



February 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Minda Byrne, Nina Capati, Marilyn Franklin, Greg Kabara, Nancy McLaughlin, Piper Melkonian, Mary Beth Mills, Nader Raad, Sharon Shapiro, Jill Tobin, Sarah Damonte Vegas, Whitney Wertheimer, and Julie Wood.

The Nicolet PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Mary Beth Mills asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves. It was announced that there was an amendment made to the January 15 PTSO meeting minutes. Senior Service Day is changed back to May 29, 2015 and the Senior Breakfast will now be on the last day of school followed by Graduation Rehearsal. The minutes reflect these changes. A motion was made by Piper Melkonian to approve the updated January minutes. Greg Kabara seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

President's Report: *Mrs. Mary Beth Mills*

- Mary Beth reported that the Nicolet production of Hairspray went great!
- She also reported that the NHS Swim and Orchestra Rummage Sale will be on Saturday, March 14, 2015. Students can volunteer at the rummage sale to receive Merit Award Service hours. There will be an email going out to parents to let them know that students can get these volunteer hours if they sign up at school. Mr. Kabara mentioned that there are a lot of file cabinets and other pieces in the basement that could go in the rummage sale if somebody wants to move them once we go through them. Marilyn mentioned that some pieces need to be marked and stay with Nicolet. So, if the rummage sale wants extra items for the sale, someone will need to agree to get them upstairs.

Treasurer's Report: *Mrs. Mary Beth Mills*

- Mary Beth reported that Jill was out sick.
- Mary Beth reported that \$238.02 was spent on the Cocoa & Cram program and was right on budget. Income included both \$5 for a membership dues and \$5 for a cling sale. The Campus Colors money of \$64.48 also came in. So, after our income and expenses, we have a total of \$12,894.30 in our account right now. Our season of spending is just beginning. We have budgeted funding of many upcoming activities such as the Student Council's Sadie Hawkins Dance and Prom.
- When Jill returns next meeting, she will let us know if the accounts were officially combined.

Chair Reports: *Mrs. Mary Beth Mills*

- **Merit Awards** – Mary Beth reported that Jill Tobin will be the chairperson heading up the Merit Awards via the guidance of Piper Melkonian who has done it in the past. Thanx, Jill! The Merit Award packets are available in the High School Office for all Nicolet students now. Lori Reinhart will go through the completed Merit Award packets to make sure students qualify. Reminders are going out to all the Nicolet students that they are due on March 20, 2015. Discussion took place regarding the Merit Award Ceremony. Only about half of the recipients actually come to the ceremony as there are after school conflicts. An option suggested was to hold the Merit Award Ceremony on the same evening as the Senior Academic and Athletic Awards in the Nicolet Theater about an hour prior. The freshman, sophomore, and junior Merit Awards could be given out then. Then, any of the underclassmen and parents could stay to watch the seniors receive their Merit, Academic, and Athletic Awards at the newly combined awards ceremony. Without after school sport and club conflicts, perhaps more Merit Award recipients would attend and it would be nice for parents of underclassmen and students to watch the ceremony. They may be more apt to strive for these awards throughout their high school career. There is Advisory class for all students on March 4, 2015 when teachers can promote completing the Merit Award packets. There will be announcements made. It



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was also suggested that packets could be given out during lunch periods. Freshman health teachers can also give these packets out and promote it. Jill Tobin will meet with Renee and Tami who are heading up the combined awards ceremony. *If anyone would like to help Jill on this committee, please connect with PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at marybethmills3@gmail.com and let her know you are willing to volunteer.*

- **Cocoa & Cram** – Thank you to Kristin Wright, Cocoa & Cram chairperson, for a successful event! The next C&C will be right before second semester exams in June, 2015. *If anyone would like to help Kristin on this committee, please connect with PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at marybethmills3@gmail.com and let her know you are willing to volunteer.*
- **Senior Breakfast** – This celebratory event is a breakfast for students in the senior class and is organized and sponsored by the PTSO at the conclusion of the school year. Seniors will dress up, attend the breakfast, and then attend the Graduation Rehearsal right after it. *The PTSO is looking for a chair and committee members to organize and implement this event. Please contact PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at marybethmills3@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.*
- **Staff/Teacher Appreciation** – March 5 is parent/teacher conferences. The PTSO is going to provide staff and teachers with a healthy snack that they can have during this evening. *The PTSO is looking for a chair and committee members to organize and implement this event. Please contact PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at marybethmills3@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.*
- **Grad Grams** – Robin Arenzon will be chairing the Grad Grams this year. Keep an eye out for the Grad Gram order form as they will be coming out earlier this year. *The PTSO is looking for committee members to Robin with this event. Please contact PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at marybethmills3@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.*
- **Prom** – Please read on in Whitney Wertheimer’s Student Council report below.

Student Council Report: Whitney Wertheimer - Junior Class Student Council President

- **Winter Spirit Week** – During the week of February 23rd, there will be a Spirit Week. It may begin with Sunday’s “Freezin’ for a Reason” focusing on the upcoming *Relay for Life* event at Nicolet. There will be dress up days throughout the week: *Monday* is Outdoorsy, *Tuesday* is Twins Day, *Wednesday* is Dress-like-a-Teacher Day, *Thursday* is a Purple Out, winter pep rally, last evening boys home basketball game, and Buzz Cuts for Cancer, and *Friday* is both Nicolet Spirit Day and the Sadie Hawkins Dance.
- **Sadie Hawkins Dance** – The dance is being planned and implemented by the student council. It will take place on Friday, February 27, 2015. Tickets are \$5 and need to be purchased at school in advance. No outside guests allowed; only at Prom once approved. The Sadies Hawkins Dance is from 8p -11pm at Nicolet High School. The PTSO will provide snacks and water. Mary Beth Mills will email Mr. Welna regarding details.
- **Prom Activities** – Whitney reported that Prom will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel on April 25, 2015. The DJ for prom is set. At prom, activities will include casino games, raffles with prizes, a photo booth, a caricature artist, plus more. Parents are invited to take photos at the Intercontinental Hotel in the same space as last year. Lori Reinhart will send out a Save-The-Date to all parents and students after the Sadie Hawkins dance is over. Whitney asked the PTSO for \$500 to cover the photo booth. There was a motion to fund the \$500. Piper seconded the motion. It was approved. The PTSO will also solicit donations for 30-40 gift cards for raffle prizes.
- **Relay For Life** – It will take place on May 29, 2015. Sign up has already begun. The student council is encouraging this as a community wide event and inviting the middle school students to attend. The overnight stay will only be for Nicolet students. Middle School students and other attendees will be



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asked to leave at 11pm. It was suggested to advertise at both the Fox Point-Bayside School District's Cupcake Run and the feeder/partner school event which includes St. Eugene's on March 20, 2015.

Guidance Report: Nader Raad, Guidance Counselor & Department Leader

- **Staff Changes** --Nader Raad reported that there have been a few changes since the last meeting. Terry Lewis, Nicolet social worker, has left Nicolet and is now working at MPS. Nicolet hired a new social worker named Maureen Newborn. The Nicolet Psychologist, Barb Bornstein, will be retiring this year. She has worked here for 24 years. The job listing has been posted.
- **The 8th Grade Jr. Knight** --This was successful and well attended on January 28, 2015 with about 240 families. There also were three Junior Knight's Days where for the first time, incoming 8th grade students came to Nicolet during the school day to discuss schedules and visit Nicolet. Previously, the counselors went to each of the partner schools. These went well.
- **Next Year Scheduling** --The Guidance counselors have been working with Nicolet students to complete next year's schedules. Students can access schedules at any time. Sophomores will be next week. If a student needs to change something, they should connect with their counselor.
- **ACT and ACT WorkKeys Testing** -- On March 3 and 4, 2015, juniors will be taking the ACT and ACT Work Keys tests. The ACT scores can be sent to colleges. The cost of this ACT test is free. It is being given state wide and part of the state report card. So, every junior must take it. Special Ed students will take these tests with whatever accommodations they need. This is the first time through the ACT testing during school. The same rules apply meaning no snacks, no water, and number 2 pencils only. March 17 and 18, 2015 are the ACT test make-up days.
- **Sophomore/Parent Meetings** --During March and April, guidance counselors will be inviting sophomores and their parents in for a meeting. This is to continue relationship building between counselors and families and to set the rest of the students' high school career paths.

Teacher Report: Minda Byrne, English Teacher

- There are so many wonderful activities going on at Nicolet. The teachers are thrilled with all the students' success. The students are overwhelmed with so much and the teachers are dedicated to it!
- The robotics team is going to Duluth, MN.
- Kudos to Ms. Anderle on the success of Hairspray the musical. She is embracing so much.
- Congrats to all the athletic teams success including 9 members of the swim team qualifying for state. They could place third in state. While Mr. Davis is out, Mr. Shuster is doing great. The girl's hockey team won conference! Skiing went to state!
- Every department is doing some competition right now including Science Fair, National History Day competitions on March 7, 2015, Model UN, and Mock Trial with 2nd and 3rd in the region!
- There is a Black History Month program assembly tomorrow at school.
- Teacher professional development is set for 7 hours of new ideas of application for the classroom.

School Board/Foundation Report: Marilyn Franklin

- Marilyn Franklin shared that the School Board's Committee of the Whole met on Monday. There was global history department presentation and the teachers did great. The buzz words were career and college ready.
- There was a shared service committee meeting yesterday. They talked about helping each other with teachers interplay between curriculum directors, shared in-service dates for teachers, and other calendaring.



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- The next School Board meeting is Monday, February 23, 2015 to talk about reaffirming policy. The school board is anticipating finding out bids for the upper field.
- Marilyn reminded everyone that the Nicolet Foundation is partnering again with our feeder schools for the *Band Together* event. The entire community is invited to the fundraiser to see the University of Wisconsin-Madison Marching Band perform their 5th Quarter on Saturday, March 7th at 2:00pm. Doors open at 1:00pm with snack concessions, an instrument petting zoo by Brass Bell, a silent auction, and sports team mascots. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at all the schools or online at www.nicolet.us/families/foundation.cfm.

Administration Report: Principal Greg Kabara

- Mr. Kabara reported that 6 students qualified for sectionals in wrestling. Best in years! In art, there was a record high of scholastic arts awards for our students. A Nicolet art student, Robert Dietz, is going to Cooper Union Art School in NY which is very prestigious.
- Mr. Kabara reported that they drafted a calendar with the teachers and partner schools. That way, they have the same dates for professional development next year. They secured a great speaker for the fall for professional development, also.
- Mr. Kabara reported that they are working on the North Shore Conference realignment with the WIAA. There will be 42 schools affected and Nicolet is one of them. There was zero support for the WIAA proposal and the teams can propose one of their own. The WIAA wanted to automatically realign based on enrollment but Nicolet would then have to travel very far and that would not work for our students. So, the area principals created a tentative proposal and will move forward with that. They are looking at a 14 team conference with one small school and one large school division. Nicolet fits into the small school division. Other schools can be added and have minimal travel which would provide Nicolet with relief for football. It also gives Nicolet winnable games (not playing teams like Arrowhead). Also, having two divisions would allow Nicolet to recognize more students and maintain current rivalries while giving us flexibility. There is nothing final as of yet but Nicolet wanted to have a proposal for WIAA. There is almost 100% support for this proposal as they would rather lead it than be dictated it. An early decision is expected in the spring and would affect the 2016/2017 season. This should be a good plan for all the schools.
- Mr. Kabara reported that the PTSO sponsored Senior Breakfast will definitely be combined with the graduation rehearsal again this year. Senior Breakfast will be around 10:15am on the last day of exams. The seniors will dress up, receive awards, raffles, watch the senior video, and have a fun time!
- Mr. Kabara reported that the Brittany Gigl Basketball Tournament is up coming.

Old Business:

- The PTSO will donate items to the Nicolet Foundation's *Band Together* fundraising event's silent auction. Mary Beth made a motion to donate Grad Gram packages and a basket of gift cards. Piper seconded. It was approved.
- Please be reminded to go to the new **Nicolet PTSO** facebook page and "like" it. There will be continual updates for PTSO members there: <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO>
- Thank you to those who paid their Nicolet PTSO dues. If you haven't done so yet, please go to: http://www.nicolet.us/cms_files/resources/ptso_membership_form.pdf
- Our ongoing PTSO fundraiser is the Nicolet Knight window decal sale. Purchase your window decal cling for only \$5 and support. Share the Nicolet pride by placing a window decal cling on the inside or outside of your car window or storefront! These are available in the office or online via our webpage <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>.



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- Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next PTSO meeting on March 19, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Room B113 (staff lounge in the back of the cafeteria.) All are welcome!
- Parents, we need your help. Please volunteer for a PTSO committee, <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary