

# Nicolet Multi-Ethnic Parent Association (MEPA)

January 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes

## **MEPA Mission:**

MEPA Exists to

1. Promote academic success for all students.
2. Advocate for equal access to a college ready curriculum for all students
3. Increase parental engagement, involvement, and awareness of the Nicolet System to ensure success of the diverse student population.
4. Award and honor seniors from the diverse population with scholarships

## **Agenda Topics**

- 1) Academic Success
- 2) Equal Access Advocacy
- 3) Parental Engagement
- 4) Scholarship
- 5) What's your Passion?

## **Topic recap**

### **Academic Success:**

Dr. Kobylski attended the meeting to discuss the most recent ACT test scores of the current senior class. There are subgroups at Nicolet that are underperforming (Achievement Gaps) on this test and action steps have been taken. Nicolet has changed the structure of how courses are leveled. Regular level tracks are now presenting At-Grade Level curriculum. Nicolet has trained teachers to teach and engage diverse classes.

35% of ACT test takers were proficient on all four parts of the exam. Nicolet has set a goal that 70% of takers become proficient on all tests.

There are 67 current seniors who scored below all of the four benchmarks on the ACT. Steps are being taken to work with these families with a goal that all 67 graduate Nicolet on time. (15 day check ins, phone calls if there are failing grades, possibility of online make up courses, bridge-to-college summer option information from Guidance Counselors).

Concern was expressed that some families don't have confidence in the Guidance Counselors to guide families through Nicolet and help develop plans for successful college career after high school. Dr. Kobylski assured MEPA that the Counselors have been given specific directives: checkpoints, more parent meetings, parent involvement and advocacy.

### **Equal Access Advocacy:**

Information was handed out that displays college admission requirements. Families and parents need to understand class, grade, and credit requirements to advocate for their children to graduate on time and with individualized post-Nicolet goals. Please see attached chart.

The Nicolet handbook was updated Jan 28, 2016 it includes new and updated information regarding college admission and graduation requirements. Parents are encouraged to review the updated information.

**Parental Engagement:**

Ways to partner with parents:

- a. Mentor family matches to be made (Adopt a Family). More discussion & development on this in the future
- b. Engage parents by going to them (information to be handed out at sporting events). Tim Klingman is recruiting volunteers to go to a home basketball game to meet parents and invite them out to the February meeting. Feb 12<sup>th</sup> is a home game double header (both the boys and girls team will be playing). This is one option for recruiting efforts.
- c. Every MEPA member discuss with three other families to:
  - 1. invite them to MEPA meetings
  - 2. share what they what we know & have learned about the system

**Scholarship:**

**Objective:** Raise \$3000 to give 6 scholarships of \$500 each.

Begin fundraising efforts. Fundraising Ideas to collect money for bake sale Please get involved, donate baked goods, money, your time etc.

Note the list below contains brief **status updates** of action items discussed at previous meetings and **New Action items** identified at meeting.

Action	Owner	Due date
<b>Status Updates:</b> Boys and Girls Club partnership: Mr. Kabara has met with the organization. MEPA would like them to come and share their K-12 parent engagement plan to guide families on a path to college.	Kabara/ Carter/ Green	February 24 <sup>th</sup> MEPA Meeting
<b>Status Updates:</b> MEPA is encouraging ALL families to proactively set up appointments with your guidance counselor to make sure your child is on track to graduate.	<b>All</b>	Ongoing
<b>New Action Items:</b> Yolanda Robertson is going to reach out to basketball families with graduation and college planning information.	Yolanda Robertson	February 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>New Action Item</b> Mr. Klingman and Ms. Robertson are going to distribute graduation and college planning information at Sporting Events	Tim Klingman	February 24 <sup>th</sup>

<p><b>New Action Item:</b> Parent Engagement. Continue the strong conversation regarding our responsibility as a community. We have to be vested, have the knowledge and experience to guide our students to success.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>New Action Item:</b> Redefine Parent, Student, and Counselor roles. MEPA and Nicolet will hear outlines of successful college plans from Partner schools. We will access the ideal plan vs. the current Nicolet Plan. Where are the Gaps? We will work to have defined Parent Roles, defined Counselor Roles and defined Student Roles.</p>	<p>Kabara &amp; Kobylski</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p><b>New Action Item:</b> What's Your Passion? Please let us know what you are passionate about (advocacy, outreach, and fundraising) and commit to helping MEPA reach every Nicolet family to maximize their student's potential for success.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>