Minutes

I. Call the meeting to order
Chair Jennifer Peltz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. School Board Committee Member roll call
Recording Secretary Chris Macon called the School Board committee member attendance roll call, with chair Mrs. Jennifer Peltz and Mrs. Marilyn Franklin, member being present.

III. Recommend the approval of the agenda
Motion by Mrs. Franklin, seconded by Mrs. Peltz, to approve the agenda. Franklin, Peltz “Aye.” “No” none. Motion passed 2-0.

IV. Recommend approval of the Minutes of the April 21, 2010 Curriculum Committee Meeting
Motion by Mrs. Franklin, seconded by Mrs. Peltz to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2010 Curriculum Committee meeting as written. Motion passed 2-0.
V. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding National Tournaments for Debate-
Mr. Justice Platt
Justice Platt was present to request permission to take six Debate Team students on
two national tournament trips. Identical trips were approved by the Board in
February for Forensics. Mr. Platt will work with David Wyatt to arrange for shared
travel accommodations to the extent possible.

Marilyn Franklin asked if the trip conflicted with graduation. Mr. Platt responded
that the seniors have the option of flying in after graduation.

Motion by Mrs. Franklin to place the request on the consent agenda for School Board
approval, seconded by Mrs. Peltz. Franklin, Peltz “Aye.” “No” none. Motion passed
2-0.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Request by Cory Wolf for the Girls’
Basketball Team to Participate in a Shootout in Illinois on Martin Luther King
Day 2011- Ms. Cory Wolf
Dr. Monroe opened the discussion by stating that due to the School Board policy
concerning school activities during exam weeks, Ms. Wolf is requesting permission
for the Girls’ Basketball Team to participate in a Shootout the day before final exams
in January 2011.

Cory Wolf explained that the team was the only Wisconsin team invited to
participate and that is was a great opportunity for Nicolet’s program and for the
girls as recruiters would be attending this event. The game will start no later than
2:00 p.m. and they will take a coach bus so the girls would have room to study. She
reminded the Board that the precedent had been set last year by the boys’
basketball team.

Motion by Mrs. Franklin to allow the team to participate in the shootout, seconded
by Mrs. Peltz. Franklin, Peltz “Aye.” “No” none. Motion passed 2-0. Item to be
placed on the consent agenda.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Class Rank and Grade Weighting-
Mr. Greg DePue and Mr. John Reiels
Dr. Monroe introduced the discussion by stating that since he arrived at Nicolet
there have been two issues which he has been asked about repeatedly, class rank
and open campus. He introduced John Reiels and Greg DePue. The PowerPoint
outline of their presentation is included in the minutes.

Mr. DePue gave the historical perspective of college admission. Up through the
1980s it was easy to get admitted to the University of Wisconsin. Since that time, as
college attendance has increased the admissions counselors have had to find ways
to quickly weed through applications. One way to do that is by class rank. John
Reiels added that with two GPA scales and a weighted and unweighted class rank,
admissions counselors could be getting information in four possible combinations
causing frustration and confusion. Colleges are under a lot of pressure to review a very large number of applications. If class rank is provided they will use it to expedite the process. As a result, some applications that warrant a closer look will not get one.

Mr. DePue provided background on the study committee. A small committee was formed in 2008-2009 to see what other schools were doing and to determine if Nicolet needed to make a change. It was the recommendation of that group that rank be eliminated and the GPA system be revamped. The 2009-2010 Shared Governance Team suggested that a larger committee study the issues and make a formal recommendation to the School Board. The committee of 17, consisting of Nicolet teachers and administrators, parents and a Board member, was charged with making a recommendation to the School Board.

Admissions counselors from Marquette and UW Madison were invited to speak with the committee. The counselors told the committee that course rigor was more important than class rank and that the greatest predictor of college success AP scores.

John Reiels presented data that supported the committee’s decision to recommend that class rank be eliminated for all students effective fall 2010.

The second part of the presentation was on Grade Weighting. Mr. Reiels explained the current scales and introduced the proposed weighted scale. Parents and Universities find our current system confusing and lacking in consistency. One weighted scale will help colleges identify rigor and encourage students to take challenging courses. The committee is recommending the proposed scale for the class of 2014 and beyond.

VIII. Public Comments
Jennifer Peltz stated that those wishing to comment should be signed in and state their name.

Parents in attendance had a number of comments and concerns.

Using the new scale on students already in the system rather than starting with incoming freshmen seemed unfair. Felt it was changing the rules in the middle of the game. Some felt that top ranked students had worked hard for this recognition and they should be able to use it. Do we want to take away something that the student has worked for?

It was suggested that the new scale be phased in, or made voluntary for the next couple of and that class rank could be provided if the colleges asked.
In some cases parents and students have made course selections with the goal of being in the top 10%. Consequently the students may not have always taken the most rigorous classes. The concern is that they will be penalized by the new system.

Furthermore, scheduling can prohibit students from taking classes with rigor. Some courses don’t offer an accelerated or honor option.

Those in favor of dropping class rank felt that providing rank makes it easier for colleges to make decisions without looking at the whole application. Top students will get in anyway and this gives more students a chance.

Having one weighted scale will reflect rigor and encourage students to take challenging classes and not play the numbers game.

The question was asked as to how other schools implemented the change. Dr. Monroe replied that at Shorewood, where he was instrumental in doing away with class rank, they started with all students the following year. Fears that parents and students had did not come true and they had a record number of students get into Madison that year. He stated that the trend is to drop rank and that no school that had dropped it had reversed the decision.

One parent expressed concern that if rank was dropped colleges would rely more on ACT scores. Do we want the decision riding on a 4 hour test rather than 4 years of high school?

Nicolet teacher Jane Joyce commented that with grade weighting and rank students may be reluctant to explore different courses if only offered at one level thus limiting opportunities that should be part of high school.

Regarding the implementation of the changes, Marilyn Franklin stated that historically changes have been made so as not to affect students already in the system. It was pointed out however, that the position taken by the committee (11-2) was to start with next year and focus on the greater good for all. Ms. Franklin suggested that the committee be reconvened to address the issues raised and brought back to the school board with the goal of making a decision at the May 24th School Board Meeting. Greg DePue will call the committee back together and asked several parents to write down their comments.

IX. Committee Comments
None

X. Upcoming meeting date
The June Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9th, at 4:00 pm in F124.
XI. **Adjournment**
Motion by Mrs. Franklin, seconded by Mrs. Peltz to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 2-0. Mrs. Peltz adjourned the meeting at 9:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine K. Macon
Recording Secretary