ransom as President-elect, Laurie Nelson as Secretary, and Debbie Lomax as Treasurer. Jerri DelRiesgo seconded. Motion carried.

Hospitality – Joni Carle

The convocation luncheon was a great success. The teachers were thrilled and showed their appreciation by forwarding a "thank you" card to the PTO that was much appreciated!

Christine Jacobs volunteered to be a member of the Hospitality Committee.

Cookie Day – Jodi Ransom

Jodi Ransom reported that the first Cookie Day of the year was also a great success. A "thank you" goes out to all of the parents who were so generous in volunteering their time and baking those wonderful cookies. We had the largest number of parents participating since its inception. Cookie Day is held on the second Wednesday of each month, including December and May. Anyone willing to volunteer their time passing out cookies and/or baking cookies is always welcome. The cookies are free and more signage will be posted to assist those who were unable to locate the tables. Look for a special surprise at Cookie Day in October!

New Business:

After Prom – Jodi Ransom

The PTO is coordinating the After Prom this year with the assistance of staff. Leslie VanLaningham volunteered to assist Jodi with this project. Jodi is currently working with Junior Class Advisor Nancy Pratt. Details were shared with Principal McClure and more information will be coming in the future.

Flu Prevention – Karen Norval

The PTO is asking for antibacterial gel and sanitizers in an attempt to reduce the spreading of the flu virus. Any and all sizes are appreciated! Donations can be dropped off at the main office. It is the PTO's goal to have a bottle of sanitizer by each computer and to have dispensers placed throughout the school building. This is a work in progress and updates will be provided in the future.

Great Create – Karen Norval

Karen described the “great create” as time that will be taken at each meeting to brainstorm ideas and to answer any questions and discuss issues at school or parent concerns. The idea is to “create responses rather than react to responses”.

Adjournment: Christine Jeffey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Margaret Martin seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Nelson
PTO Secretary