



October 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Marilyn Franklin, Anne Ignatowski, Greg Kabara, Gene Macken, Nancy McLaughlin, Piper Melkonian, Jill Johnson Miller, Mary Beth Mills, and Sharon Shapiro

The Nicolet PTSO President, Mary Beth Mills, called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. A motion was made by Mary Beth Mills to approve the September minutes. Piper Melkonian 2nd the motion and the minutes were approved.

President's Report: Mrs. Mary Beth Mills

- Mary Beth welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced herself and everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
- Mary Beth reported that PTSO will have a table at the Nicolet Open House on October 28, 600pm-8:00pm. We are looking for volunteers to sit at the table and promote the PTSO. We will search for PTSO members to do that via email. At the PTSO table, we will sell Nicolet window decal clings (\$5 each), have copies of the Merit Award applications, and Mary Beth Mills will have a poster board created with PTSO pictures on display.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Jill Johnson Miller

- Jill reported that our balance as of September 18, 2014 is \$9,572.32. That included some membership dues, window decal cling sales, and the Campus colors Fundraiser income. We also had some Homecoming expenses for the Homecoming dance door prizes.
- Sharon Shapiro will connect with the Campus Colors store to see if the store would like to partner and do another fundraiser for us at holiday time.

Chair Reports: Mrs. Mary Beth Mills

- **Homecoming** - The PTSO provided financial and volunteer support for the Homecoming activities. We spent money on lots of prizes that were raffled off through the evening of the Homecoming dance. Students stayed late at the dance to see the prizes raffled off until the end of the evening. The PTSO received an email thank you from Michelle Margolies, Student Council President. She thanked us for helping with the carnival, bonfire, window painting, and the dance prizes. We also received an email thank you from Greg Kabara, Nicolet Principal, for the dance raffle prizes and all our support of the students. The blue Nicolet Homecoming winter knit hats that were donated by Steven and Robin Arenzon and Wisconsin Knitwear were a huge hit. It was suggested that we connect with the Arenzon's and see if PTSO could partner with them to do this again. However, perhaps in addition to them giving some away if they choose, we could then offer to sell them, after the amount they chose to give away. People wanted those hats!
- **Merit Awards** – The PTSO recognizes positive citizenship within the Nicolet community. Students complete an application packet throughout the school year. 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. *The PTSO is looking for a chair or co-chairs, along with committee members, to administer the Merit Awards. Please contact Mary Beth at marybethmills3@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.*
- **Cocoa & Cram** – These two-hour study sessions sponsored by the PTSO includes teacher help and treats on the Saturdays before final exams, twice a year. Teachers, administrators, and students attend and enjoy. We are hoping that Kristen Wright, who has chaired this in the past, will take it on again. *If anyone would*



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like to be on this PTSO committee, you are encouraged to connect with Mary Beth at marybethmills3@gmail.com and let her know you are willing to volunteer.

- **Teacher/Staff Appreciation** – The PTSO has provided a huge dessert buffet for the staff and teachers during Appreciation Week, usually the first week in May. It was suggested that we have nutritious treats for the staff this year, also, since they are modeling eating habits for the students at Nicolet. It was also suggested that we could do even more for the staff beyond just the one day of treats. The Administration does things for the teachers all week long. It was also suggested that we could do something for the staff during conference time. The administration has done a sub dinner for them. We could partner with the administration and provide some extras for the teachers to be able to grab and go. Parents may be willing to donate a box or two of granola bars or something. There are between 80 and 100 staff to feed at Nicolet. *The PTSO is looking for a chair or co-chairs, along with committee members, to organize and implement this committee. Please contact Mary Beth at marybethmills3@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.*
- **Grad Grams** – These keepsake memory booklets filled with congratulatory messages are purchased and sent by anyone to a graduating senior and/or a retiring staff member. The Grad Gram booklets are given out at graduation rehearsal. Last year, the co-chairs were able to work with an outside source to create a form online. While it benefited the consumer, it proved to be too labor intensive. The PTSO is now working with the Mr. Kania, Nicolet Business and Technology Teacher, and a student intern to create it all in-house. *Robin Arenzon is chairing this committee. If you would like to volunteer to be on her committee, please contact Mary Beth at marybethmills3@gmail.com.*

Guidance Report: Ms. Ignatowski

- The guidance counselors are working with the 9th graders building their four-year academic career plans. When those are completed, they will be mailed home for parents.
- The counselors are also helping with seniors who are coming in for help with on their college applications.
- PSAT test went well. It really was a non-event as there were no issues!
- Soon, the counselors will begin working with the 11th graders on their individual conferences.
- Nicolet hosted the National College Fair held at the Wisconsin Center on Sunday, September 28th <http://www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/FallNCF/Pages/Milwaukee.aspx>. It was a big success. The Nicolet counseling department received many complements on a job well done!
- There will be a total of 80 colleges visiting Nicolet during the year for 11th and 12th grade students to sign up and meet with at Nicolet.
- REDgen and the Nicolet Foundation partnered to sponsor our Parent Education Series event held in the Nicolet auditorium on the evening of October 22: http://www.nicolet.us/cms_files/event_attach/406342/redgen_ginsburg.pdf. First, Dr. Ginsburg, a national speaker and author, presented to all the Nicolet teachers and students during the day and then, he spoke to the parents that evening. The topic was fostering and building resilience in children and teens. Dr. Ginsburg captivated the students at each of the Shorewood, Whitefish Bay, and Nicolet High Schools. Then, Dr. Ginsburg's session was well attended and well received by the parents of all three schools at Nicolet High School. There will be future opportunities for those interested as book groups will meet about Dr. Ginsburg's book via the REDgen website: <http://www.redgen.org/> Ms. Ignatowski explained and thanked Dr. Barbara Bornstein, Nicolet Psychologist, for working so hard with the Nicolet Administration, Foundation, and REDgen so they could bring this program to the families at Nicolet.



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Teacher Report: Mr. Macken

- Mr. Macken shared that he is a special education teacher at Nicolet High School. He reported that school is off to a great, fast, and furious start!
- Parent/Teacher conferences are over and went well.
- Teachers are co-teaching which is new to some teachers. The teachers/staff are working hard as there is a lot of work!
- There was some discussion about conferences. It was well attended. PTSO sold \$200 of the Nicolet Knight window decal clings there. Overall, parents were very happy with conferences. Conferences were full on Thursday night and Friday morning it wasn't as full. The issue of ending the five minute conference being the most difficult. The suggestions given were of timer usage and perhaps providing teachers with verbiage to aid in helping to end a conference.
- The PTSO asked Mr. Macken 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 will come back and share with the PTSO what the staff would like. We asked him to share with all the Nicolet staff that each is automatically a member and benefits from the PTSO and that we are hoping each will update his/her membership by paying his/her share. Staff dues are only \$5.00 annually. The PTSO thanked him for being there and sharing with the faculty and staff.

School Board/Foundation Report: Ms. Franklin

- In terms of the Nicolet School Board, Ms. Franklin shared that the past math meeting was well attended. The next School Board meeting will be Monday, October 27. They will be talking about approving the tax levy. The November meeting will be talking about the Nicolet Course Handbook. River Hills agreed to talk about the athletic facility upgrade project. The Nicolet School Board filed the paperwork for the Village of River Hills. In November or December, River Hills will make a decision. The Nicolet Booster Club gave money to finance Nicolet hiring a fundraiser in order to identify community donors and other ways to fund the athletic fields upgrade project. Mr. Kabara added that it is time to better our athletic facilities so we can stay competitive. Ms. Franklin also shared that talk around the community about Nicolet is all good!
- In terms of the Nicolet Foundation, Ms. Franklin shared that the Nicolet Foundation Homecoming Tailgate Knight Cookout and Friendraiser held on October 10 was a great success! She also mentioned that the foundation partnering with REDgen to bring in the speaker about resilience in teens also was a success.

Administration Report: Mr. Kabara

- Mr. Kabara shared that Nicolet High School's Homecoming weeks' events were great! The events began with the Homecoming Parade that had 30 floats in it, the Powder Puff football games, the Carnival, and the Bonfire, which were all on the Sunday prior to Homecoming week. Each was very well attended and full of Nicolet spirit. The students took part in dress up spirit days all week as well as athletic events throughout. The Foundation Tailgate and Homecoming Soccer game was extremely well attended. The Homecoming dance was attended by 625 students. Mr. Kabara again thanked the PTSO for the dance prizes. Student Council did a great job with Homecoming!
- The ACT Aspire Testing, the 9th grade fall series, was administered. There will be another one in the spring for this grade level. The 10th graders will be tested in the fall. The 11th graders will be tested in the spring. This test is entirely computer based. It is the first time the State did this. At Nicolet, 277 of the 284 freshman students completed the testing. So, very few make-ups were needed. All North Shore principals



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said they had some setbacks being it was the first time it was computer based. Nicolet High School was the only one without any major setbacks. The freshman did well. This was a major task accomplished!

- Parent/Teacher conferences went well. Again, the only complaint was the issue of difficulty of keeping them to five minutes.
- Mr. Kabara reported on the wonderful athletic competition going on. Some of them being that the tennis team could win a really tough conference. The volleyball teams and swimming were going well, too. He spoke of the decision of not having a varsity football team competing was not a popular decision. However, it was a good one.
- He also reported that the teachers and staff have a lot going on. They are working with technology and seeing long term benefits!
- He also mentioned that the Nicolet parents have inquired about school starting later. Mr. Kabara said while he knows that studies have proven that a later start time to the student day is beneficial, he has nothing to report about Nicolet's school day times changing at this point.
- Next year's school calendar should be discussed by the end of this semester.

New 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
- 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! They will be available in the office or online via our webpage soon <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm>.
- As a reminder, please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next PTSO meeting on November 20, 2014 at 6:00pm in the Room B113 (staff lounge in the back of the cafeteria.) All are welcome!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary