

Attention Parents and Hilliard Music Supporters,

On April 25, 2012 at 7PM in the Darby High School Band Room please come and be a part of our Spring General Membership Meeting. This meeting is important for many reasons. For starters, this meeting is where the organization will elect 2012/2013 Corporate officers. These positions will be effective on July 1, 2012. Also, the group will be voting on distributions of the 2011 Hilliard Music Invitational profits based upon requests made by various district music directors and reviewed by the Executive Board. Finally, we want to hear from you as parents and the Hilliard Community.

We have seen a lot of stress being put on our musical educators and the music programs over the past year or so. Budget cuts and uncertain times have led to a real challenge to keep ALL Hilliard music programs at their best and at the successful levels we have taken for granted for so many years. Our focus has to change from just being the “here and now” of how we support the programs we have to one where we continue our rigid support while celebrating our history and plan for an uncertain future. I am going to be asking for our Hilliard music alumni to step up, get more involved, and give back to those who are trying to keep and meet the many rich traditions we enjoy in our musical programs. I am also asking those with younger students in the various programs to step up, get involved, and help forge a stronger future for your child and many others. We can't continue, as parents or a community, to limit our support for a “narrow” four years (and sometimes longer) that our student is at the high school level. By joining “forces” with our community and Hilliard Alumni we can be a strong and enviable force of support for ALL of our young musicians and those that direct them.

If this “reformed” high school football player can become a vocal and supportive music parent in a short period of one year (now going on seven years), there are many of you out there that can make that same transition or just “step up” and add your support. That doesn't always have to be financially. It just has to be publicly. And it has to be now. For if we sit back and wait for others to step up for us, we will soon be in another struggle to rescue our programs and our rich history from the aspect of more cuts and fewer dollars.

Come to Darby on April 25th and find out about how you can get more involved in the Hilliard Music Programs and about how we, the current leaders, plan to marshal your voice and combined efforts.

Sincerely,

Jeff Keller

HMB President