



January 19, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Piper Melkonian called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Janice Pfaffl made a motion to approve the November 2016 minutes and Piper seconded the motion. The November 2016 minutes were approved.

**Attendance:** Nina Capati, Kasey Ehrke, Kathy Eurich, Marilyn Franklin, Daysi Garcia, Bridget Killberg, Greg Kabara, Jordan Levy, Halah Maykhan, Nancy McLaughlin, Piper Melkonian, Janice Pfaffl, Bridey Richards, Sharon Shapiro, Alexandra Sprager, Brenda Stelzer, Jill Tobin, Beth Van Asten, Sarah Damonte Vegas, and Jackie Winter

**President's Report:** *Piper Melkonian*

- All the attendees at the meeting introduced themselves.
- Piper shared the two thank you notes from the Reiels' family and Ms. Hemming for the donation that the PTSO made in memory of Mr. Reiels to the Nicolet Choir.

**Treasurer's Report:** *Brenda Stelzer*

- Sharon Shapiro apologized for not including the treasury report in the PTSO packet that was handed out at this meeting. It can be emailed if you request a copy via email to [sharonark@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonark@yahoo.com).
- November and December 2016 were quiet months. Although, we did add 16 new teacher/staff PTSO memberships. Thank you!
- In December, we received the check for the 2015 Tailgate in the amount of \$758.45. Please note that the budget numbers in the October Year-to-Date Activity Report were not updated after the September meeting where we made some adjustments to the proposed budget. Sorry for the inconvenience.
- The majority of our budgeted expenses are coming up in the next few months. Until those obligations are met, we should not fund any additional (non-budgeted) requests for money.
- The Booster Club would like to sell Nicolet clings in the school store just like ours. We discussed this. Then, a motion was made by Greg Kabara to sell our last window decal clings to the Booster Club. It was seconded by Jackie Winter. The vote passed. Piper Melkonian will look into how many we have and what they cost the PTSO and present the Booster Club with a suggested amount to sell these left over clings to them for.

**Student Council:** *Jordan Levy and Daysi Garcia*

- Both students introduced themselves and shared the student council report.
- They thanked the PTSO for the Cocoa & Cram event.
- They reported that Student Council is having a Sadie's Valentine's Dance. It will be held on Friday, February 17 at Nicolet from 7-10pm. They have a DJ and there will be snacks. It is a fundraiser for prom. They asked for some parent volunteers. PTSO suggested that Student Council set up a Sign-Up Genius for the event and they would get parent volunteers and donations!
- The Juniors are working on Prom. There are different committees including music, ticket sales, fundraisers, etc. Prom will be April 22 at the Intercontinental Hotel downtown. PTSO promised \$500 to Student Council to cover the photo booth and some gift card prizes. PTSO suggested that they go on Groupon to acquire a cost effective photo booth. Student Council has a caricature artist, a DJ, Casino, and the theme: *New York Bright Nights Big City*.
- Student Council's Blood Drive is April 7<sup>th</sup>.



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- **Guidance Report:** *Sent in by Mr. Raad*
- January 25 at 6:00 will be the parent and student information night for 8th-grade students in the Nicolet Auditorium.
- January 31 (Glen Hills), February 1 (Bayside), and February 3 (Maple Dale/Private Schools) will be the Jr. Knights days for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Counselors will be helping students (in grades 9-11) schedule their classes for next year online using Skyward during the month of February. We do this through English classes. I will send a message out to parents including the attached schedule so they know when their child will be selecting courses. There is no parent form to sign. I'll send out another message after course selection process is complete reminding parents to review the courses that their children have selected and to call their student's counselor if they would like to make any changes to the selected courses. The fact that parents have the ability to view the requested courses online, and are asked to do so, serves as a way of communicating the requests to them. No response from a parent requesting a change implies that they agree with the selected courses. Parents and students are highly encouraged to review the courses together. Course changes are accepted until the end of February and even after that until June on a space available basis.
- UW-Madison decisions should be rolling out soon. We have a different counselor from UW-Madison assigned to us this year and are hoping for decisions to be similar to those made in past years.
- Our goal is to send out 7th semester (mid-year) transcripts to colleges if ready by January 30, but no later than February 8.
- We had a great turnout for the onsite admission opportunities held at Nicolet for UWM and MATC. We have done this for the past three years and it has been very beneficial to our students, especially those who want to stay local for college.
- As of this date, 89% of our students have applied to college per our Naviance data.
- Local Scholarship information will be announced sometime in February. The scholarship information on our website is updated weekly.

**Administration Report:** *Principal Greg Kabara*

- In terms of sports, the Boys basketball team is doing well and the Girls basketball team is working hard. Swimming is quite competitive and so are the gymnastics and wrestling teams.
- There are three Nicolet staff/students that will be traveling soon. Nicolet senior, Ananda Deacon, will be going to Washington D.C. in March as part of the prestigious U.S. Senate Youth Program, was chosen as 1 of 50, and awarded \$10,000. Sue Bolly will be going overseas to the Philippines and Jen Bault was selected to study in Antarctica to study the polar ice caps through the Aldridge Grant.
- Online enrollment began so if you are aware of someone that needs to register for Nicolet please let them know that they can do that online.
- Final Exams were just completed. There was some discussion about student homework and stress. Mr. Kabara is trying to work with teachers about homework being purposeful especially the week before finals as the students have a huge amount of work at the same time that they are studying for finals. There was a question about teachers assigning a lot of homework over winter break. The students were surveyed about their stress levels by UWM recently and there was a question about when the results will be published. Everyone wants balance.



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### **Teacher Report: Report sent by Molly Krychowiak**

- **From Mr. Wagner:** Senior Maria Graziano made it to the interview round in the 2017 CBYX Scholar Competition. She is interviewing for a one year trip to Germany during which she would attend school, live with a family and connect with a German politician. We have had ten kids win this scholarship since 2002. Robert McCracken is currently studying in Münster.
- **From Ms. Byrne:** Senior baby pictures and friend pictures are due. The notice is in the parent letter. Have them send pictures as attachments to [yearbook@nicolet.us](mailto:yearbook@nicolet.us)
- **From Ms. Winkle:** On Thursday, Dec 22, Andi Winkle took her science students out to the Nicolet Environmental Center/Woods to snowshoe. Most students were experiencing this for the first time. They got to take look at the Nicolet State Forest during the wintertime and talk about the survival of many of the species in the winter. Andi Winkle invited a Nicolet Alum, Greg Horstmeier (Class of 2013), to speak to Chemistry, Engineering, and Science Fair students on Friday, January 6th. Greg is a senior at UW and is majoring in Geological Engineering, which is a subset of civil engineering. Greg spoke to the students about the major, STEM careers, and college life in general. Students were extremely engaged and very appreciative of his talk and question/answer session afterwards.

### **School Board Report: Principal Greg Kabara**

- There were comments made unofficially by Marilyn Franklin about the last School Board meeting. It was a workshop that focused on science lab improvements. They are going to upgrade the science labs since they are in need of that.
- The School Board is looking into starting school next year possibly on either August 28<sup>th</sup> or September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The district has 10 seats available for open enrollment and usually first grabs go to partner school 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and families who are already in the school district. They will be chosen randomly. There are more than 10 of those and so it isn't even a guarantee.
- Marilyn attended the school board convention over the weekend and there were many sessions about grade level achievement gap as well as trust. She mentioned that schools that are viewed as trustworthy are the most successful.

### **Foundation Report: Marilyn Franklin**

- The Foundation will be financially supporting the Nicolet school district with the science lab upgrade.

### **Chair Reports:**

- **Merit Awards – Jill Tobin and Nancy McLaughlin, Co-Chairs.** The PTSO recognizes positive citizenship within the Nicolet community. Students complete an application packet throughout the school year. Students Merit Award Packets are available in the high school office, guidance counselor office, and online via the PTSO webpage or directly <http://www.nicolet.us/students/merit.pdf>. Awards are given out at the award ceremony at the end of the year. Four year recipients are indicated in the commencement booklet at graduation. There was some discussion about allowing Nicolet students that volunteer hours at the feeder/partner schools to receive merit award hours for that in the future. We cannot accept those volunteer hours this year but maybe next year. However, there was a point made that the reason Merit Awards was put into place was to get the Nicolet students involved in Nicolet.
- **Cocoa & Cram – Briday Richards and Jackie Winter, Volunteer Queen Bees.** This two hour study session included treats on the Saturday before finals. The event was Saturday, January 14, 2016. Both cafeterias



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were filled with students! There were over 360 students that attended. The students lined up for food or sat at tables to work. We served a total of 212 doughnut holes, 14 dozen bagels with 11 bricks of cream cheese, 5 dozen muffins, 140 pieces of fruit, and 2 sweet bread loaves. Everyone drank 160 packet of cocoa and we additionally mixed and served 4 large cans of cocoa with 4 bags of marshmallows and 5 boxes of mini candy canes, along with 2 coffee travelers. There were no leftovers. A thank you note was sent via the Sign-Up Genius was sent after the event. **Thank you to the following parent volunteers: Amy Blumenthal, Bridey Richards, Carol Howard, Debbie Scribner, Halah Maykhan, Jackie Winter, Joan Kazan, Julie Karnes, Kari Williams, Karn Cronwell, Kathy Shanahan, Kim Borst, Kirsten Jacobson, Lisa Zetley, Maria Monterroso, Paula Kobylski, Sharon Shapiro, Tawnya Ganfield, Terri Morton, Lucy Ezekiel, Jennifer Gilbert, Jill Tobin, Kim Mendiola, Piper Melkonian, and Kristin Wright. Thank you also to the following teachers/staff/administrators: Aleandra Sprager, Abigail Carver, Patti Zeimentz, Don Cramer, Lyn Deiss, Phyllis Santacroce, Jennifer Bault, Molly Krychowiak David Coyle, Kristin Susedik, Greg Kabara, Jamie Holifield, Nicole Mueller, Kathy Gustavson, Lisa Moore, Yael Gal, David Quam, Tami Hugo-Soto, Maria Wallis, Victoria Biel, Steph Deering, Eliot Scheuer, Mike Kania, Amie Spence, Mark Wagner, Sue Bolly, Chris Sheff, Bill Shuster, Amy Lee, and Ferne Hecker.** Please accept our sincere apologies if we missed anyone. Again, thank you to all the volunteers, donors, teachers/staff/administrators that made Cocoa & Cram possible.

- **Teacher Appreciation** – *Cathy Sanders and Susan Schroeder, Co-Chairs.* The PTSO provides a huge dessert buffet for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Please be reminded that you should connect with Amy Lee in the High School Office because there is a student intern who could help with this event. There was no update at this time. *However, the PTSO will need volunteer bakers and treat donators for teacher appreciation events. We will communicate how and when as we get closer.*
- **Spirit Award** – *Marilyn Franklin and Piper Melkonian.* The Nicolet Staff nominates students that show positive spirit. We have given out 1 -5 awards every year. The spirit award winners get their name up in the Commons. There was no update at this time..
- **Senior Breakfast** – *Robin Arenzon and Kathy Eurich, Co-Chairs.* This is a great send off for Nicolet's Senior Class at the end of the year right before final exams. There was no update at this time.
- **Grad Grams** – *Kris Barger and Nina Capati, Co-Chairs.* Congratulatory messages are purchased and sent by anyone to a graduating senior and/or retiring staff member. These messages are bound together into a keepsake memory booklet given out at graduation rehearsal. There was no update at this time. *PTSO will need volunteers to help with this committee. Please email PTSO President, Piper Melkonian at [pmelkonian@mac.com](mailto:pmelkonian@mac.com) if you are able to help.*

### **Other Business:**

- There was some discussion about the water cooler/fountain and microwaves to be purchased for the school from the PTSO. Greg Kabara will talk with Bryan Reiels and get prices for purchase and installation.
- Piper mentioned that she will not continue to be PTSO President next year. Janice Pffafel also said that she will be stepping down at the end of this year. Please consider taking on an officer position for next year.
- The Cocoa & Cram and Teacher Appreciation Binders will be kept in the PTSO closet.
- **Please visit the Nicolet PTSO Facebook page and “like” it at <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO>**
- The Nicolet PTSO benefits the parents, teachers, and students of Nicolet through raising funds via PTSO membership dues (still only \$15), and Grad Gram sales. The PTSO sponsors events including Homecoming Activities, Student Dances, Cocoa/Cookies & Cram Study Sessions, Merit Awards, Spirit Award, Teacher



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Appreciation, School Gifts, Senior Breakfast, and more. Please pay your dues, join us at meetings, and volunteer. We need you! [http://www.nicolet.us/cms\\_files/resources/ptso\\_membership\\_form.pdf](http://www.nicolet.us/cms_files/resources/ptso_membership_form.pdf)

- **Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next PTSO meeting on February 16, 2017. All are welcome!**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary