

# Nathan Hale--PTSA 09/21/2011-- Meeting Minutes

Website: <http://www.wawm.k12.wi.us/Schools/Hale/PTSA.htm>

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Interim President Dorothy Riley.**

**Members present:** Brenda Sopa, Kathy Stawicki, Lori Palesse, Genevieve Skowera, Mike and Joyce Drews, Jan Sullivan, Gena Kraemer, Donna Volk, Mary Schmidt, Kristine Gaynor, Diane Schumitsch, Sonya Williams, David and Joy Geiger, Casey Jeschke, Cindy Ray, Melanie and Jeff Wrecycki, Vanessa Fixel, Principal Matt Lesar and Dorothy Riley.

**Secretary's Report:** No secretary's report available from May.

- Brenda Sopa was voted in as the new 2011-2012 secretary.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joyce Drews

- National and State PTSA fees have increased and therefore the profit for our school is decreased.
- Budget was reviewed – it was pointed out that some of the numbers/figures were in the wrong columns on the budget sheet. The budget was approved after the “misplaced figures” were explained.

**Guest Speaker:** Teacher Melissa Jovasevic attended “Rachel's Challenge” conference in Dallas, Texas. The PTSA provided the funding for the trip and she thanked the PTSA for the opportunity.

- Conference: Teachers to make classrooms a “safe haven” for students and the need for teachers to “capture” students' hearts and help the kids to want to be in the classroom.
- Received helpful information and ideas
- Misbah Noorani and Jessica Jurkiewicz two Hale students from the “FOR Club” (short for “friends of Rachel”)
  - Club has 70 members so far.
  - Doing community service projects this year; ideas for projects are being explored.

**Guest Speaker 2:** Gail Reisenauer from Student Services at Hale

- Scholarships
  - Applications are now mostly “online”.
  - Information is available from a link on the Hale website. Most scholarships require essays which often have a word limit.
  - School library is open after school daily from 3-4 pm for students.
- WKCE testing for Sophomores is NOV 1, 2 & 3 (Pam Acker is PTSA coordinator) PTSA provides health snack prior to testing.

**Membership:** Lori Palesse

- 370 members, 82 of which are teachers.
- National dues this year have increased to \$2.25 per member

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Matt Lesar

1. Thanked the PTSA for the things that they do for the students
2. Reminded the purpose of the “parent Connect “ meetings
3. New school day schedule; which now includes a daily homeroom period and a shorter lunch period than last year. Freshman receive visits from mentors in homeroom now which replaces the previous FEAP period. There is an

attempt being made to create smaller “communities” by having these homerooms meet daily since Hale is a big school with 1700+ kids. The intent is for kids to feel “connected” to school and want to be here.

4. The school district is looking into ways to improve reading and math competency.
5. Discussed “Pride of the Pack” slips and reminded everyone about the upcoming “Safe and Sober Family Night”

**President’s Report:** Dorothy Riley

1. Rachel’s Challenge/Legacy was held at Hale on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> for all students and went well.
  - a. Rachel’s Challenge will also be presenting at West Milwaukee and Frank Lloyd Wright this week.
2. “Mini-grants” – None received. Mini- grants provide PTSA teachers with a small amount of money to be used for various projects in their classrooms, etc. Applications are pending.
3. Bylaws are due this year
4. District Council has found a fundraiser which involves selling sports-oriented drinking cups; information available to any PTA’s interested.
5. Hospitality Committee
  - a. Parent-Teacher Conferences: volunteers are needed to serve cookies and coffee during the dates of the conferences...Donna Volk will coordinate for October conferences.
  - b. Homecoming: Jan Sullivan will coordinate refreshments for the Homecoming Dance
  - c. Diane Schumitsch will coordinate the teacher appreciation dinner on Oct 11<sup>th</sup>.
6. Craft Fair: Dorothy will contact Brian Vissars about getting information on Channel 13.
7. Teacher Appreciation: Volunteer needed to coordinate this in May. There is a folder with information.
8. Reflections: a coordinator for this event is needed. Ms. Flayter (Art teacher) will assist
  - a. This program involves the opportunity for students to express their creativity in art and music and is a local competition followed by State and National competitions. This years’ theme is “Diversity means...” First entries are due by November 1.
9. Cindy Ray will make a list of volunteers which will be obtained from the PTSA membership forms.

**The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2011 at 7pm.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

**Respectfully submitted: Brenda Sopa, Secretary**