



November 17, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Piper Melkonian, the PTSO President, was unable to be at our meeting. Janice Pfaffl, the PTSO Vice President called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Janice made a motion to approve the October, 2016 minutes and Jackie Winter seconded the motion. The October, 2016 minutes were approved. Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.

Attendance: Nina Capati, Kasey Ehrke, Bridget Killberg, Molly Krychowiak, Jessica Perl, Janice Pfaffl, Sharon Shapiro, Alexandra Sprager, Brenda Stelzer, Jill Tobin, Sarah Damonte Vegas, and Jackie Winter

President's Report: *Janice Pfaffl (Vice President)*

- Piper was not at the meeting. So, Janice did the staff drawings. We have missed the September and October drawings, so we chose six winners, two from September, two from October, and two for this month. Congratulations to the six teachers/staff winners of \$10 gift cards! They included Anne Ignatowski, Ferne Hecker, Tami Hugo Soto, Thomas Kuzma, Mary Owen, and Phyllis Santacroce. We will continue to do this at every PTSO meeting as one of the many ways we support and thank our wonderful Nicolet teachers/staff. **Anyone can support the Nicolet teachers/staff by purchasing Starbucks, Jimmy John's, Barnes & Noble, etc. gift cards or by making a monetary donation to the PTSO. Drop off or mail the monetary/gift card donations in a sealed envelope marked "PTSO Staff Drawing" to the Nicolet High School Office at 6701 N. Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217. If you have any questions, please contact Piper Melkonian via email at pmelkonian@mac.com.**

Treasurer's Report: *Brenda Stelzer*

- October was a quiet month financially.
- A membership check was received.
- From the minutes, Brenda ascertained that the PTSO will cover the cost of desserts at conferences.
- The PTSO made a donation of \$150 to the Nicolet Choir in memory of Dr. James Reiels.
- Brenda would like to remind all chairs, school organizations, etc. that all requests for funds need to have a PTSO expense report filled out and turned in to me. They can also be scanned and emailed to brenda@stelzbov.com.
- Brenda also wanted to point out that we need to be cautious about additional spending. This year's budget already has expenses greater than expected income. There was some discussion about possible future fundraisers to allocate more funds. We would need a volunteer to chair/ head up the research of possible future fundraisers (maybe a dining out night at a restaurant or something else) and then implement it. **If you are interested in helping with future fundraisers, please contact Piper Melkonian via email at pmelkonian@mac.com.**
- Looking ahead, Cocoa & Cram will be held in January and \$250 has been allocated for this event.

Student Council: *(Jessica Perl)*

- Jessica introduced herself and shared the student council report.
- She thanked all the parent volunteers for helping out with Homecoming.
- Jessica reported that the Nicolet Blood Drive saved 200 lives!
- They are working on Relay for Life. Ms. Erke explained that it is possible that the activities may be indoors with some access to the back field. They already secured lighting for the back field.
- They are planning some winter fundraising which includes a cookoff and candy cane sales.



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- **The junior class has begun working on prom details.** The date for prom is April 22 at the Intercontinental. The junior leadership has met to discuss the need to fundraise. They are looking for monetary donations. The PTSO will support prom financially as we always do, up to \$1,000. Parent volunteers will be needed to help out with Prom, also. Details will follow in the months to come. Junior co-presidents, Sarah Fleming and Jordan Levy will be contacting the PTSO in the future.

Guidance Report: *Mr. Raad and Mr. McKenna*

- None of the guidance counselors were able to make it but sent the following report.
- We have been meeting with all freshman students in groups of three to go through the Academic and Career Plan for the next four years. Students are asked to name goals for their four years both academically and socially. We also go through their course selections for the next four years hoping to match their classes to their goals and to their potential major choice for college or career.
- Counselors have also been diligently finishing senior college applications writing many letters of recommendation and processing transcripts. Our senior testing day activities were extremely helpful with getting students to start applications and essays. We have seen a big uptick in our early applications.
- College representatives continue to pour in from all over the country, we meet with each counselor to develop relationships and gather inside information on the admission process for each school.
- We have started our 15 day grade check meetings, making sure that all students with grades lower than C's are met with and have plans to pull their grades up.
- Finally, we are meeting with students daily making sure that all students are sound both emotionally and socially.

Administration Report: *Principal Greg Kabara*

- Mr. Kabara was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Alexandra Sprager, Nicolet French teacher, shared his report that follows.
- There is an optional ACT preparation that some juniors are taking part in with Kreigh Knerr, a standardized test researcher and consultant. He's offering strategies and test taking skill improvement. The large group lecture sessions take place on early release days and the small groups guided by teachers that were trained by Mr. Knerr happen during resource.
- There is a school board meeting tonight.
- There were some students that qualified for state in swimming!
- Tomorrow is the last day of the Nicolet Food Drive ran by the Spanish 4Honors classes. They hope to meet their goal. They will be receiving the donations from the feeder/partner schools tomorrow, too. The students will be tallying up their totals and volunteering to bring it to the Centro Hispano organization.
- Next week there is early release on Wednesday, and then there is no school on Thursday and Friday, due to Thanksgiving break.

Teacher Report: *Molly Krychowiak*

- **Kristin Susedik, *Special Education Teacher*:** Becky and I took 26 juniors and seniors to the MATC Mequon campus for a tour and a meeting with the Student Services Coordinator.
- **Tami Hugo-Soto, *Spanish Teacher*:** Mark Wagner was named Distinguished German teacher and received this award on November 5th at the World Language Teacher's conference in Appleton. Also, it is the second last day of the Nicolet Food Drive. Midway through Thursday, 11/17, we had just over 10,000 cans.



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That is one half our goal. So, we hope to double it tomorrow and then add in the contributions from the feeder schools. Thanks to any who have contributed money of food items! Peek in the Knightskeller to see the food and some of the packed boxes.

- **Nicole Mueller, *English Teacher and National Honor Society Advisor***: National Honor Society raised \$800 through its "Homelessness Challenge." The challenge asked students to consider the difficulties facing a student experiencing homelessness by having NHS members note how many times they are able to do basic tasks -- use a computer that's their own, have a meal prepared for them or have food purchased, have access to laundry, a shower, and a bed. Students dropped a dime or a quarter into an envelope every time they were able to access these activities. The funds raised will go to "The Closet," a resource provided by the school's social worker Maureen Newborn, which stocks basic hygiene and clothing items for students in need. Most important, however, were the number of students who spoke afterwards of having their understanding of homelessness -- and their appreciation for their own lives -- changed for the better.
- **Minda Byrne, *Teacher and Yearbook Advisor***: Yearbook made its first deadline on Tuesday. 35 pages are finished as well as the cover. There are still over 50 seniors who haven't turned in their pictures. We are starting those pages now. We are planning a day in Mr. Medved's room on Tuesday for students who would like our student photographers to take a formal picture.
- **Dann Jacobson, *Social Studies Teacher and Girls Volleyball Coach***: Girls volleyball conference champions, 6 players named to all-conference, and 3 players named to all-state.

School Board Report: *Principal Greg Kabara*

- There was no report.

Foundation Report: *Sharon Shapiro*

- The *Knight on the Town: Mission Possible* fundraising event took place on October 15, 2016. They raised almost \$50,000 at the event.
- There will be an annual appeal sent out to Nicolet Families soon. Please be reminded that PTSO raises money and works on programming for Nicolet while the Foundation works on fundraising for the academics at Nicolet. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps all the students at Nicolet!

Chair Reports: *Janice Pfaffl*

- **Homecoming** – *Jill Tobin, Chair*. There is no report. However, you can check out some Nicolet Homecoming photos on the PTSO Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO/>, or the PTSO webpage: <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>, or on our Nicolet Photo page: <http://www.nicoletphoto.com/>
- **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. If a student puts that on the form,



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it won't be turned down this year. However, we will make it official at the beginning of next year to make it fair for all students.

- **Cocoa & Cram** – *Bridey Richards and Jackie Winter, Volunteer Queen Bees*. This two hour study session includes treats on the Saturday before final exams for students. The event is Saturday, January 14, 2016 from 10:00am-12:00pm. Teachers, administrators, and students attend and enjoy. **Volunteers are needed for shifts to set up, chaperone, and clean up. We also need volunteers to bake and donate breakfast treats or be a food and beverage sponsor/donor. Please email Jackie jbwwoman@hotmail.com or Bridey bobbridey@aol.com directly 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. *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, Chair, co-chair needed*. 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. *Please email PTSO President, Piper Melkonian at pmelkonian@mac.com if you are able to help.*
- **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.
- **Prom** – *No chair, volunteers needed*. The student council junior class co-presidents will connect about what will be needed at a future meeting.
- **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. *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.*

Other Business:

- **Molly Krychowiak, Nicolet Booster Club Secretary, asked if the PTSO would consider partnering with them to sell new items such as stickers and share the profits.** There was some discussion about our Nicolet Knight decal window cling sales and the prior conflict with the Booster Club giving away the same cling that we sell as a fundraiser last year. She explained that the Booster Club received them as a donation and it was not their intention to be competitive and conflicting. So, she is suggesting that we partner. It was suggested that the PTSO count our inventory of what is left of our Nicolet Knight decal window clings; have the Booster club pay us for half; sell them in the School Spirit Store; and share the profits between the PTSO and Booster Club. This seems fair. The Booster Club would like to consider selling another sticker type item in the future and sell the item(s) together and share the profits. That way, nobody is stepping on toes and both organizations and Nicolet benefits.
- **Please visit the Nicolet PTSO Facebook page and “like” it at <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO>**
- **Our ongoing PTSO fundraiser is the Nicolet Knight window decal cling sales.** Please purchase your window decal cling for only \$5 and support your PTSO. Share the Nicolet pride by placing a window decal cling on the inside or outside of your car window or storefront! They will be available in the office or online via our webpage soon <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>.



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- The Nicolet PTSO benefits the parents, teachers, and students of Nicolet through raising funds via PTSO membership dues (still only \$15), Grad Gram sales, and the Nicolet Knight window decal cling sales (only \$5.) The PTSO sponsors events including Homecoming Activities, Student Dances, Cocoa/Cookies and 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
- **THERE IS NO DECEMBER MEETING!** Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next PTSO meeting on January 19, 2017. All are welcome!

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary