



April 20, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Piper Melkonian called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Kris Barger made a motion to approve the March 2017 minutes and Piper Melkonian seconded the motion. The March 2017 minutes were approved.

Attendance: Kris Barger, Maya Ben-Yitschak, Nina Capati, Jim Cranberg, Stephanie Deering, Kasey Ehrke, Kathy Eurich, Marilyn Franklin, Greg Kabara, Bridget Killberg, Molly Krychowiak, Nancy McLaughlin, Piper Melkonian, Janice Pfaffl, Traci Schwartz, Sharon Shapiro, Brenda Stelzer, Jill Tobin, Sarah Damonte Vegas, and Jackie Winter

President's Report: *Piper Melkonian*

- Piper asked someone to draw 2 teacher/staff names for \$10 gift cards. The winners were Thomas Medved and Cindy Schlidt. Congratulations! We are proud to reward our wonderful Nicolet staff/teachers! We do this at every PTSO meeting as one of the many ways we support and thank our wonderful Nicolet teachers/staff. Thank you to Principal Kabara who will deliver the gift cards to the winners. Generous parents donated the gift cards. Anyone can support the Nicolet teachers/staff by purchasing \$10 gift cards for Starbucks, Jimmy John's, Barnes & Noble, etc. or by making a monetary donation to the PTSO. Please 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. Any questions, please contact Piper Melkonian via email at pmelkonian@mac.com

Treasurer's Report: *Brenda Stelzer*

- There was no financial activity this month.
- Piper suggested that we continue to keep some money in reserve in the budget for future years.

Student Council: *Maya Ben-Yitchak*

- Ms. Ehrke and Ms. Deering, the student council advisors said the junior girls working on prom have been great. Prom is this upcoming weekend at the Intercontinental Hotel. There were 289 tickets sold. The Grand March is at 7:00pm and parents are invited. The theme is Bright KNIGHTS Big City-NY. The center pieces are ready to go and set up is at 8:00am.

Guidance Report: *Sent in by Mr. McKenna and reported by Molly Krychowiak*

- The counseling department has been quite busy in April with the sophomore conferences taking a large part of their days. They hope to finish them by the start of May.
- AP testing proctoring starts in May so the counselors have been busy setting up the tests and testing rooms for the large number of students taking tests.
- Scholarships are rolling in for seniors. So, the counselors have been setting up meeting to manage the scholarships.
- Counselors are sitting down with seniors and starting to make the final decision for their college choices. May 1st is the official date to let the colleges know.
- Transition meetings for special education students and students with 504 plans from the feeder/partner schools start the week of April 24th and proceed for two weeks.



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Teacher Report: *Report by Molly Krychowiak*

- **News from Ms. Anderle, Theater Department:** We have our Children's Show on Saturday, April 29th at 10:30am, 1:00pm, & 3:30pm and April 30th at 1:00pm & 3:30pm. All patrons must have a ticket since it occurs in the community room which has limited seating. Please get your tickets at Nicolet's welcome desk at the main school entrance.
<http://www.nicolet.us/activities/theatre.cfm#d432971>
- **News from Ms. Santacroce, Social Studies Department:** Congratulations to Kasey Ehrke. She is receiving the Educational Policy and Leadership Department's Living the Mission Award as a graduate of Marquette University's program.
- **News from Jamin Hoffman, Orchestra Director:** On Friday, April 14th, 44 orchestra students and Mr. Hoffman performed in an international band and orchestra festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The experience was incredible! The students played better than Mr. Hoffman had ever heard them play before. It will be a memory that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. In addition to the performance, the kids got to experience real NY pizza, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, *the Lion King*, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Times Square, and Central Park, in addition to all the energy and hubbub that IS New York City. Thank you to the chaperones: Nasif Rogers, Barbara Burns, Chris Sheff, Maureen Newborn and Chris Macon. Thank you to the parents who helped too: Jad Donaldson & his wife Anela Pierro and Tammy Babisch. We came back with all the same kids we left with, no injuries or other mishaps!

School Board Report: *Marilyn Franklin*

- They are actively working on trying to sell the upper field land. The original buyer is no longer interested and a new buyer may be. So, we may be another year out. The next school board meeting is April 24th.

Foundation Report: *Marilyn Franklin/Sharon Shapiro*

- No report.

Administration Report: *Principal Greg Kabara*

- The teachers/staff were involved in professional development with a new learning management system. They are rolling it out school wide and will be able to share teacher documents. Tools were demonstrated and there was a literacy workshop.
- The district is in the middle of hiring.
- They are scheduling students.
- There will be an assembly on Friday for Relay for Life and some teachers/staff/students will get buzz haircuts raising money for the American Cancer Society.
- They are finalizing graduation which will take place on Sunday, June 4th at 11:00am (which is a different time this year) at the Milwaukee Theater, 500 W. Kilbourn Avenue, downtown Milwaukee.
- Seniors will have a different schedule during their last week of school. Those with a C average or above will be exempt from final exams. All seniors will get take part in Senior Service Day and



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volunteer to do some environmental work at different local organizations, enjoy a pizza lunch together, and receive t-shirts. They will get to dress up for the special Senior Breakfast on the Friday before graduation and move on to graduation rehearsal.

- Final exams will end on June 9th.
- Homecoming for next year is set.
- The student council will have a workshop at Nicolet to plan the following school year of activities and fundraising.
- There is a possibility for the Drive In program since we will have another year with the upper fields.
- The stress survey data has been collected and released. The teachers/staff are looking at it. The school is looking into a number of different ways to ease the stress of the students. Some possibilities include: 1) A new system where grades go out by semesters not quarters. So, grades only twice a year instead of 4 times a year. Taking the pressure off a bit. 2) Really connect students to resources. 3) Start school later in the morning. 4) Work on that UWMadison push of ACT Scores 28 and above and a 3.8 or higher on unweighted scale. 5) Block scheduling where the focus is on 4 classes instead of 7. 6) Help parents and students understand that they don't have to be involved in everything! With studying, Aps, sports, theater, clubs, work, religious activities, it gets to be too much. There was a long discussion about the stress survey with Principal Greg Kabara. In the discussion, he shared that the survey validated concerns and the school is processing it and having conversations about it as a staff. The data will be online on the School Board webpage: http://www.nicolet.us/district/school_board.cfm. PTSO members shared questions and discussion regarding the school possibly managing homework load and creating policy about it. Greg Kabara said a study was done that with half the homework, students learned just as much. Another point discussed was about having a teacher for students to go to as a resource for issues. While they can go to their guidance counselors, with so many students to work with now, there isn't that same time to relationship-build that kids need. A question was asked about finding funds to hire a new staff person to be available for the kids.

PTSO 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 and have turned them in already. This year, there were 251 applications and 250 awards will be given out on May 18th after school at the award ceremony. Four-year recipients will also be indicated in the commencement booklet at graduation. The ceremony will begin with the seniors getting their plaques and then juniors, sophomores and finally, the freshman. They will ask Mr. Medved to take photos at the ceremony. Jill and Nancy agreed to do the Merit Awards next year! Thank you!
- **Cookies & Cram** – *Jackie Winter and Bridey Richards* did the Cocoa & Cram event at the end of the last semester and they were asked to do it again. Jackie agreed to prepare it but she will need help as one of them may not be able to be at the event. Hopefully, Bridey will be able to help again, too! **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. This two hour study session



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includes treats on the Saturday morning before final exams for students from 10:00am-12:00pm. Teachers, administrators, and students attend and enjoy.

- **Teacher Appreciation** – *Cathy Sanders and Susan Schroeder, Co-Chairs*. This year, the PTSO will provide a festive feast for the Nicolet teachers/staff on Monday, May 1st for Teacher Appreciation Week. We are planning an appetizer buffet featuring a variety of brunch/lunch foods – both savory and sweet. Please provide 2-3 dozen servings of hors d'oeuvres, snacks, or desserts (peanut-free). Email *Cathy Sanders* and let her know what you are donating at sanders.mail@sbcglobal.net. Please drop off your contribution to the Nicolet High School office on Monday, May 1st by 8:30am. THANK YOU so much for helping to honor Nicolet's amazing teachers and staff. They certainly deserve it! Some food donor offers are already coming in from parents. Susan has connected with Jet's Pizza as they will be generously donating some pizzas mid-morning. We'll be in Room B113 again this year, using a similar plan for decor and set-up. We will work within the \$200 budget and have the reimbursement and tax-exempt forms we need. Sharon will run the Facebook post about it again next week <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO/>.
- **Grad Grams** – *Kris Barger and Nina Capati, Co-Chairs*. This is the biggest **fundraiser** of the year for PTSO! Please spread the news and tell your friends, family, neighbors, etc. Share the link on your social media and tell people to purchase Grad Grams! These congratulatory messages only cost \$2 each and can be purchased and sent by anyone to a graduating senior and/or retiring staff member. The messages will be bound together into a keepsake memory booklet given out at graduation rehearsal. **Grad Grams are available for purchase now! All the information is here: <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>. Both Kris and Nina will need volunteers to help with Grad Gram assembly. Watch for upcoming information. Please email Nina Capati, nvcapati@hotmail.com, or Kris Barger, bargerhome@gmail.com, with any questions or if you are able to help. Thanx!**
- **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. Greg will provide the list of graduates and get the teachers to nominate students for the spirit awards. Once the nominations are collected, Greg will present the final nominations to Piper/Marilyn for PTSO approval. Then the plaques can be ordered for the senior awards presentation on May 31st.
- **Sen17r Breakfast** – *Robin Arenzon and Kathy Eurich, Co-Chairs*. It is on Friday, June 2 from about 10:00am-11:30pm. Plans are moving along. An email will be sent out to parents for gift cards and donations. There will be approximately 300 people at the event including students and staff. This is a great send off for Nicolet's Senior Class at the end of the year right before final exams. Kathy and Robin are currently looking into a senior give-away. Last year, a Nicolet water bottle was given out. They are looking into Nicolet socks!

Other Business:

- **PTSO Executive Board Officer Positions** - If anyone is interested in becoming an officer of the PTSO Executive Board, please contact Piper Melkonian, PTSO President, at pmelkonian@mac.com. We are thrilled that there is some interest by program chairs and feeder/partner school parents.



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- **PTSO Facebook Page:** Please visit the Nicolet PTSO Facebook page and “like” it at <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO>
- **PTSO Membership Dues:** 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
- **Next Meeting:** *Please mark your calendars and NOTE THE TIME CHANGE for our next PTSO meeting on Thursday, May 18th 2017 at 4:00pm. It will occur after the merit award ceremony. All are welcome!*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary