



October 26, 2017

Meeting Minutes

WELCOME & MINUTES

The Nicolet PTSO Co-Presidents, Kris Barger and Traci Schwartz, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. The September, 2017 minutes were reviewed. Brenda Stelzer motioned to approve the minutes. Jackie Winter seconded the motion. The September, 2017 minutes were approved.

ATTENDANCE

Kris Barger, Nina Capati, David Coyle, Marylin Franklin, Gina Lima, Janice Pfaffl, Bridey Richards, Traci Schwartz, Sharon Shapiro, Brenda Stelzer, Jill Tobin, and Sarah Damonte Vegas

OFFICER REPORTS

Co-President Report: Kris Barger & Traci Schwartz

- No report

Treasurer Report: Brenda Stelzer

- The treasurer report was available for all to see in the PTSO packet.
- We have about \$2,700 added to our account from membership dues collected. 91 teachers have officially joined as paid members of the PTSO! Thank you to Mr. Coyle for encouraging so many teachers to participate. The PTSO will consider doing something extra for the teachers soon. A massage chair was one suggestion. There was discussion about gifting something for the school with about \$1,000 as we have done in the past with picnic tables and microwaves. A suggestion was given for a new bicycle rack for the school. However, Mr. Coyle mentioned that a school family owns Fixation and will be donating one soon.

NICOLET REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Teacher Liaison: None

- No report
- Mr. Coyle said that he would look into getting a teacher liaison for the rest of this year.

Student Council: Ms. Ehrke

- **Homecoming week** was successful. The student council wrote a thank you letter to the PTSO thanking us for all our volunteers and donations. It was shared with the group. Ms. Ehrke said that Homecoming was exhausting for the teachers as it was 7 days long including Sunday with the Color Run, Powderpuff games, bonfire, and food trucks along with the spirit days all week, pep rally, football game, and the Homecoming dance. Ms. Ehrke said that they are frustrated with some of the kids' behavior possibly due to the small amount of volunteer chaperones. She also said that it was possible that they would consider not doing winter spirit days and a winter dance. It was suggested by the PTSO to set a meeting with the Student Council, advisors, and PTSO parents to work on solving the problems as it seems that every year these problems exist. Perhaps requesting more volunteers and providing detailed tasks for the volunteers would be some help. Ms. Ehrke will set that meeting up and get back to us as soon as possible while it is fresh in our minds. Once school starts in the fall, it is too late to work on that. It needs to be solved now for next year's Homecoming. It was shared that some of the seniors were



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disappointed that they didn't get to do the Homecoming Hallway parade this year. We are hopeful that the meeting will take place and the traditions will continue.

Guidance Report: Mr. McKenna emailed the following report

- The counselors are very busy with finishing up all of the freshman Academic and Career Plans (they are currently being mailed home) and continuing to help assist seniors with their college applications. We are very excited about trying to get as many applications as we can in before the November 1st priority deadline which means a busy end to our October. We will be celebrating the priority deadline with Mr. Raad in a Bucky Badger costume and Mr. McKenna walking around with a giant sign alerting Seniors of the deadline. Scholarships are starting to roll in as well and we are recommending and processing those at a rapid rate.
- We have also been meeting with our students who are struggling academically and putting together plans to make sure that they are getting back on track and off to a good start. It has been a rough start for some students who are dealing with emotional issues and we are working to put together transition plans so that they can continue to succeed in classrooms and hopefully lower barriers for them to be successful. As always we highly encourage parents to call or email us with any questions or concerns they may have.

Foundation: Sharon Shapiro

- The 2017-2018 Nicolet Knight's Numbers (student directory) is now available. Support the Nicolet Foundation and purchase one for only \$5. You can pick one up from the high school office.
- This year's Foundation fundraising event, *Knight on the Town*, will take place in the spring. As a reminder, while the PTSO fund raises for student programming, the Foundation raises funds to enhance academics. The PTSO and the Foundation support each other.

Administration/School Board Report: Associate Principal, Mr. David Coyle

- Homecoming week was great and went mostly incident free.
- The Attendance issues were tweaked. We made the necessary adjustments for parent notifications. Tardiness overall is drastically down and improved.
- We are working on the regular day to day operations and focusing on the students of the school now that the beginning of the year transition is finished. Grades are closing quickly as the quarter is ending and the staff and students are feeling a bit of stress and pressure. We are working to support and lessen the stress.
- We are creating **some senior privileges**. The first is that seniors can eat lunch in the Teachers' Lounge as it is usually not used. The privileges are going to be based on attendance, grades, and behavior. They are working on more privileges via the PAT (Principal Advisory Team) which has about 20 students on it and has given great feedback for changes.
- The new associate principal, Mr. Zimmers, is working on a lot of data collection utilizing student surveys. One, in particular, is about space usage in the building.
- Mr. Coyle addressed a parent question: *How does Nicolet deal with the student training and drills?* There are many ways we deal with safety. We are involved in Active Aggressor Training. The entire



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school did an evacuation drill last week. 1200 staff and students exited the building, went through the tunnel under the highway, took attendance, and came back within 29 minutes. Before the end of the first semester, they will go over the *Run, Hide, Fight* technique so that all are prepared. All police agencies and homeland security say it is the most effective way to limit casualties. Also, there are secret buttons in the building and some staff are trained to use them. There is an armed officer on campus for protection, too. Lastly, the school has a secure check-in system to enter the building.

- The fall play, *George Orwell's 1984*, is coming up on November 10, 11, & 12. Tickets are available online via the Nicolet Theater website <https://www.nicolettheater.com/> or to buy tickets directly <https://www.greateventseats.com/events.php?IID=169>.

PTSO CHAIR REPORTS

- **Homecoming** – *Jill Tobin, Chair*. Thank you to Jill for making this year's homecoming events successful! Thank you to all that volunteered at the Homecoming Parade and Dance along with those that donated gift cards, water bottles, individual bags of chips/pretzels, and candy including: *Parade*: Kris & Bill Barger, Julie Karnes, Kim Westfahl, Bridget Killberg, Amy Ruvin, Jackie Winter, Chris & Todd Pollesch, and Kate Christensen. *Dance*: Bridey Richards, Traci Sanderson, Susan Goodreau, Donna Albert, Melissa Dansby, and Elese Mason. *Donations*: Kim Westfahl, Kathy Eurich, Amy Labiszak, Kari Williams, Jennifer Sahin, Lynn Carini, Andra Desrude, Karen Morice, Julie Karnes, Jen Gilbert, Kathy Shanahan, Elizabeth Junge, Brenda Stelzer, and Colleen Kobe.
- **Cocoa & Cram** – *Bridey Richards & Jackie Winter, Co-Chairs*. A two-hour study session that PTSO sponsors with treats on the Saturday before first semester final exams. Teachers, administrators, and students attend and enjoy. These are always well attended and benefit our students. **Cookies & Cram**: *We are looking for PTSO volunteers to organize and implement this spring final exams event. If interested, please email one of the co-presidents and let her know that you are willing to help! Send emails to Kris Barger at bargerhome@gmail.com or Traci Schwartz at tracimia@sbcglobal.net.*
- **Merit Awards** – *Jill Tobin & Nancy McLaughlin, Co-Chairs*. The PTSO recognizes positive citizenship within the Nicolet community. Students complete an application packet throughout the school year. They are available in the high school office, guidance counselor office, at advisory, and online. Medals and Plaques are given out at the award ceremony at the end of the year. Four-year recipients are indicated in the commencement booklet at graduation. The Merit Award Packets are printed and available in the high school office or online at the PTSO webpage <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm> or you can download the packet here: <http://www.nicolet.us/students/merit.pdf>. Some students have been asked to make and display posters about Merit Award Application packets and will receive merit hours for their work. We talked about having student volunteer possibilities posted in one place, maybe on the school website to help. We are working on adding a volunteer tab on the PTSO webpage. That way, Nicolet staff can ask to have their events added to it and students and parents can go to the tab to see what volunteer possibilities there are for students to participate in to get service hours.
- **Teacher Appreciation** – *Chairs Needed*. The PTSO provides a huge dessert buffet for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week in May. We need a chairperson(s) for this event. Last year, Principal Greg Kabara recommended that we connect with Amy Lee in the High School Office as there is a



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student intern who could help with this event. *We are looking for PTSO volunteers to organize and implement this Teacher Appreciation event. If interested, please email one of the co-presidents and let her know that you are willing to help! Send emails to Kris Barger at bargerhome@gmail.com or Traci Schwartz at tracimia@sbcglobal.net.*

- **Spirit Award** –*Marilyn Franklin, Chair.* 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. *If interested in helping, please email one of the co-presidents and let her know that you are willing to help! Send emails to Kris Barger at bargerhome@gmail.com or Traci Schwartz at tracimia@sbcglobal.net.*
- **Senior Breakfast** – *Julie Karnes & Jill Tobin, Co-Chairs.* This celebratory catered breakfast is a great send off for Nicolet’s Senior Class at the end of the year. *If interested in helping, please email one of the co-chairs and let them know that you are willing to help! Send emails to Julie Karnes at JKarnes@wi.rr.com or Jill Tobin at joztobin@gmail.com.*
- **Grad Grams** –*Nina Capati, Chair.* 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. Nina is working to get Grad Grams out much earlier but it will take a little time. We need help assembling the Grad Gram booklets. *If interested in helping, please email one of the Nina Capati and let her know you’d like to help at nvcapati@hotmail.com.*

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Fundraising Update: The first PTSO Dining Knight Out fundraiser is at California Pizza Kitchen on Tuesday November 7th from 11:00am-9:00pm.** Meet your friends or have a business meeting for lunch, dinner, or even carry out for your busy family! They will donate 20% if you mention Nicolet High School PTSO. Tell your friends and tell your neighbors. Anyone can support! Check out the flyer on our webpage: <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>
- **PTSO Nicolet Staff Drawing Winners for both September and October:** Jamie Holifield, Don Cramer, Bob Richards, and Rubin Hernandez.
- **Support the Nicolet FEAR Board Game Bonanza fundraiser on 10-28-17.** All the information is here <https://nicoletfear.com/board-game-bonanza/>.
- **Marilyn Franklin shared some public information** including that there will be a school board workshop on December 14. ACT score averages went up for Nicolet by 1.7. That huge jump they attribute to the up leveling of courses and ACT prep being offered. The achievement gap is also closing.
- **The Green Tree Bridge is being redone.** Jean Nicolet Road will only go south in the spring. In the summer, you won’t be able to use it. In fall, when coming from the west, you will only be able to make a right turn. There will be more updates in the future.
- **The City Tins Fundraiser** will be shared at the next meeting.
- **Sarah Damonte Vegas** mentioned that the outdoor tunnel is an embarrassment that need maintenance. David Coyle said that he will take care of speaking to Brian Reiels and have it tended to.
- **The next meeting is set for Thursday, November 16, 2017** at 6:00pm in the Nicolet cafeteria, room B113. Please mark your calendar, attend the 2017-2018 meetings, continue to be involved and informed. The



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meetings are scheduled for most Thursday evenings including November 16, (**NO** December meeting) January 11, February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17 at 4:00pm following the Merit Award Ceremony.

- The Nicolet PTSO benefits the parents, teachers, and students by raising funds via PTSO membership dues (still only \$15), Grad Gram sales, and other fundraisers. 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
- Visit the PTSO webpage: <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>
- Visit the PTSO Facebook page and “like” it: <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO/>

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary