



September 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Nicolet PTSO President, Piper Melkonian, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Everyone at the meeting went around the room and introduced themselves. The May, 2015 minutes were reviewed. Piper motioned to approve the minutes. Brenda Stelzer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Attendance: Robin Arenzon, Nina Capati, Olivia Carter, Kathy Eurich, Marilyn Franklin, Kristy Holvick, Greg Kabara, Paula Kobylski, Molly Krychowiak, Chris Macon, Piper Melkonian, Jill Johnson Miller, Mary Beth Mills, Janice Pfaffl, Bridey Richards, Sharon Shapiro, Brenda Stelzer, Jill Tobin, and Sarah Damonte Vegas

President's Report: Piper Melkonian

- Piper Melkonian welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Piper explained that the PTSO had been asked by the Booster Club to partner with them to do concessions. In the past, the Booster Club took care of everything involved with concessions and kept all the profits. However, it became too difficult for the Booster Club to maintain it. So, they asked Vicky/Nicolet Food Service to help and take it over and they did. PTSO was concerned since the students of Nicolet did not benefit anymore as the food service kept the profits. Piper thought it would be great to have the PTSO play a part in it. So, the students could reap some of the benefits. Janice Pfaffl and Piper Melkonian will be co-chairs of the Concessions Committee. While the Booster Club will still provide many of the volunteers, PTSO will organize the volunteers through *volunteerspot.com* and manage the sales, stocking, and purchasing the items to sell. This committee will staff the concessions indoors and outdoors at varsity events. Piper recommended that the PTSO create a Scholarship or two for Nicolet students with the funds gained from this endeavor. Piper made a motion to approve partnering with Booster Club to run the concessions and sharing the profits equally. Nina Capati seconded the motion. It was approved. Parents of Nicolet athletes will still have to work concession shifts as guided by the Booster Club. However, the PTSO hopes to fill even more volunteer spots. **Please volunteer to sign up and work concession shifts via *volunteerspot.com* as well as purchase concessions!**
- The PTSO wants to give back to Nicolet. Through the income generated by the concessions, we could do so many things. Piper shared her idea of having a monthly drawing for a monthly teacher/staff give-away of \$10-\$15 Starbucks gift cards. Some parents have already agreed to donate gift cards to support this, too. **If you would like to show support for our great Nicolet teachers/staff, you can either purchase Starbucks gift cards or make a monetary donation to the PTSO. Please drop off or mail the monetary donations and/or gift card donations in a sealed envelope marked PTSO to the Nicolet High School Office at 6701 N. Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217. If you have any questions, please contact Piper Melkonian via email at pmelkonian@mac.com.**
- Piper explained that the teachers and staff had a social event during their in-service days before school started. The PTSO was asked to donate funds. We gave \$100 to support it. The teachers were extremely appreciative.
- Piper explained that the PTSO is partnering with the Nicolet Foundation and Booster Club for the Homecoming Tailgate Cookout. The event will take place on Friday evening, October 17, after the Homecoming Parade and before the Homecoming varsity football game. More details about the tailgate to follow. Blue and white Nicolet Knights knit hats were generously donated for Homecoming by Steve and Robin Arenzon and their business, Wisconsin Knitwear, Inc. **Thank you to the Arenzon Family for their generosity!**



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- Piper mentioned that at all the future PTSO meetings, we are going to rearrange the agendas. The representative reports (teachers, administrators, students, etc.) will give their reports first so that those who have been working at school all day, can leave earlier in the meeting after their report is given, if need be.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda Stelzer

- The detailed budget was available for all to see and was presented by Brenda Stelzer. Brenda explained that at the first PTSO meeting of the year, we start with the year's budget. Brenda talked about adding a line for the concessions expenses and income. So, that we can pay the Booster Club. Brenda spoke of the budget having some areas decrease and that the concessions would have expenses. The budget is similar to last year's. We have a balance of \$10,300.73.
- Piper made a motion to approve the budget with an additional line for the concessions. Greg Kabara seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- The school business office will be sending a report to PTSO as to how many people paid their membership dues, \$15 per family and \$5 per staff member. So, we can have a list. It was suggested that the PTSO have a table at the Homecoming tailgate/varsity football game so that we can promote the PTSO, ask Nicolet families to join PTSO and collect membership dues, and sell Nicolet Knight window decal clings.

Chair Reports: Piper Melkonian

- **Homecoming – Jill Tobin, Chair.** The PTSO provides financial and volunteer support for Homecoming activities. As of now, there are many activities lined up for Homecoming beginning with Sunday's powder puff football games from 4-6pm, followed by a Bonfire at 6pm. A permit is being attained. There was some concern with the original Homecoming theme, the Wild Wild West, with guns and all. So, that is being looked at. There will be different dress up days all week long. On Friday of Homecoming week, there will be a Hallway Parade, a pep rally followed by the tailgate cookout and varsity football game. The Homecoming dance is Saturday night.
- **Concessions – Piper Melkonian and Janice Pfaffl, Co-Chairs.** The PTSO is partnering with Booster Club to run concessions for varsity games. We will share the profits. Volunteer help is always needed. Please consider volunteering via volunteerspot.com.
- **Merit Awards – Jill Tobin, Chair.** The PTSO recognizes positive citizenship within the Nicolet community. Students complete an application packet throughout the school year. They will be available in the high school office, guidance counselor office, at advisory, and online this year. Awards are given out at the award ceremony at the end of the year. 4 year recipients are indicated in the commencement booklet at graduation. Jill will work with Principal Greg Kabara and Amy Lee in the high school office to make sure that the Merit Award Packets are printed and available to all. There will be announcements about them placed in the daily announcements and Jill will make sure the advisors explain it to their classes. 309 copies, enough for freshman, will be made so that Health teachers will be able to work on them with their students. It is important for PTSO to share with the students where they can get their merit hours. So, Jill will create the list to include all the volunteer opportunities for students from talking with teachers, staff, and school organizations that can give out merit hours. Sherri Richards and Donna Bohn are in charge of the interns at Nicolet, so they may be able to offer help, too.



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- **Cocoa & Cram/Cookies & Cram – Paula Kobylski, Chair.** These are two hour study sessions that PTSO sponsors with treats on the Saturday before final exams, twice a year. Teachers, administrators, and students attend and enjoy.
- **Teacher Appreciation – Volunteer Chair needed.** The PTSO provides a huge dessert buffet for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. We need a chairperson for this event. Principal Greg Kabara recommended that we connect with Amy Lee in the High School Office because there is a student intern who could help with this event. This intern could always help PTSO with creating scripts, making copies, etc.
- **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.
- **Spirit Award – Piper Melkonian and Marilyn Franklin, Co-Chairs.** 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.
- **Senior Breakfast – Volunteer Chair needed.** This is a great send off for Nicolet's Senior Class at the end of the year right before final exams.
- **Grad Grams – Robin Arenzon and Kathy Eurich 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.

Student Council: No Student Representative as of yet

- The PTSO works with the administration to help organize, sponsor, and support Homecoming activities for students. The PTSO will connect with Mr. Welna, the Student Council advisor, to get more information as to how we can help.
- At the next meeting, Mr. Welna and/or a student representative will have detailed information will be shared about Homecoming activities, Spirit Days, the parade and floats, as well as the Homecoming Dance

Guidance Report: Ms. Olivia Carter

- The guidance department is off to a great start already! They had a very busy first week getting all the students registered and scheduled.
- The guidance counselors are working with the seniors in their English classes updating about registration, transfers, college fair, teacher requests for college recommendation letters, college applications, finalizing transcripts, scholarship applications and financial aid, etc. Of course, students can use Naviance, the college website <http://www.naviance.com/>. Scholarship and financial aid information is posted on Nicolet's website <http://www.nicolet.us/>, Naviance, the school jumbotrons, the scholarship binder in the guidance office, and via twitter.
- It was suggested that the new PTSO grade level parent liaisons could help with promoting the college stuff.
- The guidance counselors are also working on the National College Fair at the Wisconsin Center on Sunday, September 27th <http://wisconsincenter.org/events/734-2015-milwaukee-national-college-fair> Nicolet is hosting this year. Anyone in the state can attend but it's primarily for High School juniors and seniors. There will be 250 colleges there. Because of this fair, it is the peek time for colleges to be visiting Nicolet High School. There will be lots of opportunities for Nicolet students to be meeting with about 120 colleges.



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School Board: Principal Greg Kabara

- Piper shared that she received a phone call from Libby Gutterman, the Nicolet school board president. Libby said that there will not be a school board representative at the PTSO meetings this year. Mr. Kabara will report whatever needs to be reported.

Teacher Liaison: Molly Krychowiak

- Molly shared that there was a huge turnout for the teacher social. All the new teachers felt included. They all thanked the PTSO for the \$100 donation to the event and for all the PTSO does for the teachers/staff.
- The PTSO is going to invite the teachers/staff to volunteer at the concession stands. Janice Pfaffl will email the *volunteerspot.com* link to the teachers.
- To better communicate with our teachers/staff, Sharon will send the PTSO minutes to Molly and Molly will disseminate the minutes to all the teachers/staff.

Foundation: Chris Macon

- Chris Macon shared that the Foundation is building a bigger board of directors. They are focusing their energies on the Homecoming tailgate which they are partnering with the Booster Club and PTSO on. The Homecoming Tailgate Cookout will be Friday evening, October 16 from 5-7pm before the varsity football game. Tickets are \$10 each, \$7 for children. Purchase your tickets by phone at 414.351.7561 or via Paypal at <http://www.nicolet.us/families/foundation.cfm> ENTRANCE TO THE HOMECOMING GAME IS INCLUDED!
- There will not be a Night on the Town fundraising event this spring. Instead, the Foundation is going to do a huge fundraising event annually in the fall beginning next year.

Administration Report: Principal Greg Kabara

- Mr. Kabara shared that Nicolet High School is off to a great school year!
- Chrome books were given out to the 309 freshman. John Riles and his team were very organized. Mr. Kabara has seen students and teachers using them on a regular basis already.
- The principal's advisory team, made up of students, restructured advisory for class meetings. Now they are on Mondays instead of Wednesdays. So, students can see teachers and increase their use of resource time. This advisory team drove the positive change in the cafeteria. They opened it up with five different options for lunch. Students can get a value meal at any location with choice and options. It is not only open to those with free and reduced lunch. Now, it is more like a food court and the kids are thrilled.
- In the past, resource attendance has been an issue. However, they are at about 98% attendance. Kids are being more responsible.
- The student body is full of school spirit this year. The *Bad as Blue* spirit committee is doing great! They have the stands full at soccer games, volleyball games, and an overall positive spirit in school.
- October 13th is the Freshman Respect Retreat. The PTSO was asked to give some funds to this. Greg Kabara is going to let Piper know if they actually need the money before the PTSO votes on it.



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- October 14th is the testing date for the PSAT and ACT Aspire. We want to track student growth.
- Nicolet hosted a Math Night and there was a great parent turn out. As a result of the Parent Math Night, the math leadership team met and will now hold test review days before each test. They will identify specific lessons and make it more conducive to the lessons that fit better. Teachers heard the parents at the meeting and got together after to work on positive possibilities. They are working on ACT prep practice to maybe take place in math classes, other ACT ideas, class instruction ideas, etc. They talked about the design of tests and best outcomes. Besides the teachers, the administration heard the parents. They care and are working on strategies to be successful. They are instituting every 15 school days, a student grade check. Grades will be updated and comments will be added by teachers as to why there is a grade lower than a C. Parents will be notified by letter through the mail and a private conversation with the administrative team and the kids will occur. This will give the student a chance to recover.

New Business:

- Principal Greg Kabara would like picnic tables for the outdoor courtyard area where the students could eat lunch outside.
- Piper made a motion that the PTSO donate \$1,000.00 and find picnic tables right away. Sharon Shapiro seconded the motion. It was approved. Piper is doing the research. If any parent would like to donate more picnic tables to the courtyard area, you are welcome to! Please contact PTSO president, Piper Melkonian, via email at pmelkonian@mac.com
- Please go to the new Nicolet PTSO Facebook page and like us <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>.
- Please be reminded, the Nicolet PTSO benefits the parents, teachers, and students of Nicolet through raising funds via PTSO membership dues (still only \$15), grad gram sales, the Nicolet Knight window decal cling sales (only \$5), and now concessions. The PTSO sponsors events including Homecoming and Prom Activities, Student Dances, Cocoa 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
- As a reminder, please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next PTSO meeting on October 15th. All are welcome!

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Shapiro, Nicolet PTSO Secretary