

L'Etoile du Nord Parent Teacher Organization
Draft Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 9th, 2022

PTO Team Members Present: Rebekah LaCasse (President), Colin Nelson-Dusek (Secretary), Breann Tierschel (Treasurer), Malia Caruso (Communications chairperson), Christophe de Campeau (Intern committee chairperson), Michou Tchoffo (Vice President), Regan Hall Reinerth (Marketing chairperson), Erica Scott (Fundraising co-chairperson), Jessica Hietala (Social co-chairperson), Nicole Kelley (Social co-chairperson)

Other: Sofia Bossard, Laura Handley, Lequyen Tran

Absent:

Rebekah opened the meeting at 8:06pm.

Welcome and President's Update: Rebekah presented. She expressed her thanks to everyone attending and also briefly discussed the topics for the evening. She then ceded to Principal Bossard.

Principal's Update: Principal Bossard presented. Everyone is working hard at the school. She talked about rehearsals for NAAPID performances and the upcoming assemblies. There is a committee to bring more phonics learning to the classrooms - stay tuned for more updates. There is also an effort to have more autonomy to change the curriculum to reflect the needs of a French Immersion education (this is to adapt the SPPS curriculum to LNFI). Principal Bossard also talked about an after-school and summer soccer clinic that may be happening. Principal Bossard has also been in communication with the Alliance Francaise (AF) about cultural celebrations. LNFI will be sending out flyers with more information about upcoming events in coordination with AF.

NAAPID Update: Erica presented. She said that 40-50 students have been participating in the practices for the dance/songs/poem performances. These will be presented at the February 13 assemblies. On February 24, there will be another set of performances, along with a community meal. The Feb. 24 event will start at 4:15pm with a meet and greet, followed by the performances, then dinner. Information on the Feb. 13 assemblies were also shared. Erica mentioned the parent reading activities that are happening each Friday in February, to celebrate Black History month. Parents are welcome to attend the assemblies on Feb. 13, and they can also join the students for lunch that day.

Committee Updates: Erica talked about the Glow Run fundraiser, which is happening on Feb. 14. Right now, we are at almost \$13,000 in pledges, but there is still plenty of time to add more! Rebekah noted that there are still spaces available for volunteers to help out with the fun run. Rebekah also gave a quick update to the annual plant sale. Distribution of plants will be in early May, right before Mother's Day. More information about the sale will be presented in March.

Jessica talked about the teacher appreciation meals that will be happening during the March parent teacher conferences. Sign-ups to volunteer food, plates, and cutlery will be coming soon.

Malia gave information about the spring book fair sale. It will also be happening during parent teacher conferences. Sale dates will be March 21-24, and volunteers are needed to help.

Rebekah then introduced Christophe, who will be sharing information on the French intern program on LNFI. Christophe gave a presentation on the intern program. He stated that his presentation will be available to parents and staff after the meeting concludes. After his presentation, Christophe gave his thanks to the Intern Operations Committee, the intern host families, and this year's interns. Christophe opened the meeting to questions from attendees. Principal Bossard also expressed her thanks to everyone involved in the intern operations committee. There were questions and discussion.

A previous intern, Jean Nelson-Martin, talked about his experience as an intern and coming back to LNFI to help out after finishing the program.

A current intern, Aurore, talked about her experiences this year. There was discussion.

Another current intern, Marie, also shared her thoughts on the year. There was further discussion.

Another current intern, Clementine, also shared her thoughts on the year. There was further discussion.

Madame Handley shared her experiences as a teacher working with the interns. Madame Handley has been with LNFI since its inception, and she has always enjoyed working with the interns and praised the value of the experience for both the LNFI community and the interns. Principal Bossard gave some examples of how the interns participate in the classroom and how it benefits the faculty and students.

Host families then shared their experiences with the interns. All enjoyed it and talked about how well the program is run. There was discussion.

Treasurer's Update: Breann presented. She introduced herself to the attendees and talked about her responsibilities as Treasurer. Breann talked about how the budget was created and how it currently stands. At this moment (early February) we are expecting to have a \$9000 operating loss by the end of the year. Breann noted that our hope for the coming years is to be budget neutral or to have a profit.

Breann moved to the Profit and Loss sheet and explained where our income is coming from and how we can strengthen existing and new avenues for funding. Breann also detailed where expenses are coming from and when we incur them. There was discussion.

Rebekah expressed her thanks to all attendees and ended the meeting at 9:19pm.

Amicalement,
Colin Nelson-Dusek, secretary