

L'Etoile du Nord Parent Teacher Organization  
Draft Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 13th, 2022

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PTO Team Members Present: Rebekah LaCasse (President), Colin Nelson-Dusek (Secretary), Nicole Kelley (Social co-chairperson), Michou Tchoffo (Vice President), Jessica Hietala (Social co-chairperson)

Other: Rebecca Koetter, Regan Hall Reinerth, Andrea

Absent: Breann Tierschel (Treasurer), Erica Scott (Fundraising chairperson), Christophe de Campeau (Intern committee chairperson), Malia Caruso (Communications chairperson)

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Michou opened the meeting at 8:05pm.

**Welcome and Vice President's Update:** Michou presented. She expressed her thanks to everyone for attending and also explained that she is presenting this evening because Rebekah just had a baby!

**Soirée Culturelle et Gastronomique recap:** Michou presented. She said that the event was a success and it was great to see so many people contribute and attend. Michou gave her thanks to everyone who participated and helped. Parents attending the event also shared their thoughts on the event. There was discussion about ways to improve the event for next year.

**Committee Updates:** Nicole talked about Social Committee updates. The luncheon for the parent teacher conferences went well. There was catering for all days, provided by the PTO.

Kermesse is still underway and Nicole expressed her thanks to Erica, Regan, and Stephanie Nelson-Dusek for offering their ideas. The event will be held on June 2 and the plan is to have the event at the former LNFI lower campus. Principal Bossard has requested permission to use the site. More details will be provided in the coming weeks.

Teacher appreciation week is coming up in May. There will be special events and activities planned for the week, so stay tuned.

Rebekah talked about Communications updates, since Malia couldn't make it. The book fair was a success - over 600 books were sold. Malia is also working with Scholastic so that there will be a free book provided to every student during next year's book fair.

Regan gave an update on the spirit gear drive. The website for spirit gear is now live. The drive is supposed to end on April 21, but Regan will check to see if there is a way to extend the sales period. Spirit gear will also be available to purchase at Kermesse.

Andrea updated everyone on the Intern Committee. In the coming week, the Intern Committee will be interviewing five candidates for internship positions (the French embassy only provided

five candidates). Right now, there are eight host families committed, but they are looking for two more before tomorrow's deadline to ensure that all interns will be hosted next year.

The committee is also talking to Amity Institute about getting a more diverse group of interns for the coming years. While this affiliation with Amity will not start in 2023-2024, it should be ready for the 2024-2025 school year. Andrea gave some background about the application and visa process and how the internship system works. Andrea also noted that they will need help next year on the internship committee, because the program is a lot of work. There was discussion.

Rebekah mentioned the Chipotle fundraiser last night. She will provide numbers once she gets them.

Rebecca Koetter presented information about the plant sale. There were 46 orders placed, which was about \$6000 total. The PTO should get \$1600-1800 from the sales. Plants will be delivered May 12, and there will be volunteers needed for distributing the plants when they arrive. Rebecca will provide further details about delivery when the date gets closer. She noted that this was an average amount of sales for the annual plant sale (it's usually around \$6000-8000). There was discussion.

New business was presented by Michou - Treasurer position and suggestions for next year's PTO. The Treasurer position is open, and Michou and Rebekah talked about the position and its responsibilities. Breann, the previous treasurer, has said that she will help train whoever will be the incoming treasurer. Anyone who is interested in being the Treasurer can contact a PTO executive member.

Michou then opened up the meeting to suggestions from attendees for next year's PTO. Any ideas or goals can be presented. Ideas presented: more focus on reading programs for the school, more time set aside to fully discuss the goals so that every parent possible can contribute, focus on community building and think about what role the PTO can be in community building, continue to build the community and focus on the kids, and move beyond just fundraising, build better communication between parents, teachers, staff, and members of the community.

Rebekah expressed her thanks to Michou for leading the meeting. Michou expressed her thanks to all attendees and ended the meeting at 9:08pm.

Amicalement,  
Colin Nelson-Dusek, secretary