



October 27, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Piper Melkonian, the PTSO President, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. The September, 2016 minutes were reviewed. Piper made a motion to approve the minutes. Greg Kabara seconded the motion. The September, 2016 minutes were approved.

Attendance: Marilyn Franklin, Greg Kabara, Halah Maykhan, Piper Melkonian, Neville Nazareth, Janice Pfaffl, Sharon Shapiro, Jill Tobin, Sarah Damonte Vegas, and Jackie Winter

President's Report: *Piper Melkonian*

- Piper shared throughout the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: *Brenda Stelzer*

- Brenda Stelzer was unable to attend the meeting but sent on a report via email. It is following.
- In September, the PTSO had expenses from the previous years - Staff appreciation in the amount of \$178.21. I did not receive them before the end of our fiscal year, so our numbers for Staff Appreciation will be higher this year. Also, thank you notes were ordered from Shorewood Press, \$145.
- We received a check from the High School for PTSO membership for \$3,105. We just need to recruit 6 new members and our budget goal will be met! Do we have something in the teacher's lounge this year?
- Discussion followed to address Brenda's question. We are hoping for teachers/staff to join the PTSO. Piper will get the teacher/staff membership drive flyer and candy. She will give it to Greg Kabara, so that his intern can put it together and put it in their school mailboxes.
- There were desserts provided for the teachers/staff at conferences. Piper Melkonian made a motion that PTSO pay for it. Jackie Winter seconded it. It was approved.
- We still have \$4,000 from the concession profits of last school year. We will be putting money towards a potential sculpture garden, student microwaves, and new water fountain bottle fillers. We will hold off on the amount to the sculpture garden as it is still in progress. Greg will have his intern do some research regarding cost. Greg Kabara made a motion to purchase three microwaves for up to \$600. Jackie Winter seconded it and it was approved. As soon as they find the best price, they will purchase them. Greg will find out the cost of new water fountain bottle fillers and communicate back to PTSO.
- A discussion was had about PTSO funding part of the upcoming stadium project. The PTSO wants to support Nicolet and the Booster Club. We are going to hold off making a decision about how much money to donate or what part of the project to sponsor until further research is done. A possibility includes but is not limited to sponsoring a section of the stadium seating with PTSO signage.

Student Council: *Neville Nazareth*

- The new Student Council advisors, Ms. Deering and Ms. Ehrke, were unable to attend.
- Neville Nazareth, Nicolet Student Council representative, introduced himself and explained that there is a new format for student council which is keeping the junior and senior class leadership team but including more freshman and sophomore representatives to encourage more student participation.
- Neville reported that there were about 750 students at the Homecoming dance this year. He thanked the PTSO for our help with homecoming. They appreciated our volunteers at the parade and chaperoning the dance.
- The upcoming student council blood drive has 80 donors signed up.
- There are meetings set for this school year's Relay for Life and Winter Spirit Week.



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- The junior class will start working on Prom soon. Prom date is set for April 22 at the Intercontinental. Greg Kabara will get the dates set up onto the school website and app calendars.

Guidance Report: Mr. Michael McKenna

- Mr. McKenna was unable to attend the meeting but sent an email update. It is the following.
- 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.

Teacher Liaison: Molly Krychowiak

- Molly Krychowiak was unable to attend the meeting but sent an email update. It is the following.
- **From Phyllis Santacroce:**
 - We have a new National History Day student advisory group made up of 12 upper class students. These students are already staffing the library during resource on Tuesday and Fridays to help Nicolet High School students with NHD. The mentors will travel to Milwaukee College Prep to work with its 8th graders, who are participating in NHD for the first time this year. The mentors will also be participating in google hangouts with students at Northwestern High School in Maple, Wisconsin (Douglas County), working to help the Northwestern students who are also competing for the first time this year.
- **From Michael Kania:**
 - A year and a half in the making, Mobile Apps students finished the Nicolet High School Trivia Challenge app and it is now available to download from the Google Play Store. The app is based on the history of Nicolet and asks questions pulled from the 50th Anniversary Guide. There are 4 unlockable levels (Fresh, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) and a hidden Alumni level.
 - Senior Kaeson Black passed his Networking Fundamentals Certification in the Microsoft Certification course. The certification is accepted as two college credits at over 2,000 schools nationwide.
 - The inaugural "Got Game" tournament open to all Nicolet students and middle schools in the area will take place on Saturday, January 21st. Students will compete for prizes in Madden NFL Football, NBA 2K Basketball, and Super Mario Brothers. We are currently looking for sponsors to donate TVs, food, prize money, etc. *If P.T.S.O. members would like to sponsor or donate, please contact Piper Melkonian via email at pmelkonian@mac.com.*



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- The open application period for the Nicolet National Business Honor Society recently closed. Nineteen applicants qualified and will be inducted into the society at the end of the school year pending demonstration of the society's Four Pillars of Success.
- **From Kate Rinehart:**
 - The Autumn Artisans Fair is being held on Saturday, November 5 from 10:00am-4pm at Nicolet High School. Please attend and support! Here is some info: *Featuring 75 Artists and Crafters from all over Southeastern Wisconsin. Wearable art, jewelry, mosaics, watercolors, photography, felted purses, homespun knits, gourmet goodies, wood turning, books, doll accessories and so much more! The Autumn Artisan's Fair was created out of the need to provide "real-world" work experience for the students of the Nicolet Special Education Life Skills program. Today, competitive or supportive employment, supported or independent living and lifelong learning are expectations for students with disabilities. Our students participate in the entire planning and budgeting process, as well as the execution of the Artisan's Fair.*

School Board: Principal Greg Kabara

- Greg Kabara invited Marilyn Franklin to talk about the last school board meeting.
- She mentioned that the tax levy was decreased and they are still waiting to hear about the sale of the upper athletic field and working to improve the athletic facilities.
- Marilyn reported that sadly, Dr. James Reiels recently passed away. He was a former Nicolet High School District Administrator, teacher and principal and the father of John and Brian Reiels--Nicolet school employees). <https://www.krausefuneralhome.com/obituary/dr-james-o-reiels/>. The PTSO discussed doing something to honor his 31 years of service to our school. Since he had a love for singing, Piper made a motion to donate \$150 to the Nicolet High School Choir program in Dr. Reiels' honor and they will decide the best way to put that donation to use. Janice seconded the motion and it was approved. Brenda Stelzer will send that on to the Ms. Hemming, the new Nicolet Choir teacher.

Foundation: Sharon Shapiro/Marilyn Franklin

- The ***Knight on the Town: Mission Possible*** fundraising event took place on October 15, 2016 at 6:30pm at the JCC and was a huge success. *Over 200 people attended.* There was a silent and live auction, a VIP event, and lots of sponsors and donors. The foundation honored Richard Lovett, Nicolet Class of '78, with the *Shining Knight Award* for his achievement in the entertainment industry. The raise the paddle at the end of the night raised money for the much needed broadcast studio update here at Nicolet. The Foundation raises awareness of Nicolet's academic excellence and helps ensure that it is maintained for current and future students.
- Thank you to the PTSO for their generous donations of the Prom tickets and Grad Grams for the auction. Thank you also to Mr. Kabara for the generous donation of the parking spaces. The foundation always appreciates the other Nicolet parent organizations' partnership in supporting our school.

Administration Report: Principal Greg Kabara

- Mr. Kabara shared that Nicolet High School continues to be having a great beginning of the school year! Student attendance and tardiness is the most challenging.



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- Nicolet is having a successful fall sport season! The Girls Tennis team went to state and were ranked #2. Swimming is doing very well. Cross Country qualified for state and three students were in the top five! The Girls Volleyball team is in the sectional finals tonight. The Boys Soccer team made it to the second round of playoffs. For the first time in four years, the Football team had a win in the season! The Boys Volleyball team is in the regional playoffs.
- The Nicolet theater's fall comedy play, *Moon Over Buffalo*, is underway. Tickets are on sale now for the shows on November 10, 11, 12, & 13. <https://www.greateventseats.com/events.php?IID=169>
- College Career Testing Day went well. Some sophomores and all juniors took the PSAT and ACT tests. Seniors had a special day of presentations from colleges, career counselors, graduation meeting, and seminars on college letter writing, recommendations, and applications. It was a huge benefit for those seniors that chose to stay. Next year, they may do this earlier in the year and invite the sophomores and juniors to attend the college presentations.
- One of the Nicolet school district goals is looking at student wellbeing. The districts PACS (Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent) recommended that Nicolet get a baseline data on stress level of students so Nicolet is working with a professor at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee to acquire that. There will be a survey given to students on October 31 during resource.
- The juniors have been given an opportunity to take part in ACT preparation for a small additional cost to families with Kreigh Knerr, a standardized test researcher and consultant. He will offer strategies and test taking skill improvement. The large group lecture sessions will take place on early release days and during resource. The small groups will be guided by teachers (trained by Mr. Knerr) during resource.
- Nicolet still takes part in RedGen, <http://www.nicolet.us/families/redgen.cfm>, a local community action group that promotes balance and resiliency in the lives of our youth and families. Their focus recently has been with middle school age students. Nicolet social worker, Ms. Newborn, is our representative.
- College Financial Aid Night was presented to parents last week at Shorewood high school. Greg Kabara will make sure that the slides from it are put up on our website as soon as they send it.
- There was discussion regarding the daily school announcements. Sometimes there is vital information that is given to students through the daily announcements. Parents would like to have that sent to them via email or at least have that option. While it is easy to access via our Nicolet website. Mr. Kabara will look into having that be a push via the Nicolet mobile app. In the meantime, PTSO recommends checking the daily announcements via the website http://www.nicolet.us/daily_announcements.cfm. The more parents are informed, the more we can advocate for our students!
- There was discussion regarding continuing to reward teachers and staff via PTSO gift card giveaway drawings at each PTSO meeting. Piper will take care of getting the gift cards. Greg Kabara will make sure Amy Lee sends two lists to Piper, one of teachers and one of the rest of the staff.
- There is a new club at Nicolet called the Black Student Union which is a spinoff of the Multi Culture club. The advisor is Mr. Holifield. While the Multi Culture club talks about national topics that pertain to all, the Black Student Union covers topics specifically for African American students.
- There was discussion about Nicolet wifi issues. Some parents have difficulty getting onto the guest wifi and being asked for a password as well as family data use overage issues. Greg Kabara will look into this.

Chair Reports: Janice Pfaffl

- **Homecoming – Jill Tobin, Chair.** The PTSO provided financial and volunteer support for Homecoming activities. Thank you to our chair and all the PTSO volunteers that helped with the parade, dance, and then



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some! **The volunteers include: Cindy Bohlen, James Crowley, John Diedrich, Suzanne Hall, Gisela Holmes, Julie Kline, Nancy McLaughlin, Janice Pfaffl, Bridey Richards, Michael Schnake, Tina Schnake, Kathy Shanahan, Sharon Shapiro, Brenda Stelzer, Rosalie Tocco, Jill Tobin, Jackie Winter, and Jennifer Wirth. THANK YOU!** The parade was great with lots of participation. However, there was discussion about the parade safety issues. First, there were student drivers driving many kids in parade with restrictions. A suggestion was made to either have adult drivers or those who no longer have restrictions and can prove that. There was concern regarding the dangers of overloaded cars filled with students on car roofs and hanging on to sides and backs of cars while being driven way too fast to the parade start. It was suggested that there be more staff supervising along with a prior meeting for participants where they are given expectations and rules and perhaps a signed permission sheet. It was also suggested that all students meet at the parade line up and only the car/float drivers actually drive from the parking lot around the neighborhood to the parade start. It was also suggested that the parade start a little later, maybe 5:00pm. That way, students and spectators can plan to stay for the entire evening and partake in all the events from the parade, to the bonfire, activities, tailgate, and game. It also was suggested that we provide food trucks or have the Homecoming Tailgate continue in the coming years. We understand it was a timing conflict due to the Foundation's Knight on the Town fundraising event this year. PTSO knows the Tailgate is truly a friend raiser and it was missed this year. Perhaps, since we partner with the Foundation and the Booster Club, maybe every three years, each organization takes the lead on it to help out. Another suggestion made we invite and encourage the feeder/partner schools to have their 7th and 8th graders be chaperoned, bussed, and partake in all the Hoco festivities beginning with the parade. Also, there was concern of kids running into the parade street to get the candy thrown and we need to supervise this better. The Arenzon's donated the Knit Hats again to the students at the Nicolet Homecoming again. Thank you again to the Arenzon family! 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.
- **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. Teachers, administrators, and students attend and enjoy. Past chairs, Paula Kobylski and Nancy McLaughlin, may be contacted by Bridey and Jackie for guidance. Volunteers are needed for set up, during the event, and clean up. Please email Jackie jbwwoman@hotmail.com or Bridey bobbridey@aol.com directly if you are able to help. As we get closer, we will ask for more volunteers to donate treats, too.
- **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, is looking for a co to work with.** The Nicolet Staff nominates students that show positive spirit. We have given out 1 -5 awards every year. The spirit award winners get



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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 Activities – Volunteer Chair needed.** We did not discuss this as it is not timely. The student council president will connect about prom 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:

- There was some discussion of a possible fun *Drive In* program on the athletic field for the students before the field is demolished. Unfortunately, the timing is not going to work and there were other concerns. So instead, the PTSO is considering doing some kind of *winter activity* out on the athletic field. It could be a winter carnival of sorts with snowman building contests, sleigh rides, etc. *If you are interested in helping Janice Pfaffl on this committee, please contact her at janice.pfaffl@aurora.org.*
- 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>.
- 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
- Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next PTSO meeting on November 17th. All are welcome!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary