



## November 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:** Olivia Carter, Greg Kabara, Gene Macken, Jill Johnson Miller, Mary Beth Mills, Janice Pfaffl, Sharon Shapiro, Sarah Damonte Vegas, Whitney Wertheimer, and Kristin Wright

The Nicolet PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. A motion was made by Principal Greg Kabara to approve the October minutes. Jill Johnson Miller seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

### **President's Report:** *Mrs. Mary Beth Mills*

- All information will be given within the Chair Reports.

### **Treasurer's Report:** *Mrs. Jill Johnson Miller*

- Jill reported that there were no expenses in the past month.
- There was income in membership checks and window decal cling sales.
- There was a donation made for \$5.
- Jill handed out the budget (the dates should have read 2014-2015.) We were under budget for this year's Homecoming activities and we were close to budget on the membership dues. We are half way to budget on the window decal clings.

### **Chair Reports:** *Mrs. Mary Beth Mills*

- **Homecoming** – As Jill reported earlier, Mary Beth stated that we came under budget for Homecoming activities.
- **Merit Awards** – Mary Beth reported that the Merit Award packets are available in the High School Office for all Nicolet students. One has already been turned in! Lori Reinhart has a great system for these and it is working well. *The PTSO is currently looking for a chair or co-chairs, along with committee members, to administer the Merit Awards. Please contact PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at [marybethmills3@gmail.com](mailto:marybethmills3@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering.*
- **Cocoa & Cram** – Kristen Wright will chair this committee again. It was suggested to provide fruit this year. The first Cocoa & Cram event will be on January 17, 2015. *If anyone would like to help Kristen on this committee, please connect with PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at [marybethmills3@gmail.com](mailto:marybethmills3@gmail.com) and let her know you are willing to volunteer.*
- **Prom Activities** – Whitney Wertheimer is the new Student Council President for the junior class and will be our representative for the PTSO. Whitney shared that Prom will most likely be held at the Intercontinental again. The tentative date for Prom is April 25, 2015. Mr. Welna, Student Council Advisor, is reserving the space. The student council is working on the theme and the DJ. Once they figure that out, they will connect with PTSO so we can help with volunteers and financial support. Whitney also reported that Nicolet's junior class has been working hard on the annual food drive and planning for Nicolet's third year of **Relay For Life** which will be May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- **Teacher/Staff Appreciation** – The PTSO provided treats for the staff and teachers after fall conferences this year as a thank you. *The PTSO is looking for a chair or co-chairs, along with committee members, to organize and implement this committee. Please contact PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at [marybethmills3@gmail.com](mailto:marybethmills3@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering.*
- **Grad Grams** – Robin Arenzon, Sharon Shapiro, and Mary Beth Mills have been working with Mr. Kania and a student to see if we can get the Grad Grams to be done in-house at Nicolet. *Robin Arenzon is chairing this committee and needs committee volunteers. If you would like to be on her committee, please contact PTSO President, Mary Beth Mill, at [marybethmills3@gmail.com](mailto:marybethmills3@gmail.com).*
- **Senior Breakfast** – *The PTSO is looking for a chair and committee members to organize and implement this event. Please contact PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, at [marybethmills3@gmail.com](mailto:marybethmills3@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering.*



## November 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

### **Guidance Report: Ms. Olivia Carter**

- The guidance counselors just wrapped up working with the 9<sup>th</sup> graders building their four-year academic career plans. They will be mailed home for parents.
- The counselors are beginning to work with junior individual conferences.
- September and October testing is completed.
- Senior college meetings are wrapping up, too.
- Students and parents are working with Naviance.
- There will be a Financial Aid Night for all parents on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at Homestead High School in Mequon. There has been a beginning time change from 7:00pm to 6:00pm due to the football game. This will better accommodate most. Please make note of that.

### **Teacher Report: Mr. Gene Macken**

- Mr. Macken shared that there have been a lot of field trips.
- He also said that teachers are overwhelmed with the amount of work since there is a different grading and retesting format.
- The PTSO asked Mr. Macken at the last PTSO meeting to go back to the Nicolet staff and ask them what they would like more from PTSO as we are happy to help. Mr. Macken shared that the staff want more of a connection to the PTSO. He suggested that there be a PTSO representative at staff meetings which are held on some Wednesdays after school in the Community Room. Mr. Kabara said that PTSO should connect with Lori Reinhart. She will put PTSO on the meeting agenda and a PTSO representative can join at the beginnings of staff meetings. The teachers would like help with school spirit. The PTSO will be able to share information about PTSO and recruit teacher involvement and ease their search for parent volunteers/chaperones when needed. It also was suggested that a thank you be given to the teachers/staff that come and volunteer at Cocoa & Cram like we did after conferences. The PTSO may go to the December 3<sup>rd</sup> staff meeting and do introductions, share what we do, and invite them to participate. We will raffle off some PTSO goodies for the staff. Thank to Mr. Macken for the great idea.

### **School Board/Foundation Report:**

- Mary Beth reported that Marilyn Franklin was unable to attend due to having another meeting and shared that the next School Board meeting is Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. The topic of course changes has been moved to the December meeting. There is a meeting date set for December 15<sup>th</sup> for the Committee of the Whole and a December 18<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting date set.
- Mr. Kabara answered a question regarding the difference between the School Board meeting and the Committee of the Whole meeting. The School Board informs and learns and no formal decisions are made at the Committee of the Whole meetings. However, action and voting takes place and decisions are made at the official School Board meetings.
- Sharon Shapiro explained that the Nicolet Foundation will be doing the *Band Together* event for the third time inviting the feeder schools and the entire community to join in the fun. Again, the University of Wisconsin Band will perform their 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. All of the Nicolet student athletic teams, academic and recreation clubs, along with teacher/staff/parent organizations will be invited to donate baskets of items to raise money at the silent auction.
- The Nicolet Foundation is working on a huge fundraising event to raise money solely for Nicolet High School. They are planning it for the fall of 2015. It is going to be exciting and details will follow soon.

### **Administration Report: Mr. Kabara**

- Mr. Kabara reported that Nicolet Staff have wrapped up first quarter and report cards have been posted in Skyward.



## November 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

- The guidance counselors have been helping students with intervention. If a student has failed a course or even if they have been struggling, they have been assigned a guided study hall and/or assigned to resource for extra help.
- Grading practices are being researched this year. Teacher leadership is focusing on researching traditionally based versus modern grading practices and theories and figuring out what will be best for Nicolet.
- The fall athletics were great and are over. Some of Nicolet's teams did very well. A highlight for Nicolet was in swimming as Gwen Worlton is a State swim champion!
- In terms of football future, Kirk sent out information regarding a conference realignment for all sports. It is being looked at for not this upcoming fall but possibly the following year.
- The athlete performance area is allowing for kids to work out before and after school. The facilities have been upgraded and are being used constantly by Nicolet students and even middle schoolers take advantage of it! We are thrilled this has been improved last year.
- The Village of River Hills city council voted on the possible new athletic fields today. We are anxious to hear the results. This is another piece improving our facilities to keep Nicolet a top district.
- Mr. Kabara asked for questions. Sharon Shapiro requested that the school give out both semester schedules to Nicolet's students at the beginning of the school year instead of only the first semester schedule. Unfortunately, a scheduling error was made on her daughter's schedule omitting a class second semester even though it was written on her academic plan. Errors could be avoided or fixed if there was access to second semester schedules at the beginning of the year. Ms. Carter said there had been confusion in the past when the students received both schedules showing up to a second semester class first semester. However, the school will look into it.

### **Old Business:**

- Please be reminded to go to the new **Nicolet PTSO** facebook page and "like" it. There will be current updates for PTSO members there: <https://www.facebook.com/NicoletPTSO>
- Please be reminded to pay your Nicolet PTSO dues if you haven't done so, yet: [http://www.nicolet.us/cms\\_files/resources/ptso\\_membership\\_form.pdf](http://www.nicolet.us/cms_files/resources/ptso_membership_form.pdf)
- Please be reminded that we are selling the Nicolet Knight window decals as a PTSO fundraiser. 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! These are available in the office or online via our webpage soon <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>.
- Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next PTSO meeting on January 15, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Room B113 (staff lounge in the back of the cafeteria.) All are welcome!
- Parents, we need help. Please volunteer for a PTSO committee, <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary*