



March 16, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Piper Melkonian called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Greg Kabara made a motion to approve the February 2017 minutes and Brenda seconded the motion. The February 2017 minutes were approved.

Attendance: Kris Barger, Nina Capati, David Cranberry, Stephanie Deering, Kasey Ehrke, Marilyn Franklin, Greg Kabara, Ellen Liang, Halah Maykhan, Nancy McLaughlin, Piper Melkonian, Susan Miller, Janice Pfaffl, Marli Stellhorn, Brenda Stelzer, Jill Tobin, and Beth Van Asten, and Sarah Damonte Vegas

President's Report: *Piper Melkonian*

- Piper asked Janice Pfaffl to draw 2 teacher/staff names for \$10 gift cards. The winners were Sherry Richards and Brenda Turner. Congratulations!

Treasurer's Report: *Brenda Stelzer*

- A check from \$246.05 from Booster Club for clings was deposited.
- Microwaves were purchased and delivered. Greg Kabara reported that the kids love them and there are shorter lines to heat up food.
- Many expenses are coming up but we do have a miscellaneous donation line.
- Piper asked what is the 'other' income (\$758.45)? Brenda replied "tailgate".

Student Council: *Marli Stellhorn, Ellen Liang and David Cranberry*

- Three Student council members introduced themselves and shared their reports.
- Ellen Liang reported the *Relay for Life* is 5/12 - 5/13. Posters will be hung on Friday. Next Wednesday is a 'sign up party' where pizza slices will be given to anyone who signs up. Ellen stated they were excited they can still use the football field.
- April 7th at 7:00pm in Auditorium is the talent show. Discussion was held if P.T.S.O. will still provide snacks to sell at the intermission. The P.T.S.O. agreed to provide water and cookies for the show at a cost of no more than \$50. Left overs can be given away at *Relay for Life*.
- The juniors are promoting Prom. Fundraisers: Toppers night on 3/14 raised \$200 and there is a Panera night 3/21. Janice will ask Sharon Shapiro to post on Facebook.
- Report from Jordan Levy via email on Prom- Prom is April 22 and are currently in full swing! Prom committee meeting made decorations and a playlist. We are also in the midst of nominations for prom King and Queen. Once nominations end, the top 5 nominees from each will be put on a final ballot and the winners will be voted for! We are very excited and thank you for donating the photo booth.
- Jordan also stated "Relay for life is coming up!! We've all been working very hard planning the night, recruiting members and securing donations. Our "Cuts for Cancer" pep rally will be Friday April 21st".
- Marli Stellhorn and David Cranberry talked about *Senior Service Day* which will be on 6/1. Seniors will be volunteering at one of the five locations including GroundworkMKE, Victory Gardens, Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park, Lake Park, and JCC Community Garden and Food Pantry.
- Marli and David requested P.T.S.O. to help with funding. Piper Melkonian indicated we do not have a line on budget for this event, already fund the Senior breakfast and P.T.S.O. is for all students not just one class. The Board suggested they look into financial institutions (investing banks).
- Greg stated that last year's *Senior Service Day* was district funded, but scrambled at the last minute to get everything covered. Marli and David indicated they want to be self-funded this year.



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- Piper made a motion for \$500 from concession money to give to *Senior Service Day* in place of a previous idea for a water fountain; “taking drinking fountain off the table and give \$500 this year for Senior Service Day”. Kris Barger made a motion to approve, Janice Pfaffl seconded the motion. PTSO will give \$500 to *Senior Service Day*. Piper then proposed we consider making it a line item in the budget for further years. The Board agreed and will further discuss.

Guidance Report: Sent in by Mr. Raad

- Met with all Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior students individually to fill ut their class selections for next year.
- Started Sophomore conferences. We are averaging 4-5 hours of conferences a day until the end of April.
- Completed all of the ACT testing for the entire Junior class.
- Junior update day on March 23rd where we are going into all of the history classes to update the Juniors on college and career readiness plans and steps for the summer and beginning of Senior year.

Administration Report: Principal Greg Kabara

- Midwest Writing Center Association (MWCA) has Nicole Mueller as a board member.
- Yail Gal is 1 out of 5 teachers Nation-wide to write the Hebrew exam.
- Jennifer Vault is going to the Arctic Circle for training in the core ice centers.
- Mary Elridge- National Scholastic grant for science teacher (up to \$500,000).
- In between sport seasons.
- Wrapping up scheduling, starting to build a master schedule for next year.
- 8th graders have spring meeting with counselors to build a 4-year plan. They are re-assigning counselor duties to free them up to meet with incoming students.
- Research on student wellness- survey went out, results are in, action plans are the next step. Found students first go to their teachers and then no one when stressed/overwhelmed. Top three issues identified: pressure on self, peer/competitive pressure and workload. More info to come.

Teacher Report: Report sent by Molly Krychowiak

- **From Science Department:** Mike Schroeder is presenting at the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers State Conference this week. Congratulations to the following students...

Specialty Award Recipients

- **Anna Spektor** , NASA Earth System Award,
- **Miah Bohlen**, American Meteorological Society Award
- **Bryce Krychowiak**, American Psychological Association Award
- **Julian & Neville Nazareth**, MU Alpha Theta Award
- **Anna Spektor**, Stockholm Junior Water Prize (and entrance into another competition)
- **Tehya Crego**, United States Air Force Award
- **Julian & Neville Nazareth**, United States Air Force Award
- **Smita Nayak**, Wisconsin Young Scientist Award



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Category Award Recipients

- **Julian & Neville Nazareth**, First place in the Math/Computer Sciences/Physics category
- **Ben Cook and Kamran Moos**, Second place in the Chemistry/Biochemistry Category
- **Bryce Krychowiak**, Second place in the Medicine/Health/Behavioral Science Category

School Board Report: Marilyn Franklin

- No report.

Foundation Report: Marilyn Franklin/Sharon Shapiro

- No report.

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. **Packets are due in the office on Monday 3/20.**
- **Cookies & Cram** – This two hour study session includes treats on the Saturday morning before final exams for students from 10:00am-12:00pm. Teachers, administrators, and students attend and enjoy. Volunteers will be needed for shifts to set up, clean up, chaperone, bake or donate breakfast treats or even be a food and beverage sponsor/donor. *Please email PTSO President, Piper Melkonian at pmelkonian@mac.com if you are able to help.*
- **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 report. *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 report.
- **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 report.
- **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. **Grad Grams will be available for purchase after spring break!** *PTSO will need volunteers to help with this committee. Please email PTSO President, Piper Melkonian at pmelkonian@mac.com if you are able to help.*

New Business:

- Discussed Prom- members asked about attendance numbers. Greg Karbara stated it depended upon the class size. Usually approximately 200-300 attend.
- Long discussion on post prom events occurred.



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- Prom costs are mostly made up from ticket sales and fundraising. Talked about having a more organized fundraising system.
- Great discussions were held regarding how to ‘market’ PTSO and get more parent involvement.
 - Revisited the ‘Grade Parent Rep’. Members felt we should try to get this concept organized/in place to help parents be aware of what is happening at their grade level including specific fundraising duties (i.e. for prom needing to start freshman year). Suggestion was also to have a Board rep to be the liaison for grade parent rep.
 - PTSO rep will be at the next Parent 101 session in April.
 - Suggestions to invite feeder school parents to May PTSO meeting.
 - Discussed ability to release parent emails. It was the understanding that the school cannot give out parent emails. Susan Miller asked if we could send out a newsletter like the one athletic do on a weekly basis. PTSO does not have its own email address. Greg Kabara is checking into how PTSO can obtain their members and all parent emails to communicate. He thought PTSO can get its own email address.
 - Kris Barger, Brenda Stelzer, and Sarah Damante Vegas will attend the feeder school’s PTO meetings in May to promote involvement.

Summary: All agree we need to make communication to parents outside of the PTSO board a priority.

Other Business:

- 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 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
- **Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next PTSO meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017. All are welcome!**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Janice Pfaffl, Nicolet PTSO Vice President