

## HINSDALE CENTRAL PTO MEETING – Monday, September 15, 2008

### Meeting Called to Order at 8:54

Welcome by Mary Buddig, Co-President Special thank you to Barb Bencur and Kathy Andrews (Social) for supplying the treats and refreshments for the meeting.

**Secretary-** The May minutes were approved, with one change noted. Going forward the prior month's minutes will be posted on the PTO website the Thursday before each PTO meeting. PTO members are asked to read the minutes, and either e-mail comments or changes to the secretary. We will have only a few copies of the minutes at each meeting to pass around; this is the PTO's effort to go green.

### President – Darla Highley and Mary Buddig:

**Holiday Breakfast:** Passed around sheets for Holiday Breakfast. Need volunteers to serve, cook/donate food items, and to donate money to help fund breakfast. Send donations to Tina Anderson.

Tax Exempt forms are available to committees when purchasing goods for events.

Discussed PTO mission: making the lives of students and faculty better.

Recognition: A new Recognition Award will be awarded each month by PTO to acknowledge the volunteer efforts of 2 different PTO members. Prior month's award winners will pick new recipients and pass on unique statues which symbolize PTO's gratitude. August recipients (Laurie McMahon and Maria Pierce) passed on the statues to Donna Voneiff, for all her work on the Directory and to Joni Holinger, for her work on the PTO web site and on T.I.N. committee.

**Vice President -** Thank you notes received from Book Grant recipients, a few read to PTO.

**Treasurer** – discussed budget; Treasurer requested in writing the amount that every committee needs, so budget numbers are still estimated for this school year. \$1,394.18 is the amount transferred from the Reserve Account to Income in order to balance the Budget as of 6/30/08. (This was less than the projected amount of \$5,900) To date, 24 out of the 27 Book Grants awarded last May '08 have been funded (still waiting for the required proof of enrollment paperwork for the remaining 3). Noted that over the summer, the Executive Board voted to give an additional Book Grant to a former HCHS student, who just completed his freshman year in college; and an "Emergency Student Relief" Grant of \$600 to his brother, who is a HCHS senior this year. Their family had a catastrophic house fire last June. Budget was accepted.

**Book Grant** – Carol Wroble explained Book Grants (awarded since 1976). On average committee awards about 25, \$800 grants per year (although number has varied from 12-30). PTO budgets for 30 grants yearly. Last year Book Grant solicitation raised \$8,610, to date the amount is \$5,700, but anticipate more after the Directory comes out. (Donation page is in first page of the Directory this year, not in the middle. The hope is that this will encourage more donations) Applications, which are submitted through the Guidance office, are reviewed on a blind basis by the Committee. Grants are based on financial need. Discussed the fact that these students' names are announced at the Awards Ceremony in May, and that this is a conflict with the "blind" review process. Suggestion that a box be added to application that asks permission for the student's name to be announced. This has never been an issue; instead students are grateful and proud to have been chosen.

**Communications/E-mail** – Meg Cooper taking over from Darla. Will send out a short electronic newsletter each month later in the week of PTO meetings. Will have links to various websites. Send any news to Meg at [enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org](mailto:enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org) , and copy PTO Presidents.

**Directory** - Directories will be ready to go to print at end of week. Single largest PTO fundraiser, raising money from PTO dues, which includes one Directory, sale of additional Directories, and Directory advertisements. 1,298 signed up for the Directory, a 7% increase over last year's number, and revenue from directory sales will be up over \$4,000 this year as compared to last year. Process was streamlined online and using paypal. Will be mailed to homes in early October.

**Advertising** – Ad sales to date are \$13,000, as compared to \$4,800 last year. Will have ad pages in back of Directory, printed on colored paper to offset from rest of book. There will be a Table of Contents listing the advertisers in the front of the Directory. Ads will also be listed with a blurb about each advertiser in a link in the PTO website and each week one advertiser will be spotlighted on the PTO Home Page. These changes were great selling points during solicitation.

**Character Counts** – Laurita Panagoulas explained the club and the student involvement, and the Six Pillars of Character. HCHS's Club voted best in the nation.

**Freshman Parent Circle** – Committee started six years ago, and organizes gatherings for freshman parents, organized by their freshman child's alpha guidance department groups. Each gathering is hosted at a freshman family home, and is attended by the respective guidance counselor. This year's gatherings will in the evening of October 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Families Helping Families** – Last year Lisa Stafford formed this committee to assist the school's Social Work Department. This year Committee has given the Social Work Department \$400 worth of \$25 gift cards to help families in need buy grocery, gas, and other emergency supplies. They will raise money through various formats, such as soliciting and having collection drops for loose change in the cafeteria. Joni explained that the committee has many members this year, and they are open to ideas. Helped Dick Flescher fill trucks with water bottles and canned foods for the hurricane devastated areas.

**Website** – Joni explained that the website has 999 pages of capacity; and she can put up one page for every group.

**Make A Difference:** Laurita explained what this committee does as Marcy Innocenti was not able to be here. Reported that the committee recognizes teachers and staff who make a difference at HC. They are nominated anonymously by other students, teachers and staff. The nomination forms are reviewed and voted on by the Committee. Awards are handed out quarterly, and each recipient receives a \$50 Lettuce Entertain You gift card and a certificate. Nomination forms are on PTO website, and can be e-mailed to Guidance Office; hard copies can be found in the Guidance or English departments. Oct 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for nominations for this quarter.

**PEP – Parents Empowering Parents** – Annette McClain working with Nick Wahl to set up programs. D-86 BOE pays for the speakers. Topics will be posted on website when lined up.

**Programming** – “Conversations with Mr. Pobst”, topic today: Things that might surprise you in the college planning process. Tools used in planning for college. In the next month or so these conversations will be filmed and available to view on Central's website.

**Publicity** - No report.

**Reading Rocks** – Vicki Bush-Joseph gave the history of this committee that was started by Charmaine Crane. Held two events last year; looking for more ideas for this year. Considering

picking a book that the whole school can read, bringing in a speaker, or book discussion groups.

**Safety & Bylaws** - Janet Sabine Parry explained the committee and the safety concerns (such as drop-off/pick-up procedures, parking) they have looked into; they make recommendations about safety issues to Mr. Pobst. Meet four times per year. Concern about who is parking on small road to east of school by field and Administration Building. Referenced site, [www.Ikeepsafe.org](http://www.Ikeepsafe.org) Send recommendations or concerns to Janet.

**School Board Liaison** - Sue Pircon explained that the D-86 Board approved a \$4 million bond for astro turf. If you have an opinion on this issue, e-mail the BOE. Also explained that D-86 and D-181 are different districts, a fact that apparently many people are not aware. This is important to make clear especially when D-86, who has not had a referendum since 1968, does so.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade Coffee** - Held in the cafeteria in May for eighth grade parents. Very successful last year with about 240 families attending. Mr. Pobst, A.P's, Deans, Guidance, PTO and Boosters all represented.

**Social** – No Report. Thank them again for the food and refreshments for the meeting.

**Teacher Appreciation** – Have planned to do something special for the teachers each month during the school year (i.e.: had baskets of mints on each teacher's desk in Sept, Book Drive in Oct., and in Nov will have a pumpkin pie for each teacher).

**Holiday Breakfast** – Discussed by Presidents earlier. No report

**Volunteers** – Kay Gallo requested 20 volunteers for the Sophomore PLAN testing on Oct. 9.

**Class Representatives** – The parent representatives act like sounding board for senior and junior class boards. No reports

**Middle School Representatives** – Introduced all the reps. No reports.

**New Business** – Need a Book Month chair for the Directory (for next July/Aug) to help people sign up for the directory and to answer questions.

-Guidance Committee report will be presented to the public on September 29, 8:30 am.

-Administration is open to new ideas.

-Special Ed. changes are underway. More open communications with parents of Special Ed students. If you have an interest to work a Special Ed. Task Force, e-mail Educational Service Department. Note Special Ed. Resource page on school's website.

-PTO website has listing of all committees and chairs. If you have any ideas/comments, can contact the appropriate person.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.**

Respectfully,  
Maria Pierce, Secretary

## **HINSDALE CENTRAL PTO MEETING – Monday, October 20, 2008**

### **Meeting Called to Order at 8:56 A.M.**

Welcome by Mary Buddig, Co-President. Pam Blysmas, Assistant Principal, brought in the trophy that was presented to Hinsdale Central High School at a ceremony in Washington D.C. HC was presented with the National School of Character Award.

**Secretary-** The September, 2008 minutes were approved as written. Motion to approve by Carol Wroble, second by Laurita Panagoulis. (As a reminder, the prior month's minutes will be posted on the PTO website the Thursday before each PTO meeting. PTO members are asked to read the minutes, and either e-mail comments or changes to the secretary.)

### **President – Darla Highley and Mary Buddig:**

-Mary discussed the "Straight Talk" event that HC would be hosting on Wed. October 29, from 7:00 -9:00 pm. Patti Bellock and, Kirk Dillard will introduce the event and Chief Brad Bloom will also be there. 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents, the community and teachers and staff are all encouraged to attend. The purpose is to initiate open and honest dialogue in order to get a handle on teen drinking; the involvement that parents would like the school to have when dealing with students who are caught drinking either in or outside the school premise; and, how the Athletic and Activities Code should address this issue. Parents and students will break into smaller, separate groups that have facilitators to lead and focus the conversations. Mr. Pobst is making a big push through different clubs and sports to encourage student attendance.

-Mary noted that she and Darla will be meeting with Mary Parsons tomorrow to discuss how to make the transition for families who move into Central mid year an easier one. Ideas include having a sheet with contact names and number for different things that they may need help with: can leave this sheet the Guidance office. Give them a PTO Directory if there extras. Make sure the PTO has their contact info and e-mail addresses so we can forward information to them. The idea is to set up an Ambassador Program for Parents.

**Vice President** – Joanne acknowledged that Mr. Damian Marano (HC parent) donated 600 apples to the Teacher Appreciation Committee. Apples were presented to the teachers and staff as they entered the building on the last late start day. The teachers and staff were very touched by the gesture.

**Treasurer** – Nancy discussed parts of the budget. Income: Directory and dues number increased as a result of increased sales as did Advertising for the Directory; and, Holiday Breakfast is \$925 in the black as a result of funding the event with donations. Expenses: to date, all 27 Book Grants that were awarded last May '08 have been funded; the summer mailing cost was only \$695 as compared to \$4,000 last year due to the fact that PTO was able to send their materials with Central's materials; however, the PTO Directory postage cost is higher this year over last year, as the Directory was thicker and heavier, more were purchased, and the decision was made to use a different postal rate that would shorten the mail time.

**Book Grant** – No Report.

**Character Counts** – The National School of Character Award was acknowledged again... congratulations for all the great work!

**Communications/E-mail** – Meg Cooper will send out a short electronic newsletter each month, within a week after PTO meetings. Send any news to Meg at [enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org](mailto:enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org) and copy PTO Presidents.

**Directory** - Directories netted about \$35,000, about \$10,000 more than last year. Increase in dues and the number sold partially attributed to this increase. Most people have received their Directories, although, some are still waiting for them (there can be a two week window for postal delivery as result of the bulk mailing process). The process of streamlining orders online and using paypal was successful.

**Directory Advertising** – Ad sales to date are \$13,250 as compared to \$4,800 last year, although still trying to collect about \$2,000. The changes made (color ad pages, listing of advertisers in front of book and spotlighting the ads in the PTO web site) were great selling points during solicitation.

**Families Helping Families** – Joni Holinger explained that this one year old committee assists the school's Social Work Department. This year the Committee has given the Social Work Department \$400 worth (purchased at a discounted cost of \$386) of \$25 gift cards to help families in need buy grocery, gas, and other emergency supplies. They will raise money through various formats, such as soliciting and having collection drops for loose change in the cafeteria. Joni explained that Pam Kalafut, Director of Student Activities, has helped get student volunteers from the school's clubs.

**Freshman Parent Circle** - Freshman Parent Gatherings were last Friday night October 17<sup>th</sup> (these are gatherings for parents, organized by their freshman child's alpha guidance department groups). It was very successful and Mr. Pobst and Mrs. Huebner attended each gathering, as did each respective guidance counselor. A change this year was the combining of some of the guidance groups at one home. Discussed asking the host parents to send reviews of the event to Darla. Also discussed the conflict with the Freshman play which was held on the same Friday night: available dates are limited for the Freshman Gatherings.

**Holiday Breakfast** - No Report.

**Make A Difference** -- Laurita explained that the committee recognizes teachers and staff who make a difference at HC. The committee's first meeting will be tomorrow (Oct 21<sup>st</sup>). The nomination forms, which are available on PTO website, or hard copies can be found in the Dean's, Guidance or English departments,, will be reviewed and voted on by the Committee. Awards are handed out quarterly, and each recipient receives a \$50 Lettuce Entertain You gift card and a certificate.

**PEP – Parents Empowering Parents** – Annette McClain working with Nick Wahl to set up programs. D-86 BOE pays for the speakers. Topics will be posted on website when lined up.

**Programming** – “Conversations with Mr. Pobst”, topic today: Clubs and Organizations, getting your student involved. Pam Kalafut, Director of Student Activities.

**Publicity** – No Report. But if anyone has anything to promote, let Ann Pitcher know.

**Reading Rocks** – No Report

**Safety & Bylaws** - Janet Sabine Parry explained that the committee is continuing to look into some of the following issues: dress code and consequences; parking and security; and the safety concerns relating to drop-off/pick-up procedures. Explained that security is more manageable and the flow of traffic is smoother as a result of having only three outside doors to the school open during drop-off. Need to look into drop-off procedures in the circle: two rows. The food service delivery truck is also an issue as it parks (before 8 am) in the drop-off path and disturbs the flow of traffic and can be a danger to both drivers and students crossing. Janet then discussed the breezeway security issue and the fact that students get frustrated that they have to walk around instead of being able to cut through the breezeway (even if there is a security person there). There is a need for more security personnel. Setting up a sub-committee to look into the senior parking issues. Discussed the road work that the V of H is doing and how to warn parents when the work will block the routes to the school. Concerns or recommendations - send them to Janet.

**School Board Liaison** - Sue Pircon discussed the following D-86 Board decisions/topics:

- Energy Plan developed by Dianne Barrett, stating that teachers should not charge their cell phones during class time; teachers should turn off computers when not in use; and, recommends that the school dim lights during passing periods.
- BOE approved a change in healthcare provider to Blue Cross/Blue Shield: viewed as a positive.
- Dr. Claudia Geocaris working with union to formulate a better evaluation system for teachers than the current state mandated ABC ranking system.
- Discussed the fact that coaches/club sponsors have the same stipend, without regard to the time they invest in an activity over the course of a year. At the BOE meeting tonight a comparison of stipends from other schools will be reviewed.
- Will revisit the \$4 million bond issue for astro turf fields and other facility improvements with Willaim Blair & Co. Will evaluate if D-86 can get more funds: they can issue up to \$25 million in bonds without a referendum (although this would not be a wise move: the community needs to be informed and involved if the amount is that high).
- Master Plan includes auditorium, fields and parking structure.
- Discussed the new sound system in the auditorium. Apparently the architect gave the wrong specs and the system does not work for bass music. The firm was fired.
- BOE accepted \$5,000 bid from the Romano family to fund the autism acting camp held at the high school last summer. A production by the children who attended the camp will be held this Sunday at Central at 3:00 pm.

**Social** – Noted that the name of this committee will change from “Social” to “Hospitality” to better represent what they do. Thanked them for the food and refreshments for the meeting.

**Volunteers** – Kay Gallo reported that she had many volunteers for Homecoming/ Coat check and for PLAN testing. Kay is looking for someone who is interested in taking over for Homecoming/Coat Check volunteers for next year. Please contact Kay if you are interested.

**Website** - No Report

**Class Representatives** – No Reports

**Middle School Representatives** – No Reports. HMS, CHMS and Westview reps said that they would send out e-mail blasts to 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents to inform them about the “Straight Talk” meeting and about other future events that might apply to them.

**New Business –**

-Special Ed. changes are underway. Sally Parsons and Karen Altergott presented a request to formulate a new PTO committee that will encourage the sharing of ideas and experiences amongst parents of special education children. It will allow “experienced” parents to help first time parents navigate the college process, understand what services are available to children with various disabilities, and what is unique about each students needs. Sally spoke of her experience with her son’s dyslexia, and how this new PTO committee and the Guidance Department will try to put forth a collaborative effort to join together to get positive results for all involved: can share information on a page on the PTO web site. There are over 300 IEP’s at Central. Motion to form a new PTO committee as presented made by Maria Pierce, second by Terry Edwards. Motion approved. Sally and Karen will come up with a name for the committee.

- Teacher Appreciation Committee needs money to pay for the pumpkin pies that they will present to all the teachers right before Thanksgiving break. Quest (Central’s food service provider is discounting the pies for the committee) and to cover the cost of the coffee they will have for the teachers on the day of Parent/Teacher conferences. They are asking for \$1,900. Motion to fund this amount for the Teacher Appreciation Committee made by Laurita Panagoulis, second by Terry Edwards.

- Darla outlined the Interview Clinic/Work Shop that will be held on Sunday Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at Central from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. This clinic is for seniors and juniors and their parents. After the intial overview presentation, 55 seniors (first priority) and juniors will be able to go through a 7 minute mock interview (which will be taped) with people who do alumni interviews, or who are well versed in interviewing. Then they will be debriefed by others who will go through the positive and negatives of different aspects of that interview. It is meant to be a positive learning experience to help the student get comfortable with interviewing. They will be sent home with their tapes, checklists and a packet of information. Darla is looking for about 8 more volunteers for that day to help with the flow of people from one exercise to another. If interested, e-mail Darla.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.**

Respectfully,  
Maria Pierce, Secretary

## PTO Minutes for November 24, 2008

President- HCHS football going to State

Girls' swimming tied for second place

Michael Josephson-(Character Counts speaker)-speech is on HCHS website

Interview Skills Workshop successful with 70 students participating

Plan to do every fall for seniors-possibly more than one night

October Minutes approved and seconded

Vice President- No report

Secretary – No report

Treasurer—review of forms

Tax forms and receipt forms are on line

Check request forms will be online

Budget presented

Will add \$500 for Interviewing Skills Workshop

Motion to pass budget with addition made and motion passed

Dollars for Scholars—discussion regarding the 5013C status and the costs  
filing of taxes. Contact to be made with the  
Hinsdale Foundation to get more information

Boosters-Peggy Morgan and Sue Johns presented

First Fundraiser on Feb.22 a brunch and auction

11am-2pm at Marriott in Burr Ridge

Looking for donations—such as sports tickets, gift cards, IPODS, etc.

Boosters raise money by running the concessions at football games, VIP

Parking and spiritwear sales. Money raised goes to aid athletics and activities

Pam Kalafut and Paul Moretta prioritize where they need money

\$30,000 raised for distribution to teams/clubs

Book Grant-\$1,500 in Budget now

Forms will be at parent teacher conferences

Character Counts- Great presentation on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> by Michael Josephson. Along with  
\$20,000 award

Communications-Newsletter will come out after Thanksgiving

Directory- Email Blast went out and received 15 requests

Need someone to take over for next year

Freshman Parent Circles- Discussion ongoing with Mr. Pobst and Guidance to change  
this from an evening event to a daytime event

Families helping families- This committee was called upon by the Social work Dept. to  
help provide much needed baby supplies to a student. The committee stepped  
up and once again were able to supply the student with all she needed.

The student in turn sent handwritten notes to those donors.

Holiday Breakfast—Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Meetings have taken place and emails will be sent to  
those volunteering.

Make a difference- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter winners announced.

Parent Ambassadors- New committee to help parents/families who are joining HCHS in the middle of their high school years.

- Brochure has been made
- Excellent volunteer response
- Brochures in Guidance office

Programming—Conversations with Mr. Pobst after meeting will be regarding Sports teams. January meeting-Facebook

Publicity- No report

Reading Rocks-Vicky Bush-Joseph

Chris Crukner(sp?) came to speak to students about his controversial books written for teens

New project –One School One Book

Book chosen is “The Last Lecture”

Book will be sold in cafeteria and at parent teacher conferences for \$5

Social/8<sup>th</sup> grade coffee— No report

Teacher appreciation— Goal is to do something positive for staff of HCHS

Pumpkin pies will be distributed to every staff member this month

Volunteers- Ongoing requests for volunteers will be sent by email

Website –Up to date

Senior Class rep—Letters for prom donations were sent out

Junior Class rep—Juniors selling cookies at lunch to raise money

Look for more fundraising plans to come in January

Middle school reports

- Butler-no report
- CHMS-no report
- HMS-no report
- SIJ-no report
- Westview—no report

School Board –Sue Pircon

- Vote for \$4 million bond approved and is 90% a done deal
- First step of \$10 million bond issue
- Air quality study Completed by Hinsdale South students presented
- Environmental Policy Statement presented
- School Board Elections in April with possibly 3 seats open
- Teachers Association has own survey and will have results in March
- PTO invited to attend their meetings, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month

Safety and Bylaws- Senior Parking permit issuance discussed

- distance from school will be a factor in getting a permit
- preference will be given to seniors partnering with another senior

Behavior- Looking for a reward system for “good” behavior for Second Semester Senior Students

Nurse- requests that all students with a fever stay home

Carol Wroble –Received “Bobble Head” Award form PTO in recognition for her excellent service to PTO last month.

Carol Wroble also is working with the Hinsdale Central Tennis Team collecting used racquets and warm-ups for West Suburban Team partners who will provide free tennis instruction to kids ages 10-17.

--Please drop off racquets to Carol Wroble

Important dates-

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>-Symphony at the Auditorium

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Jingle Bell Jazz

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> Madrigal singers

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Holiday Concert

Dec, 18<sup>th</sup> Holiday Breakfast

Abbey Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin is offering a discount to all PTO members through May 15, 2009.

Minutes Submitted By Kathy Andrews

## HINSDALE CENTRAL PTO MEETING – Monday, January 26, 2009

### **Meeting Called to Order at 9:01 A.M.**

Welcome by Mary Buddig, Co-President. Mike Cousineau, Teacher Rep. was introduced.

**Secretary** - The November, 2008 minutes were approved as written. Motion to approve by Marcy Innocenti, second by Janet Sabine Parry. (As a reminder, the prior month's minutes will be posted on the PTO website the Thursday before each PTO meeting. PTO members are asked to read the minutes, and e-mail comments/corrections to the secretary.)

### **Presidents** – Darla Highley and Mary Buddig:

-Acknowledged that the Holiday Breakfast was a huge success.

-Thanked the Teacher Appreciation Committee for presenting the teachers and staff with pumpkin pies in November and with poinsettia plants in December.

### **Vice President** – No Report.

**Treasurer** – Nancy discussed parts of the budget. Income: Directory Advertisement number will increase as a result of collection of late payments. Holiday Breakfast had income of \$1,650 from parent donations. Expenses: Holiday Breakfast is \$4,395, as the event took place in December. Teacher Appreciation expenses to date \$1,975.

**Book Grant** – Carol Wroble stated that they revised the application to include a portion to ask student if they want to be recognized during the Senior Award Program in May. The committee will meet to select Book Grant recipients on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 8:30 a.m., process takes about 2 ½ hours. Volunteer sign-up sheet sent around. Amount of money raised to date is about \$500 short of last year's amount at the same time, but we are well budgeted and not planning any more fundraising pushes. Meg Cooper will put a blurb in the Feb. PTO e-blast. Carol wants to rethink the donation page in the Student Directory as most funds come from the summer mailing.

### **Character Counts** – No Report.

**Communications/E-mail** – Meg Cooper has room in the electronic newsletter to include additional information each month. Send any news to Meg at [enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org](mailto:enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org) and copy PTO Presidents.

**Directory** – Still looking for a volunteer(s) to take over for next year.

**Families Helping Families** – Mary stated that this past Christmas this committee helped a mother, who is working two jobs and still struggling to provide for her family. Joni was able to get an amazing amount of presents and gift cards for this family. The mother was shocked and overly appreciative when the gifts, etc were delivered to her home. This committee is a great asset to the community, especially given the current economy.

-the school's social workers are looking to help people with rides to medical appointments. However needs to address the student liability issue, and need to protect the drivers from potential claims: one way would be to have two adult drivers.

**Holiday Breakfast** - Darla explained the metamorphosis of the Holiday Breakfast, from when volunteers cooked casserole dishes and tried to keep them warm till serving to now when cooked dishes are catered and FDA standards are applied. This year Tina Anderson made some long-term investments for the Holiday Breakfast, such as purchasing some of the decorations etc. The Holiday Breakfast budget was \$1,500, and the committee raised an additional \$1,600 from parent donations. (The poinsettia plants for teachers/staff cost \$2,200). Other costs included the rental of linens, coffee machines, and greenery, and the purchase of juice etc.

**Hospitality** – There are 15 Parent Ambassadors. About 120 letters went out to new families.

**Make A Difference** -- Laurita explained that quarterly the committee recognizes teachers and staff who make a difference at HC. There were 4 winners announced last week. The nomination forms for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter are available on PTO website, or hard copies can be found in the Dean's, Guidance or English departments. Nominations deadline is March 20<sup>th</sup> and will be reviewed and voted on by the Committee. Each recipient receives a \$50 Lettuce Entertain You gift card and a certificate. (One of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Q winners, Alyssa Gunderson, who was not present to receive her award, sent a heartfelt thank you note to the PTO, which was read during today's meeting.)

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coffee** - The 8<sup>th</sup> grade coffee will be held Thurs., May 7<sup>th</sup> in the Cafeteria Annex. 800-900 invitations will be sent out to the current 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents at the feeder schools. Kevin Pobst, PTO Presidents, representatives from the Dean's, Guidance, and Athletic Offices will speak. Spirit wear will be for sale. Largest expense is the invitation and postage.

**PEP – Parents Empowering Parents** – No Report.

**Programming** – “Conversations with Mr. Pobst”, topic today: “Realities of Facebook and Other Internet Safety Issues”, speakers include Mr. Mark Chval of Protek International, Inc., Officer Mark Keller, Hinsdale P.D. and Ms. Kimm Dever, H.C. Dir. of Deans.

**Publicity** – The Doings will be here today to cover the Facebook presentation.

**Safety & Bylaws** - Janet Sabine Parry said that the committee will have a meeting on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> and they are continuing to look into some options relating to Senior Parking (senior parking information will be posted on the website soon.). Will talk to the students during lunch periods about parking procedures, and will have a parent meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Looking into options that will make who gets use of the senior parking fairer, for example students who live within walking distance should not have priority over those who are too far away to walk; half year spots; and, regulating some of the abuses. Also have been evaluating how some of the new Driver's Licenses law changes for new drivers have impacted the students, and when they can drive to school. Concerns or recommendations - send them to Janet.

**School Board Liaison** - Sue Pircon discussed the following D-86 Board decisions/topics:

- Announced that Kay Gallo, along with current B.O.E. President, Dennis Brennan, and two people from Hinsdale South will be running in the D-86 B.O.E. election. All candidates must have their paperwork filed by 5:00 pm today, so will now the complete slate then. There are 4 slots open.
- BOE accepted Susan Ferguson resignation as HCHS Foreign Language Chair.
- Presentations from private groups looking to put domes over the practice fields at Central and South campuses. (Central's fields are by the water tower.) Going out for bids for the artificial turf on playing fields.
- Based on the C.P.I. numbers recently released, the amount of tax dollars that the District will receive from the State will be substantially lower than last year. The calculation is based on the prior year's tax dollars (extension) X prior year's CPI + new property. 2008 CPI number is 0.1% as compared to over 4% in 2007). This will greatly impact the budget.
- Teacher Liason, Mike Cousineau, stated today that the Exec. Board would like to have a BOE candidate forum open to the public that is hosted by both schools and the PTO. Will give people the opportunity to meet the candidates and learn about their platforms.

**Special Education** - Darla stated that on Wed., Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, Beth Clemens, Chair of Educational Services, will be hosting Brian King, a licensed clinical social worker, who has Asperser's Syndrome. He will speak about how he helps people who are not on the autism spectrum understand those who are.

-Julie Ranahan spoke about the Parent Resources Book Drive, which is being coordinated with The Special Ed. Parent Net and the G.E.C., in conjunction with the Hinsdale Library. The goal is to create an Educational Resource Section at the Hinsdale Library. Books, videos and training materials will be collected now through Feb.19th at all the D-181 schools. Questions call Julie.

-The newly formed parent Special Education Network Group will have their kickoff meeting on Wed., Feb 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Community Room.

**Teacher Appreciation** – Lisa Stafford said that the teachers will all find Chocolate Candy Bars in their mailboxes for Valentine’s Day. These bars will all be donated. The committee is planning a cookbook drive for later.

**Volunteers** – Kay Gallo reported that she sent out e-mails to a small group to get volunteers to help at the Vision and Hearing Screening on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>. Will send out an e-mail in a few days to ask for volunteers for coat check at Turnabout on Sat., Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Kay is still looking for someone who is interested in taking over for Homecoming/Coat Check volunteers for next year. Please contact Kay if you are interested.

**Class Representatives** – Senior Class: Letters went out for post prom events.  
- Junior Class: Sent out Fundraising packets.

**Middle School Representatives** – No reports by Butler, CHMS, HMS or St. Isaac. Westview stated that they would be having the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Counselor meeting soon, a Science Fair this Sat. and their musical in May.

**Principal** - Kevin Pobst presented to the PTO a very large, laminated thank you card signed by the teachers and staff in appreciation for the Holiday Breakfast and other gifts.

**New Business** –

- Carol Wroble presented the “Bobble Head Appreciation Award” to Tina Anderson for all her work in organizing the Holiday Breakfast, to the Freshman Parents who decorated the Community Room for the event and to The Boy Scouts, who donated garland.
- Coach Begley, P.E. Dept. Chair, and Coach Marconi explained that the P.E. Dept. is organizing a MILS Tournament to be held at the school on President’s Day (Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>) from 1-4 pm. They will also have a badminton tournament that same day. He expects large student participation at this event. They are partnering with the American Heart Association to raise money for that organization. They are asking the PTO to also partner with them in some way. PTO will coordinate with Coaches Begley and Marconi. Ann Pitcher can let The Doings know about the event.
- The Booster Club will be holding a Fundraiser Brunch on Sun., Feb, 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Marriott. Invitations have been mailed.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Maria Pierce, Secretary

## HINSDALE CENTRAL PTO MEETING – Monday, February 23, 2009

### **Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 A.M.**

Welcome by Mary Buddig and Darla Highley, Co-Presidents. Thanked everyone who supported the Boosters' Brunch and Fundraiser which was held the day before. It was very successful.

**Secretary** - The January, 2009 minutes were approved as written. Motion to approve by Carol Wroble, second by Janet Sabine Parry. (As a reminder, the prior month's minutes will be posted on the PTO website the Thursday before each PTO meeting. PTO members are asked to read the minutes, and e-mail comments/corrections to the secretary.)

### **Presidents** – Darla Highley and Mary Buddig:

-Step 3 of Straight Talk: Teens and Alcohol took place Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. Not a lot of parents were present, but Kevin Pobst also received letters from parents. The next step will be that the school will come out with a policy as to where they stand. The school wants this to be a collaborative effort among the parents, students teachers and administrators. Wants to solidify the fact that 21 is the legal drinking age, and can only do this if all groups work together. Also need to vigorously campaign to get all of the police departments in the Hinsdale Central community to report. To do this pressure needs to be put on the police departments and village boards of those communities that do not currently report. There is also a perception by parents and students that there is a lack of consistency in the application of the athletic code. This perception has become a declaration of reality. There was a suggestion that the PTO Presidents talk to the PTO's of the feeder schools to discuss Central's stand and to disseminate that information to 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents. The overall goal is to work towards an agreement of all parties. Finally it was explained why the asterisk next to family names indicating that those parents would not allow drinking at their homes was omitted from the Directory. Simply, it lost its effectiveness because people did not take it seriously.

**Vice President** – No Report.

**Treasurer** – Nancy discussed parts of the budget. There were some deposits, but not a lot of activity this time of year: more outflows will occur. The Advance from Reserve number (\$13,583.53) is a plug in to balance. Per IRS we are able to carry over into the next year three times reserves over budget before having to turn it into endowment, etc. Preparing to file taxes now: tax, bonding and filing fees are \$350.

**Book Grant** – Carol Wroble stated that the schedule has been changed and dates are pushed forward. Applications will now be available to students on March 2, both online on PTO website or can get hard copy from Guidance Office. The committee will now meet to select Book Grant recipients on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 8:30 a.m., in The Alumni Room, process takes about 2 ½ hours. Volunteers will be notified by Carol as the date gets closer. Carol asked that if any one knows students who experienced a death of a parent, to please forward names.

**Character Counts** – Laurita is working on the "Aspire & Inspire" Breakfast (April 21<sup>st</sup>), which recognizes people who have made contributions towards the improvement of Central. The deadline for nominations is in March. The Autism Walk is being planned by the students. This fundraiser is held in April.

**Communications/E-mail** – The electronic newsletter comes out about one week after each PTO meeting. It has been about 50% opened by recipients, and that number is probably higher as some people read in the preview panel. Send any news to Meg at [enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org](mailto:enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org) and copy PTO Presidents.

**Directory** – Still looking for a volunteer(s) to take over for next year.

**Freshman Parent Circle** – Mary and Darla explained that this committee encompasses the freshman parent parties, which break groups up by their alpha guidance listing. Guidance and school administrators also attend the parties, which have been hosted at someone's home. Parties are held in October. Had conversation with Kevin Pobst about evaluating the value of this event in its current format: would parents be equally motivated to attend if more or less school personnel were present; should it be hosted in someone's home or back at school; is the timing right; should it be more or less a social event; and, is the

alpha listing ideal. Joanne Cascio, Meg Cooper and Maria Pierce will look into this and report back in the March PTO meeting.

**Families Helping Families – Families Helping Families** – Joni stated that they are helping a family who has two working parents but are struggling pay their bills. They were 2 months behind in rent with their gas about to be shut off, thus the committee was working to help with the gas bill. The committee has decided that going forward they should not be covering people's bills directly. Joni asked that if anyone wants to help this family, please send donation to her, check made out to HCHS PTO. These donations are appreciated by the family and the Social Work Dept.

**Holiday Breakfast** – No Report

**Hospitality** – Mary Parsons will stay on this committee next year. Will have a table set up at Book Month.

**Make A Difference** – Marcy Innocenti stated that they are taking nominations until Tues., March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will announce the winners the following Thursday. The nomination forms for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter are available on PTO website, or hard copies can be found in the Dean's, Guidance or English departments.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coffee** - The 8<sup>th</sup> grade coffee will be held Thurs., May 7<sup>th</sup> in the Cafeteria Annex. About 850 invitations, which will be printed soon, will be sent out to the current 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents at the feeder schools. Kevin Pobst, PTO Presidents, representatives from the Dean's, Guidance, and Athletic Offices will speak. Spirit wear will be for sale. Will put a Welcome Banner over the entrance of the school. Discussed distributing a Book Month hand-out as well as a Book Grant Form; having PTO and Boosters reps wear middle school and elementary school names on tags, as people often identify with someone who has a common history; would like more greeters; will have posters on easels for sign-ups for the Freshman Parent Parties; handout a one page "fact" sheet at door; and, Janet Sabine Parry will draft a "parking strategy" statement that will be posted on PTO website. The invitation will refer to the website so new parents can understand the parking restrictions and suggestions where to legally park. Will notify police about the event.

**Parents Empowering Parents** – No Report.

**Programming** – "Conversations with Mr. Pobst", topic today: "Safety and Security at Hinsdale Central".

**Publicity** – Ann Pitcher will stay on next year. She is doing a great job getting news out to the papers.

**Reading Rocks** - Vicki Bush-Joseph reported that she and Karen Altergott have met with Kathy Krepps and Myles Laffey (Library Services) to discuss ideas for the spring. Events are scheduled for March 13, April 17, and May 8, all Fridays. The March event, Game Day, coincides with National Teen Tech Week. Students can set up video consoles in library, play games (during non-class periods) and win prizes, such as Best Buy, Blockbuster, I-Tunes gift cards. Looking for \$500 in prizes. During National Library Week in April, the theme of the event will be "Spring into Wellness" and will utilize the Student/Teacher Wellness Committee to work with Library staff to organize the activities for that day. Finally in May, the committee will host a breakfast (7:00 -8:30 am) for the teachers in the library. This event falls during Teacher Appreciation Week. Traditionally have asked vendors for food donation, but because of the economy they will not directly approach vendors this year, and will fund the majority of this event via their budget. As a result, they anticipate a shortfall. The PTO agreed to fund this shortfall of \$500.

**Safety & Bylaws** - Janet Sabine Parry said that the committee will be meeting tomorrow with Kimm Dever to discuss 1) Theft Issues and students' lack of reporting directly using forms. 2) Traffic Issues regarding traffic flow at heavy volume times, and encouraging parents to drop off earlier and pick up later to disperse the congestion.

**School Board Liaison** – No Report.

**Special Education** - Will have a meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Community Room.

**Teacher Appreciation** – Tina Capraro explained that nothing was done in January because of vacation, the goodwill momentum of the poinsettia plants and Holiday Breakfast and the fact that finals were occurring. In February teachers all found large Hershey chocolate bars in their mailboxes for Valentine’s Day. Chocolate bars were all donated. In March the committee will take out an ad in the Advocate thanking the teachers. In April a cookbook drive is being planned. They will also be a raffle, with the prizes being two cooking themed baskets (donated). Tina also requested an additional \$200. The committee’s budget was \$2,000, but they only have \$25 left. Voted and approved the additional \$200.

**Volunteers** – Kay Gallo reported that they were short on volunteers for Turnabout, but everything went well. Vision and Hearing Screening on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> also went well.

**Class Representatives** – Senior Class: Getting ready for Prom.

**Middle School Representatives** – No reports by Butler, CHMS, HMS or St. Isaac. Need CHMS rep for next year.

**New Business** –

- A Meet the Candidates night will be held at Hinsdale South in the Little Theatre on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Terry Edwards is collecting questions, and someone from Hinsdale South will do the same. If you have any questions for the D 86 BOE candidates, please forward to Terry. Will look into whether it makes sense to video tape the forum.

-Mary Buddig will continue on as PTO President next year.

-If anyone is interesting on being on the Exec.Board Nominating Committee, e-mail Joanne Cascio or Carol Wroble.

-Darla Highley will co-chair a new committee, Interview Skills Workshop. If anyone is interested in co-chairing and continuing on, e-mail Darla.

-If anyone is interested in chairing any committee next year, e-mail Mary Buddig.

**Special Presentation** - Mr. Don Malec, Director of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Illinois, and Mr. Mario Vescovi, Consultant and Chairman of Statewide Drug-Free Illinois, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, each spoke briefly to the PTO about teen drinking and drug use and their programs’ ideology of how to deter it and how to teach children to make better choices. They would like to partner with the PTO, parents and the school to help Central resolve issues relating to alcohol and drug use.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Maria Pierce, Secretary

## HINSDALE CENTRAL PTO MEETING – Monday, March 16, 2009

### **Meeting Called to Order at 8:55 A.M.**

Welcome by Mary Buddig and Darla Highley, Co-Presidents

**Secretary** - The January, 2009 minutes were approved as written. Motion to approve by Carol Wroble, second by Janet Sabine Parry. (Prior month's minutes will be posted on the PTO website the Thursday before each PTO meeting. PTO members are asked to read the minutes, and e-mail comments/corrections to the secretary.)

### **Presidents** – Darla Highley and Mary Buddig:

- Discussed the D-86 Candidate Forum: room was filled to capacity and people gained good insight into the positions of the candidates. The forum was videotaped, but not sure if it will be posted. Thanked Terry Edwards for all her hard work on this.

### **Vice President** – No Report.

**Treasurer** – Nancy discussed parts of the budget. FHF has a \$500 budget, but Joni stated that she covered most of the needs through fundraising. Holiday Breakfast had to pay \$104.26 more to one vendor than anticipated and there was a \$12 stopped check fee. Freshman Parent Circle and Hospitality were below budget. Laurita stated that there is a Senior Class barbeque that is traditionally funded via donations, but asked if the PTO would consider funding this event this year.

**Book Grant** – Carol Wroble is staying on as chair. Thanked Meg, Joni and Donna for their help in posting the applications on the websites (applications are also available in Guidance). Applications became available to students on March 2, and completed ones need to be turned into the Guidance Office. The committee will meet to select Book Grant recipients on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 8:30 a.m., in The Alumni Room.

**Character Counts** – Laurita is working on the “Aspire & Inspire” Appreciation Breakfast (April 14th), which recognizes people who have made contributions towards the improvement of Central. The deadline for nominations is March 20. Music Groups will perform at the breakfast.

**Communications/E-mail** – Meg and Ann are staying on. The electronic newsletter comes out about one week after each PTO meeting. Send any news to Meg at [enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org](mailto:enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org) and copy PTO Presidents. Darla stated that it is the goal to “brand” the PTO, and would like all communications from PTO committees to have the PTO logo on them. Meg received a request from a local business to purchase advertising space on the website. Do we want to sell space? Discussion included comments about the legal nature of this; will it be perceived that the PTO is implicitly supporting the business; we should look into the practices of other schools; and, will this conflict with our Directory advertisers, who are currently also being listed on the bottom of PTO e-mail blasts and previewed in the PTO website via a link. It was decided that nothing will be done this year, but will look into it for next year as an additional way to raise advertising dollars when we sell directory ads. We also need to add a statement on the PTO website indicating that when one clicks on an advertiser's link, one is actually leaving the PTO site.

**Directory** – May have someone who is willing to take over for next year: still need to confirm.

**Freshman Parent Circle** – Karen Kinahan is staying on. Joanne Cascio, Meg Cooper, and Maria Pierce, at the request of PTO Presidents and Kevin Pobst, volunteered to evaluate the value of the freshman parent parties in their current format: would parents be equally motivated to attend if more or less school administrators/ personnel were present; should they be hosted in someone's home or back at school; is the timing right (held in October); should they be more or less a social event; and, is the alpha listing ideal. The recommendations include that these parties should go forward sooner over 2 weekend nights in mid to late September, as October is late to help give parents insight about Central. Eliminate Guidance and Administration from the parties: freshman parents have already had many opportunities to hear and meet with both groups and the Parties in their current structure are not conducive to having either general or personal conversations with either entity. Although Administration's appearance at these parties gains goodwill, parents are not usually comfortable asking them about the ins and outs of the school. It is

recommended that we make these parties truly social and have more PTO and Booster representation; that we promote the parties as a social event where new parents can learn the rope from current parents by getting answers to their questions; invitations should have a “hook” to entice attendance; parties should still be hosted at someone’s home; alpha listings used for ease and to encourage meeting new people (each home should host 2 groups); Mr. Pobst and PTO Presidents should explain parties the entering parents at the Eighth Grade Coffee and parents also can sign up to host then; and, prepare a “Welcome Booklet”(to be handed out at parties) that will contain a plethora of general information about Central and answers to common questions/concerns. The full written report was given to Mary, Darla and Kevin Pobst.

**Families Helping Families** – No Report.

**Holiday Breakfast** – No Report

**Hospitality** – No Report.

**Interview Skills Workshop** – Will run like last year. Date of workshop TBA.

**Make A Difference** – Marcy Innocenti stated that they are taking nominations until, March 20<sup>th</sup> and will announce the winners on March 24<sup>th</sup>. May have a table during lunch so students can nominate.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coffee** - The 8<sup>th</sup> grade coffee will be held Thurs., May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the Cafeteria Annex. About 850 invitations, which will be printed by Sass “N Class soon, will be sent out to the current 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents at the feeder schools. Contact names on invite will be Kathy’s and maybe one other. Would like to put the invite on the website, and will ask Ann Pitcher to get something to the local newspapers. Will also contact the eighth grade reps to get the information about the coffee out to parents soon. Kevin Pobst, PTO Presidents, representatives from the Dean’s, Guidance, and Athletic Offices will speak (need a hand held mike). Will have a tables for Boosters: spirit wear will be for sale, for Parent Circle to sign-up for the fall parties, for coffee and food, and will need easels for PTO volunteer sign-up. Discussed distributing a Book Month hand-out as well as a Book Grant Form and Directory Advertising information. Janet Sabine Parry will talk to Kimm Dever to see how to draft a “parking strategy” statement that will be posted on PTO website. The police have been notified about the event.

**Parents Empowering Parents** – Annette McClain will continue on. About 130 parents attended the last event: a couple, who are parents of 3 boys, talked about raising teens in today’s world. Comments that the presentation was more geared towards middle school rather than high school issues and concerns.

**Programming** – Elaine and Karen will continue on. Janet Sabine Perry requested that a “safety” presentation be made first next school year. “Conversations with Mr. Pobst”, topic today: “Do’s and Don’ts in Writing College Essays”.

**Reading Rocks** - Vicki Bush-Joseph and Karen Altergott will both stay on. The March event, Game Day, which was held last Friday, was a great success. Students set up video consoles in library, played games (during non-class periods) and were able to win prizes, such as iPod Shuffles and Best Buy, Blockbuster, iTunes gift cards. During National Library Week in April, the theme of the event (April 17<sup>th</sup>) will be “Spring into Wellness” and will utilize the Student/Teacher Wellness Committee to work with Library staff to organize the activities for that day. Finally on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the committee will host in the library an appreciation breakfast (7:00 -8:30 am) for teachers and staff. This event falls during Teacher Appreciation Week. Email Vicki or Karen if you would like to help. Also discussed a “Shop & Share” with Borders, that can be connected with the summer reading, and discussed a request by David Lange to sell summer reading books.

**Safety & Bylaws** - Janet Sabine Parry is graduating this year, and Lori Samaras has agreed to take over. Janet reported that Kevin Pobst and Kimm Dever will try to decide the fairest means to allocate the senior parking spots. May ultimately need parents to help with registration. The pool: Parents are concerned about the ventilation, breathing and rash issues, high traffic in the pool area, and no mandatory shower

requirement before using the pool. Music and iPods: reviewing what is expected and what are the consequences to students for disobeying the rules

**School Board Liaison** – Sue reported that the D-86 election will be on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and that the Candidate Forum was informative and well attended. Encouraged people to attend the BOE meeting tonight at 7:30 at South if they want to get some insight into some of the candidates and the current Board. Early voting started today at 5 Seasons. Discussed Teachers vs. Grievance Committee with relation to the teachers' retirement benefit issues. BOE had voted to increase the premium on retired teachers; the teachers filed a grievance against D-86 and won. BOE needs to refund premium to the retired teachers.

**Special Education** - Will be putting up a website.

**Teacher Appreciation** – Thanked the PTO for the extra funds. The committee will provide mints and coffee (both donated) to the teachers during conferences next week. In April a cookbook drive is being planned.

**Volunteers** – Kay Gallo reported that Maureen Grace will be the new “Coat Check” person. Will need 2-3 volunteers for the Aspire & Inspire Breakfast and none needed for conferences.

**Website** – Joni requested pictures of students to put up on website (before posting, all student pictures will need to be approved by school first).

**Class Representatives** – Senior Class: Getting ready for Prom.

**Middle School Representatives** – No reports. Joanne Cascio will be the rep for Butler. Need reps for CHMS and HMS.

**New Business** –

- Parent reps for TIN have asked for \$1,000. Motion to approve by Maria Pierce, second by Meg Cooper, approved.
- On March 26<sup>th</sup>, during the Parent/Teacher Conferences, Guidance will hold presentations in the Library on how to utilize Naviance.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.**

**Special Note:** After the “Conversations”, Kevin Pobst announced to the PTO his resignation as Principal of HCHS, effective June 30, 2009. Mr. Pobst will take on the principalship at Naperville North High School.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Maria A. Pierce, Secretary**

## HINSDALE CENTRAL PTO MEETING – Monday, April 20, 2009

### **Meeting Called to Order at 8:55 A.M.**

Welcome by Mary Buddig and Darla Highley, Co-Presidents

**Secretary** - The March, 2009 minutes were approved as written. Motion to approve by Carol Wroble, second by Kathy Andrews. (Prior month's minutes will be posted on the PTO website the Thursday before each PTO meeting. PTO members are asked to read the minutes, and e-mail comments/corrections to the secretary.)

**Presidents** – No Report.

**Vice President** – No Report.

**Treasurer** – Nancy is working on the budget for next year. Asked that Committee Chairs and Board look at page 2 of Budget ('08 - '09 column) and let her know what changes there are for next year. Board still looking into incorporating the PTO into a 501-C. Currently we needed to get Kevin Pobst to sign letters on HCHS stationery for non-book grant donations over \$250. (PTO can only sign letters acknowledging donations above \$250 if those donations are made for Book Grants.) Karen Fiascone said that her husband (who is the Treasurer for the D-86 Foundation) offered to have the Foundation work with the PTO on this issue. Mr. Matt Fiascone said that (non-book grant) check donations can be made out to the Foundations, and then the Foundation can write the tax receipt thank you letters and will write a check to the PTO for those funds. The Executive Board will discuss this further. The \$125 of expenses for Teacher Appreciation is the cost of the coffee and water that the PTO provided for the March Parent/Teacher conferences.

**Book Grant** – Carol stated that they have received 43 applications (up from 30 last year, and 27 the year before that). A box was added on the Application Form to designate whether the applicant wants their name read at the May Awards Ceremony: 40% checked no. The packets will be ready this Friday at Carol's house for the Committee members to pick up and review. The committee will meet to select Book Grant recipients on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 8:30 a.m., in The Alumni Room

**Character Counts** – The “Aspire & Inspire” Appreciation Breakfast was held on April 14<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. Thanked everyone for their help. The Autism Walk was yesterday morning and was a success despite the rain.

**Communications/E-mail** – The electronic newsletter comes out about one week after each PTO meeting. Send any news to Meg at [enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org](mailto:enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org) and copy PTO Presidents.

**Directory/ Advertising** – No Report.

**Freshman Parent Circle** – No Report. (Event will be Friday evening, September 11, 2009)

**Families Helping Families** – Darla Highley will assist Joni Holinger next year on this committee.

**Make A Difference** – On March 24<sup>th</sup> the third quarter winners were announced.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coffee** - The 8<sup>th</sup> grade coffee will be held Thurs., May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the Cafeteria Annex. Over Spring Break, about 850 invitations were sent out to the current 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents at the feeder schools, including St Isaacs, Notre dame and Avery Cooley. Would like to put the invite on the website, will ask Ann Pitcher to get something to the local newspapers, and will also contact the eighth grade reps to get the information about the coffee out to parents. Kevin Pobst, PTO Presidents, and other administrators will speak (need a hand held mike). Need volunteers and name tags that day. Will have tables for Boosters: spirit wear will be for sale; for Parent Circle to sign-up for the fall parties; for coffee and food; and, will need easels for PTO volunteer sign-up. Discussed distributing a Book Month hand-out,

as well as a Book Grant Form and Directory Advertising information. Coffee, water and food are set. For parking reasons, the police have been notified about the event. Will also ask Dr. Wahl to speak.

**Parents Empowering Parents** – Vicky Bush-Joseph stated that on Wed. April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Hinsdale South's Little Theatre, John Friel, PhD and Linda D. Friel, M.A. will speak. Topic: The Seven Worst Things Parents Do (regarding their children). Can still pick up a free copy of the speakers' book at D-86 Administration Office.

**Programming** – “Conversations with Mr. Pobst”, topic today: “Consequences of Teenage Partying, Alcohol, Drug Access and Abuse”.

**Publicity** - Thanked Ann Pitcher for all her work this year. Acknowledged the publicity Lisa Stafford got for the Autism Walk.

**Reading Rocks** - Vicki stated that during National Library Week last week, the theme of the event (April 17<sup>th</sup>) was “Spring into Wellness” and they utilize the Student/Teacher Wellness Committee to work with Library staff to organize the activities for that day. Finally on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the committee will host in the library an appreciation breakfast (7:00 -8:30 am) for teachers and staff. This event falls during Teacher Appreciation Week. Karen Altergott is looking for vendors (not asking donations). Corner Bakery is having a community service promotion, and the winner will get \$150 in food, and publicity. PTO approved this effort. Email Vicki or Karen if you would like to help at the breakfast, and help pick up food etc. Vicki also showed the poster from the Library personnel thanking the committee for their help on “Gaming Day”.

**Safety & Bylaws** - Janet Sabine Parry reported that Kevin Pobst and Kimm Dever have made the final decision on how the senior parking spots will be allocated through a lottery. Information will be sent home/available online to seniors/parents. TIN will also be raffling off two spots, one for each semester. The next committee meeting is April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**School Board Liaison** – D-86 election will be made official on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Kay Gallo won a seat, as did incumbents Brennan and Barrett. After the provisional ballots were counted, it appears that Skoda lost. The turf issue is back and it will be discussed at tonight's BOE meeting.

**Special Education** – Darla will be putting up a website for this committee, and will put up a sign-up list. Beth Clemens, Dept Chair of Ed. Services is leaving: school will hire within to fill her post.

**Teacher Appreciation** – Lisa reported that they will be collecting new and gently used cookbooks. Can drop off cookbooks from May 11 – 15 at 6003 S. Grant (Vicky Strumillo's).

**Volunteers** – Kay Gallo reported that she will need volunteers to be field marshals for the 5K race next Sunday. Rich Lapinski is organizing the run and has over 70 people signed up to date. Kay will get notices out to the residents that will be blocked out of their streets.

**Website** – Joni and Darla will continue to work on the website. They are looking for someone to join them next year in order to take over the following year.

**Class Representatives** – Senior Class: Getting ready for Prom. Post –Prom tickets are down, but committee is making calls to the parents of those students who buy only Prom tickets: want to make sure those parents know that their child did not purchase the Post-Prom ticket too. Senior picnic: will be asking for people to help/donate. Mary stated that Pam Kalafut has asked the PTO for a donation: last year PTO was not asked to donate; two years ago we donated \$250. Junior Class: Kathy Andrews stated that the junior class has been selling baked goods to raise money for their prom next year.

**Middle School Representatives** – All the schools reported that they are getting ready for eighth grade graduation.. CHMS and S.I.J. reported that their 8<sup>th</sup> grades are going to D.C. soon. HMS will have another population increase next year, and as a result mobiles are being installed.

**New Business –**

- D-86 College Night being held tonight at 7 pm in HCHS's Field House. 227 colleges will be there.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup> Central will be hosting the Selective College Night at 7 pm in the Auditorium. 5 colleges will be there on the panel. Parents/ students are invited to attend: the application process will be discussed.
- Barb Bencur reported on the Barnes & Noble fundraiser, which will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Will be selling the summer reading for 9-12 grades. Maria Pierce will forward the D-181 middle school summer reading lists to Barb as soon as HMS and CHMS are done with their fundraisers (May 1<sup>st</sup>). Dr. Michael Collins will be there to sign his book (June 6). There will be a Winnie the Pooh storytelling. Trying to arrange for a music group to perform on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The NHS students will help at the wrapping tables.
- Mary reported that the TIN event will be held next Sunday indoors in the Field House and Cafeteria from 1-6 pm. \$1.00 tickets will be sold for the Carnival part. Budget was \$700 and PTO approved \$1,000.
- Still looking for Book Month and Teacher Appreciation chairs.
- The PTO will hold a quick Business Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 am. The "Conversations" will be that night at 7 pm at the Hinsdale Community House, North Room: topic Pan-Hellenic information for college-bound seniors.
- The Eighth Grade Activities/Athletic Fair also will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> in the evening.

**PTO Slate for 2009-10:** Carol Wroble, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the Executive Board Slate for next year. The slate, as follows, will be voted on at the May 18<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting:

Co- Presidents: Mary Buddig and Terry Edwards

Co-Vice Presidents: Jill Pachicano and Maria Pierce

Secretary: Kathy Andrews

Treasurer: Laurie McMahon

**Presentation -** Kevin Pobst spoke briefly about the PTO and praised its efforts and accomplishments. Presented plaques to Mary Buddig, Darla Highley and Lisa Stafford for their work.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Maria A. Pierce, Secretary**

## HINSDALE CENTRAL PTO MEETING – Monday, May 18, 2009

### **Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 A.M.**

Welcome by Mary Buddig and Darla Highley, Co-Presidents.

**Secretary** - The March, 2009 minutes were approved as written. Motion to approve by Terry Edwards, second by Carol Wroble. (Prior month's minutes will be posted on the PTO website no later than the Thursday before each PTO meeting. PTO members are asked to read the minutes, and e-mail comments/corrections to the secretary.)

**Presidents** – Mary and Darla thanked everyone for a fun year, and for everyone's hard work that resulted in a lot of good things. Mary thanked Darla for a great year, and appreciated all her hard work. It was stressed that their jobs could never be done without the combined effort of many.

**Vice President** – No Report.

**Treasurer** – Nancy stated that she is working off the old budget as she is still waiting for a few committees to give her their numbers for next year. Discussed Holiday Breakfast numbers: the actual expense number is substantially different than what was budgeted from last year (actual of \$2,849.61 versus budget of \$1,200). This change was due a few things: for health and safety reasons it was decided to no longer have parents cook and reheat casserole dishes to serve, but instead had these dishes catered. This catering expense was \$1,140 and was effectively offset by donations of \$1,145. But the remaining expense increase was as a result of the cost of gifts to teachers/staff (\$2,287.50 versus \$645.45 the prior year), and to upgrading and renting decorations for the event. The plants given as gifts cost about \$6 each. Mike Causineau stated that the gifts were appreciated and the teachers really loved the Christmas plants. He also stated that both the Holiday Breakfast and the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast held last week were both very well received, and the teachers noticed the PTO's efforts to make the events special. Discussed the price point of the gifts and the amount purchased, as there seems to be extras.

**Book Grant** – Carol stated that they received 43 applications, and the committee awarded 30, \$800 Book Grants (\$24,000), with potentially 2 more: waiting for more info on two students. A box was added on the application form to designate whether the applicant wants their name read at the May Awards Ceremony: 15 of the 30 had checked no. Carol gave the "Bobble Head" award to the entire committee for their work and efforts in rating the need of the applicants. Discussed that many applications had incomplete information, and that makes it hard for the committee to evaluate the financial needs of the student. Carol already discussed with Pat Huebner how to have the guidance counselors help the students get all the necessary information to complete the application. Carol also reported that the Dollars for Scholars organization will potentially match up to \$800 for each recipient: the match amount is paid by a participating DFS University/College. Historically, Central has only had one student who went to a college that was in this DFS match program. This year we may have up to 4. This is an issue because in order for a student to receive the DFS match funds, our Book Grant check must be written to the college (not to the student as we do now). The school will co-sign check with student, and pay for books directly. The student will lose their ability to use the funds for incidentals, to buy books from cheaper sources, and to apply money towards tuition. DFS now also has a reporting deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup> for the student to indicate to them which school they will be attending in the Fall. Some students do not decide by then, but Ann and Carol have sent letters to the recipients explaining the above to them. Carol also reported that Book Grant donations totaled \$7,915 this year.

**Communications/E-mail** – The electronic newsletter comes out about one week after each PTO meeting. Send any news to Meg at [enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org](mailto:enews@hinsdalecentralpto.org) and copy PTO Presidents.

**Directory Advertising** – The order forms are ready and will be posted on the PTO website, and a blurb will be put into Kevin Pobst's Wednesday eblast. Meg will also put the blurb in the PTO Newsletter. Hard copies of the advertising order form were available at the meeting.

**Freshman Parent Circle** – Have hosts for all but one Guidance Group. So pretty set for the Parent Parties which will be held on Friday evening, September 11, 2009.

**Families Helping Families** – Joni Holinger reported that they received a nice thank you note from the family who were given many types of gift cards to help cover food, gas, clothes and supplies.

**Make A Difference** – Nominations for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter can be handed in until May 21.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coffee** – Kathy Andrews reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade coffee held on May 7<sup>th</sup> was well attended. Dr. Wahl, Kevin Pobst, PTO Presidents, and other administrators spoke, and at the end tours of the building were given to interested parents. Suggested that next year we have a table for actual Directory sign up and selling advertising.

**Programming** – No “Conversations with Mr. Pobst” will be held after meeting. Instead, the Pan-Hellenic presentation will be tonight at 7 pm at the Hinsdale Community House. Read off the topics for next year.

**Publicity** – Acknowledged how well everything was reported on, advertised and promoted this year.

**Reading Rocks** - Vicki reported that on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the committee hosted in the library an appreciation breakfast for teachers and staff. This event falls during Teacher Appreciation Week. This event was a huge success and came in under budget, with a lot of food leftover: the vendors were very generous. The library personnel put together a video presentation of the photos they took that morning (shown at the start of this meeting). They also made DVD's for each volunteer. Library has asked for PTO/parent help for next year for events like author talks. Also asked Vicki to mention that overdue library books need to be turned in with fine payments. Finally, the summer reading list is available at Barnes & Noble.

**Safety & Bylaws** - Janet Sabine Parry reported that the Student Handbook has been updated and will be online too. A new automated visitor system at the main entrance of the school will be up and running by the beginning of the next school year. This system will scan drivers' licenses for sex offender info, log in info, and visitors will receive tags. Push to reduce tardiness for all classes, not just first period classes. Students will be made aware of the teacher consequences, and a log will be kept in the Dean's office. Cell phones must be kept completely off, not just set on vibrate, and be put away. iPods will still be allowed during passing periods, but teachers can set their rules in their own classes. The school will have to deal with I-Phones being used as iPods. The parking lottery is going well

**School Board Liaison** – D-86 election was certified on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Kay Gallo won a seat, Dennis Brennan will continue on as BOE President. The turf issue is back and the Board is working on a timeline, and waiting for the bids. The plan is to do the practice fields first and have them ready by Aug-Oct. The main fields will be done after graduation 2010. BOE will also begin work on a master facilities plan: keeping attention to safety.

**Teacher Appreciation** – Lisa reported that they will continue to collect new and gently used cookbooks. Can drop them off Vicky Strumillo's or Lisa's house. The cookbooks will be brought to the Teacher's Lounge by the end of the week.

**Volunteers** – Kay Gallo reported that she will need volunteers to do gift wrapping at the Barnes & Noble event in June.

**New Business** –

- The Barnes & Noble fundraiser will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Will be selling the summer reading for 9-12 grades, as well as a selection of the D-181 middle school summer reading lists. Dr. Michael Collins will be there to sign his book (June 6).
- The “Conversations” will be tonight at 7 pm at the Hinsdale Community House, North Room: topic Pan-Hellenic information for college-bound seniors.
- The Eighth Grade Activities/Athletic Fair is also being held tonight.

- Acknowledged Janet Sabine Parry, who is “graduating” this year, for all her hard work and dedication over the years. Carol Wroble read a gratitude proclamation that was present to Janet. Janet in turn thanked the PTO, administration, and “kick-bum-mums”!
- Putting a memory album together for Kevin Pobst: looking for pictures, articles, and letters from parents, teachers, staff and students. Terry Edwards is collecting these at her house through Wed. May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Farewell Surprise to Kevin Pobst** – Surprised Kevin Pobst with a “thank you” and “good luck” cake. Kevin spoke briefly about what a special organization the Hinsdale Central PTO, praised the people involved in it, the PTO’s efforts and accomplishments, and thanked everyone for all they have done for Central. Kevin was also presented with a gift bag filled with Hinsdale memorabilia. Mary read a proclamation of thanks to Kevin.

**National Honor Society** – Kevin Pobst spoke about the NHS, the selection process, recent changes and why Central does it the way we do.

**PTO Slate for 2009-10:** Darla Highley read the Executive Board Slate for next year, which was presented by Carol Wroble, Nominating Committee Chair, at the April. The slate is as follows:

Co- Presidents: Mary Buddig and Terry Edwards  
Co-Vice Presidents: Maria Pierce and Jill Pachicano  
Secretary: Kathy Andrews  
Treasurer: Laurie McMahan

Motion to accept 2009-2010 slate made by Darla Highley, second by Lisa Stafford, all approved.

**Resolution:** The attach Resolution was read by Carol Wroble to acknowledge the volunteerism and work of Janet Sabine Parry as a member of the PTO and on behalf of the students and HC community.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Maria A. Pierce, Secretary**

## **RESOLUTION**

**We the Hinsdale Central Parent Teacher Organization resolve to acknowledge with great gratitude Janet Sabine Parry**

**Through her years of service Janet has exemplified a parent who has served effortlessly and without personal gain. As a stellar member of the Safety and By-Laws committee, Janet is remembered for her vigilance in challenging decisions in an effort to ensure the best possible outcomes for the students of Hinsdale Central. For her work, guidance and common-sense approach, we sincerely and gratefully acknowledge her on this day the eighteenth of May, Two-thousand nine.**