Board Present: Jennifer Peltz, Marilyn Franklin, Mark Majeski, Kelly Herda, Laurel Bear,

Present at Meeting: Dr. Rick Monroe, Greg DePue, John Reiels, Gary Stresman, Eliot Scheuer, Michael McDowell, David Quam, Karyl Rosenberg, Joy Brandstrom, David Wyatt

Students Present: Robin Bloch, Katie McShane, Beni Pazar, Liz Horstmeier

Others Present: Steve Ferns – 712 W. Rock Place, Glendale
Daniel & Jenice Burrell - 318 W. Apple Tree Rd, Glendale
Gitta Pazar – 7705 N. Boyd Way, Fox Point
Ron LeMay – 8146 N. 105th St, Milwaukee
James & Stacey Pezzino – 1750 E. Dean Rd, Fox Point
Peter Garner – 7315 W. Redwood Rd, Glendale
Mike Levey – 7750 N. Fairchild, Fox Point
David Rosene – 1554 E. Goodrich LA, Fox Point
Michael Bamberger – 9255 N. Pelham Pkwy, Bayside
Myra Rickun – 6525 N. Pine Shore Dr, Glendale

I. Call the Meeting to Order
Chair Jennifer Peltz called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. School Board Member Roll Call
Recording Secretary Ferne Hecker called the School Board member attendance roll call, with chair Mrs. Jennifer Peltz and Mrs. Marilyn Franklin, member being present. Board members Laurel Bear, Kelly Herda and Mark Majeski were also present.

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

IV. Discussion of Music Department Trip to New York City
Mr. Michael McDowell, Band Director, was present at the Curriculum Committee meeting to discuss the annual Music Department trip to New York City on May 27-30, 2010. Participants
V. Discussion of Nicolet High School Student Participation in National Competitions for Both Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

Dr. Rick Monroe read the proposed policy as included in the Curriculum Committee packet. A parent whose son is a Nicolet sophomore, read a portion of a magazine article reporting how badly the country needs scientists. She is concerned about the amount of money put out for Nicolet athletics. Mrs. Peltz stated that Nicolet students have the opportunity to go to regional and state science fairs. The policy brings consistency to curricular and co-curricular opportunities. She explained that other science fairs have sponsors. Nicolet is not taking away National Science Fair opportunities, but will not pay the cost. There was much discussion from parents, students, and present and former staff members regarding the National Science Fair and its positive impact on the students and the quality of the Nicolet Science Fair. Science Fair advisor and Nicolet science teacher, Gary Stresman, stated that the fair is a conduit to science research. He fears that adopting the policy in its proposed form will hurt Nicolet’s reputation. He feels families will leave Nicolet because of the loss of the school’s affiliation with the National Science Fair. Parent, Stephen Ferns, stated that he recently moved and selected Nicolet High School because of its science program and participation in the Science Fair. He feels that the Nicolet Science Fair and the opportunity to go to national competition is crucial to the development of science and engineering.

There was discussion regarding the origination of the Nicolet Science Fair and how superior it is to the Badger State Science Fair. Mrs. Franklin reported that when the Nicolet Science Fair began, there was a sponsor to cover costs. She also explained that if a student won the Marquette Science Fair, Marquette paid for them to go to the Intel Science Fair. Mrs. Peltz reiterated that Nicolet is not questioning the validity of the science fair or the opportunity it creates, but getting sponsorship is the traditional way of getting funding. When the Board was questioned as to how much of the budget goes into other activities, Mrs. Peltz stated that there is a difference in the number of participants in other activities and one activity cannot be compared with another. Parents again reiterated that the Board is taking away what makes Nicolet special and gives it a national reputation. The students feel their motivation and opportunity is being taken away. Assistant science advisor and teacher, Eliot Scheuer, stated that Nicolet has to set high expectations for its students in order to drive the way students and parents react. He doesn’t feel the cost of an activity should drive the expectation. He wants to protect academics. He does not feel the Board should look at the per student cost of the activity. He suggested looking at all student activities and fund them equally across the board. He stated that this policy only hits academics.

Dr. Bramberger, a parent, asked the Board to not pull the rug out from under so quickly. He suggested getting a committee to discuss creative ways to raise money, get sponsors and transition to another year. He asked that parents help to find a better solution. Dr. Bear said that the Board has to do what is best for the students. She feels that it is a disservice to the students not having them participate in the Badger State Science Fair. It is an opportunity to meet, talk...
and see other science students who are not part of the Nicolet program. She also stated that Nicolet needs to provide for all Nicolet students in all activities, within budgetary means. Mrs. Franklin stated that Nicolet is a special place, but the board is being driven by the budget. She stated that a final decision does not have to be made at this Curriculum Committee meeting. She suggested that the Board, teaches and parents put their heads together to come up with a solution to give opportunity to students.

Mrs. Peltz thanked everyone for their comments and said that the board will discuss the situation.

VI. Discussion of Model Organization of American States (Model OAS) Trip to Washington, D.C.
Mr. David Wyatt, Model OAS advisor and Nicolet teacher, was present at the Curriculum Committee meeting to discuss Nicolet High School students participating in the Model Organization of American States (OAS). This is an annual trip involving up to 10 Nicolet students and will occur on December 2-5, 2009. Mr. Wyatt explained that he has been taking students to the Model OAS since 1999. He recruits students with announcements and talking to social studies teachers. Students must write an essay and be endorsed by two teachers. Students do fundraising to help with the cost. Each student pays approximately $800. In the past, Nicolet has covered the chaperone’s expenses, approximately $2,492 plus a $900 entrance fee. The students and teacher miss four school days, and Nicolet covers the cost of the substitute. Mrs. Franklin stated that this is just a trip unless the students are sharing the information they learn with other classes. Mrs. Peltz was concerned that Model OAS did not have a direct academic correlation. She stated that she has a hard time justifying the cost of this program. The committee could not reach a decision regarding Model OAS and suggested that it go to the full Board for discussion and possible action at the September 29th School Board meeting.

VII. Discussion of Exam Exemption Policy Revision
Mr. John Reiels reported that the Exam Exemption Policy, included in the Curriculum Committee packet, needs to be changed so as to align the language with that of the new Attendance Policy. The change involves changing “two weeks” to “two days” regarding absences. The policy will have a second reading at the October Curriculum Committee and School Board meetings.

VIII. Discussion Regarding Over Night Travel for the Debate Team
Mr. Justice Platt, Debate Team Advisor, was present at the Curriculum Committee meeting and distributed information regarding over-night travel for the Debate Team (see attached). He requested permission from the committee to allow the Debate Team to attend out-of-state tournaments that were within their budget. He reported that students pay expenses that are outside the budget. The committee suggested that this item be placed on the School Board agenda.

VI. Discussion Regarding Future Meeting Dates
The Curriculum Committee meetings will be held at 4:00 pm, in Room F124 on the following dates during the 2009-2010 school year:

- Wednesday, October 14, 2009
- Wednesday, November 11, 2009
- Wednesday, December 9, 2009
- Wednesday, January 13, 2010
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Wednesday, April 21, 2010
Wednesday, May 12, 2010
Wednesday, June 9, 2010

VII. Questions/Comments
None

VIII. Adjournment
Motion by Mrs. Franklin, seconded by Mrs. Peltz to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 2-0.

Mrs. Peltz adjourned the September 9, 2009 Curriculum Committee meeting at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ferne Hecker
Recording Secretary