



March 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Robin Arenzon, Margaret Cooper, Stephanie Deering, Marilyn Franklin, Jill Johnson Miller, Greg Kabara, Nancy McLaughin, Piper Melkonian, Mary Beth Mills, Sharon Shapiro, Brenda Stelzer, and Jackie Winter.

The Nicolet PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. Mary Beth Mills asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves. A motion was made by Jill Johnson Miller to approve the February minutes. Principal Greg Kabara seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

PTSO President's Report: Mary Beth Mills

- Mary Beth noticed a suggestion box in the high school office. She was wondering if that was for parents. Principal Greg Kabara explained that it was created for students in conjunction with his Principal/Student Advisory. There is another box in the cafeteria for easy access to students. The teachers have one in their mail room. Mr. Kabara was not apposed and welcomed parent's suggestions via the suggestion box. Mary Beth will talk with Lori Reinhart in the office about adding the word *parents* to the sign on the suggestion box in the office to read *students and parents*.

Treasurer's Report: Jill Johnson Miller

- Jill reported that we had parent/teacher conference expenses for the healthy snacks we donated for the staff during conferences. PTSO had Sadie Hawkins dance expenses for what was provided.
- Lori Reinhart had a student sell window decal clings for merit award service hours during parent teacher conferences which is income for PTSO. Thank you, Lori.
- The PTSO savings and money market bank accounts were officially combined. The merge was taken care of on March 2, 2015.

Chair Reports: Mrs. Mary Beth Mills

- **Merit Awards** – Mary Beth reported that Jill Tobin is the chairperson of the Merit Awards and is receiving help from Piper Melkonian. The deadline to turn in completed merit Award Applications is March 20. It was decided that the Merit Award Ceremony will be separate after all this year as it has been published that way. We will wait to see how the combining of the academic and athletic awards pan out this year and will restart it next year. Lori Reinhart will go through the completed Merit Award packets to make sure students qualify. After Lori goes through them, Jill and Piper will meet to ensure applicants completed requirements. Piper Melkonian will connect with Lori. The Merit Award ceremony will occur on May 21 at 2:45pm. *If anyone else 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** – The next Cocoa & Cram will be Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 10:00am-12:00pm and again will be chaired by Kristin Wright. Thank you Kristin. *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.*
- **Spirit Award** – The teachers nominate the seniors for this award. PTSO will give out 1-5 awards for this at the Senior Awards Assembly.
- **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. This is a very special event for the Senior class. Seniors will dress up, attend the breakfast, get their yearbooks before the rest of the Nicolet high school students, and then attend the graduation rehearsal right after it. It will occur on Friday, June 5, 2015 about 9:30am. *The PTSO is looking for a chair and committee*



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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 and Kathy Eurich are chairing Grad Grams. This year, the PTSO is going back to the old school version. There will **not** be an online form this year. While last year's online form was extremely convenient, it was very complex and too labor intensive for the volunteers. This year, you will complete a form and a volunteer will complete the typing of your Grad Gram or you will be able to create your own by purchasing blank grad gram pages (2 per page) to feed into your own computer. Once the completed Grad Grams are turned into the high school office, they will be compiled into the Grad Gram booklets by the committee. Grad Grams will be available on April 10, 2015. The deadline for completed and turned in Grad Grams is May 15, 2015. Grad Grams will cost \$2 each, \$1 each for Nicolet Staff, and \$200 for sending Grad Grams to the entire senior class and retirees. *The PTSO is looking for volunteers to help Robin and Kathy assemble the Grad Gram booklets. Please contact PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at marybethmills3@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.*
- **Prom** – PTSO will be financially supporting Prom as we do every year. Please see Whitney Wertheimer's report below.

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

Whitney Wertheimer, Student Council President, was unable to make the meeting. However, she reported to the PTSO Secretary, Sharon Shapiro, the following:

- **Winter Spirit Week** – Winter Spirit Week was successful and concluded with an inspiring Pep Rally to honor winter sports. The run on Sunday at the beginning of the week was unsuccessful and Whitney intends to urge that Nicolet doesn't try it again next year.
- **Sadie Hawkins Dance** – The Sadie's dance was on Friday, February 27, 2015 at Nicolet High School. It was fun and mostly successful, though Whitney thinks it would be better if it was held on a Saturday. The PTSO provided snacks.
- **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. They are in the process of deciding how they can incorporate the feeder schools. The overnight stay will only be for Nicolet students. Middle School students and other attendees will be asked to leave at 11pm.
- **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, caricature artists, casino tables, and possibly henna tattoos. Parents are invited to take photos at the Intercontinental Hotel in the same space as last year. Lori Reinhart sent out a Save-the-Date to all parents already. PTSO will give \$500 to cover the photo booth as well as solicit donations for 30-40 door prizes (gift cards, tickets, electronics, etc.) Check in starts at 7:00. The grand march, which parents are invited to take photos at, will begin at 7:15, followed by dinner, then dancing will go on until 11:00. There is a prom king and queen, and the student council's advisor takes care of that. Attached is the flyer that is hung up around school.

Guidance Report: Nader Raad, Guidance Counselor & Department Leader

Guidance was unable to attend due to a last minute conflict. Mary Beth reported on what Nadar Raad shared with her prior to the meeting.

- **Sophomore Conferences** – The guidance counselors met with the sophomores and their parents to plan the rest of their high school paths.



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- **Next Year Scheduling** – Mr. Kabara reported that staff needs and master schedules are done. The guidance counselors will run a first draft of next year's schedule for all the students and do their annual moving of classes to get about 90% or 95% of students their first choices. There are about 292 incoming freshman at this point. There is an influx of students that are going to be incoming freshman from Eastbrook Academy as Nicolet has established a partnership with them like we have with MJDS, St. Monicas, St. Eugenes, etc. We need to share the 8th Grade Feeder dance information with all the partner schools including Eastbrook Academy. There are 270 outgoing seniors this year. There was some discussion about Nicolet possibly offering a third section of Spanish 3A next year. Principal Greg Kabara explained that he meets with the department chairs to discuss and make recommendations about who teaches what, class size, etc. A question came up about Nicolet's policy about class size. Mr. Kabara explained there is nothing official but the average is in the 20's. If a class has in the 30s, then usually the principal recommends 2 sections, except in physical education when they often like more to create more teams for playing sports in class. While the Nicolet budget is down by \$400,000 and the amount of students are up, staff FTE's (full time equivalencies) may change. Mr. Kabara reassured everyone that Nicolet will do okay in terms of budget for this year unlike other north shore schools in the area where they are eliminating people and not offering classes. We are maintaining this year! Nicolet will manage student schedule choices and hiring. There was talk about a possible referendum in the works. In order to maintain the quality of our high school, the school board may see a need for a referendum in the future.

Teacher Report: Stephanie Deering, Science Teacher

- Science Department had the State Science Fair on March 21 with 11 students competing in state and 1 could win a trip to ISEF. Nicolet is hoping to get some maple syrup from our Environmental Center outside at Nicolet High School but the weather has not been cooperating.
- National History Day continues its competition.
- There were German, French, and Spanish contests and many qualified for state.
- The robotics team competes this weekend, too.
- Brian Reiels, Director of Facilities Services, got an award for the most environmentally friendly school. Congrats to him!
- Elliot Scheuer was nominated for excellence in education and won the Herb Kohl Fellowship Award. \$3,000 was awarded to him and \$3,000 was given to Nicolet. Mr. Kabara allows it to go to the entire math department and they will decide how to best use it for Math at Nicolet.
- Congrats to all the athletic teams successes!
- Ms. Deering thanked the PTSO on behalf of all the staff for the snacks at parent teacher conferences.

Administration Report: Principal Greg Kabara

- John Reiels, Director of Technology, received 1 of 3 Skyward awards. He created the positive attendance system. He went to Orlando, FL to receive the award. Congrats to him!
- In terms of sports teams, Nicolet is proud that we won the state championship in Hockey with our co-op team. Gymnastics competed and won 4th in state. Swimming won 4th in state, too.
- FEAR went to Duluth, MN and finished 2nd! They won a safety award and also another award.
- Nicolet had lots of assemblies recently including Black History Month, Hairspray the Musical Preview, Winter Pep Rally with the Locks for Love and Relay for Life which added to the community building.



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- Nicolet had the second in the series of Parent 101 and the third one is on April 15th. Mr. Kabara requested for a PTSO representative at 6:00pm to speak to all the parents about PTSO. Mary Beth Mills will make sure someone will be there to speak.
- Safety procedures changed at the front desk at the Nicolet High School entrance. There is a new program called Keepntrack which keeps track of who is in the building. Those entering during school hours will have to check in and scan their driver's license or state ID. It will print a sticker badge to wear. The sticker will change into a stop sign after 24 hours. Nicolet will now have a better sense of who is in the building. This new program alerts the proper school authorities when there is a sexual predator in the building. There is now a paper trail and it's more cost efficient.
- The Swim Team/Orchestra rummage sale went great. PTSO sold the old 2013 Graduation mugs!

School Board/Foundation Report: Marilyn Franklin

- In terms of the School Board, Marilyn reported that the 220 money may not be available anymore. Transportation cost will be affected. The school board will review the budget. The committee of the Whole met and it was decided that \$1 million has to be spent on getting a new pool humidifier installed. The school food service also has to be looked at because Nicolet is losing money there. At the next meeting on April 8th, they will discuss the bids for the athletic field. The proposal for the new athletic conference realignment has been approved by 12 of the 14 schools so far. National Honor Society Induction will be after the Advanced Placement exams. There was a school board candidate forum done. Marilyn reminded everyone to vote on April 7. An article was written in the Now Magazine of the newspaper. It talked about the joint project with the city of Glendale and Nicolet High School. Glendale is moving forward with their structure and the Nicolet baseball fields will be mapped out so later Nicolet can build them if they choose to. A varsity football team is being planned for this fall.
- In terms of the Foundation, Marilyn reported that the *Band Together* event was great fun and they did a terrific job putting it together.

New Business:

- It was suggested that service hours for Merit Awards needs to be spelled out to the staff at Nicolet this year so that next year all staff are prepared to allow students to help in areas that were agreed upon. Some students were being turned away from doing service hours as ushers for the Musical when they were allowed and encouraged to in the past. This year, instead, only the stage crew were allowed to usher. Some students who planned on ushering and turned away, didn't get their service hours finished for their merit award. We hope that creating a list will help in students' planning for next year. Piper Melkonian and Jill Tobin will work on creating this list and get it out to Nicolet staff this year. It was suggested that since all the students and parents know what is assumed from year to year, it would be smart to have some sort of training for new hired staff to learn the culture of Nicolet.

Old Business:

- "Like" the Nicolet PTSO Facebook page. There will be continual updates for PTSO members there. Check it out here: <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO>
- Thank you again 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



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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>.

- **Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next PTSO meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Room B113 (staff lounge in the back of the cafeteria.) All are welcome!**
- Parents, please consider volunteering to help by volunteering on a PTSO committee, <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary