

**NICOLET PTSO Meeting**  
Thursday, January 14, 2021  
6pm – Zoom

Attendance: Mr. David Coyle (principal), Monica Arnstein, Traci Schwartz, Mr. Michael McDowell (teacher representative), Alex Waltrip, Janice Pfaffl, Dawn Sweet, Jean Bernstein, Anne O'Donoghue, Sarah Damonte Vega, Yolaund Sulcer, Marilyn Franklin, Deb Mortonson

- I. Call to Order- Traci Schwartz – 6:01pm
- II. Welcome and Introductions
- III. Approval of Agenda – Alex 1<sup>st</sup>, Janice 2<sup>nd</sup>
- IV. Approval of Minutes Presented by Monica Arnstein – Janice 1<sup>st</sup>, Monica 2<sup>nd</sup>
- V. Nicolet Representative Reports
  - a. ADMINISTRATION - Mr. Coyle
    - i. Mr. Dorgan and Mr. Zimmers have moved on to new opportunities – we wish them the best
    - ii. Chip Johnston is filling in as associate principal while Mr. Coyle is serving as principal. They've known each other for a long time and make a great team.
    - iii. Everyone's busy getting ready – lots of foundational work has already been done prior to the school year.
    - iv. Doing everything we can but can't possibly plan for every scenario
    - v. 53/54% of students have opted to return to campus, remaining choosing remote
    - vi. Rescheduling and moving things in the middle of the year is a lot of work. Typically takes 4 months with a computer system – we've done it in 6.5 weeks without a computer system. Lots of hand scheduling by teachers, counselors. Quite a task!
    - vii. Big pieces left are pushing out an instructional video with mitigation strategies and protocols – email to go out next week
    - viii. Parent Q&A on 1/26 for all families to answer any last minute questions
    - ix. Brighter days ahead! We are very optimistic about all of the plans that are in place.
    - x. Athletics and activities are still happening
      1. Clubs meeting virtually
      2. FEAR is meeting in person – safely and in pods
      3. Theatre – made a movie as opposed to a live performance
      4. No major issues with athletics
      5. Strengthening and conditioning programs has 50-60 kids a day and has been a success
      6. One more day (tomorrow) of doing in person labs on Fridays
        - a. Has been great for the kids and we've learned a lot about what needs to be done when the kids come in person.
    - xi. Parent 101 where we can recruit members will likely happen in March or April (virtual)

1. We've gotten good feedback about previous virtual programs (ie. Open house)
  - xii. Traci asked - Will there be a forum on candidates for school board?
    1. There will be a primary – currently 5 candidates and the primary (2/16) will narrow it down to 3 or 4
    2. Primary to be hosted at Nicolet
    3. Mr. Coyle will talk to Dr. Kabara about a forum in order to get to know the candidates
  - b. TEACHER REP – Mr. McDowell
    - i. Teaching staff is getting ready for second semester and wrapping up first semester
    - ii. Lots of focus on giving kids extra support
    - iii. Excited to see the kids again – looking forward to second semester
    - iv. Music will be taught in the theatre to keep things spread out
      1. Special equipment for instruments to keep things safe
- VI. Officer Reports
- a. Co-Presidents- Traci Schwartz / Alex Waltrip -New Board
    - i. Hoping to recruit interest at an upcoming Parent 101 in March or April
  - b. Treasurer, Dawn Sweet -Report
    - i. Deposited the rest of Venmo money into the checking account
  - c. PTSO Committee Chair Reports
    - i. Spirit Award ---Marylin Franklin and Traci Schwartz
      1. Last they spoke they were trying to figure out a way to get the teachers to nominate someone for that
      2. Will it skew the voting system by having some kids in person and others virtual?
        - a. The previous process has been efficient
        - b. Pre-empt the survey to encourage teachers to think about previous interactions and experiences with students in order to select students and make it fair
        - c. Teachers will be pretty good at finding someone regardless of the instructional model they're in
        - d. There was a spirit week when we were all remote and there's plans to hopefully do another
        - e. Categories within the spirit award could help finding the right recipients for the award (focusing on those who participated remotely and rose to the occasion)
        - f. We need to put the winners of last years spirit award on the plaque. Mr. Coyle made a note that this needs to be done.
    - ii. Merit Awards ---Anne O'Donoghue
      1. Kids have access to the application. Many will start filling them out later in the spring.
      2. Mr. Coyle still has the awards from last year
        - a. Routes have been made to deliver those that are staying remote and the awards for those that are coming back will get their awards at school.

3. Volunteer hours can be three hours from 1 event or from multiple events
  4. Anne is working on this by herself – Heather in the front office will help with sorting. Anne will reach out for help if/when she needs it.
  5. Deadline is Friday after spring break
  6. The form needs to be filled out all at once (it's a Google Doc so it can't be filled out and revisited later)
  7. Forms can be submitted electronically or on paper
  8. Are teacher signatures necessary?
    - a. Heather will be creating a list for each teacher of the students who indicated them as a reference
- iii. Senior Breakfast
1. Nothing to plan right now
- iv. Crams
1. Not happening for this round of finals
  2. Not having the exams next week account for 20% of the final grade takes some pressure off of the students already.
- v. Teacher Appreciation WEEK
1. Can we tie the foundation event of raising money for books into teacher appreciation week
  2. Anne and Jean will discuss finding someone to help plan the week
  3. It would be nice to have a forum for the kids to give a sentiment or message about their teachers – can they be put into a food or gift box for the teachers?
  4. Last year for TAW it was hard to ask small businesses for donations but maybe we could ask for this year
    - a. Kopps
    - b. The Brick
    - c. Foundation is going to be asking for donations around the same time so we need to be careful
  5. How many teachers and staff are there? 90 teachers, 130 total teachers and staff
- vi. Grad Grams --- Dawn Sweet /Deb Mortenson
- VII. Announcements
- a. Foundation and other organizations Updates- Traci
    - i. BKI DISCUSSION
      1. Last week in April – right before teacher appreciation
      2. Looking for books for classroom libraries
      3. Can we tie this into teacher appreciation?
- VIII. Janice Pfaffl VP Select Raffle Winners
- a. Andrea Winkle and Lisa Wathan
  - b. So deserving – CONGRATS!
- IX. ADJOURNMENT