

L'Etoile du Nord Parent Teacher Organization
Draft Meeting Minutes, Thursday, January 12th, 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), Nicole Kelley (Social committee co-chairperson), Michou Tchoffo (Vice President)

Other: Kevin Amdahl (teacher, Central High School), Rachel Paiya Yang (teacher, Hidden River Middle School), Teresa Vibar (principal, Hidden River Middle School), Caroline Belden (student, Central High School), Sofia Bossard (principal, LNFI), Nia Winsell (student, Central High School), Kieran (student, Central High School)

Absent: Regan Hall Reinerth (Marketing chairperson)

Rebekah opened the meeting at 6:03pm.

Welcome and President's Update: Rebekah presented. She expressed her thanks to everyone for attending and is excited for the presentation from the teachers and students at Hidden River and Central schools. Rebekah noted that NAAPID is on February 13. All parents are invited to a special assembly on that date, as well as events throughout the month. There will be two assemblies for the students on the 13th. There will be a fun run on February 14 (Glow Run!), and families should expect more information soon.

Recruitment for next year's host families for interns will be happening soon. Interested families should look out for more information in the coming weeks.

Rebekah then ceded to school staff and faculty that will be presenting. Teresa Vibar first introduced herself, followed by Rachel Paiya Yang. Kevin Amdahl then introduced himself.

French Immersion Pathways Presentation: The representatives from Hidden River School went first. Teresa began by talking about International Baccalaureate schools and how the curriculum is used at Hidden River. Teresa detailed the aspects of what an IB education means and how it makes students well rounded individuals. Core and elective classes of Hidden River were discussed, as well as the daily routine of students at the school. Rachel talked about the social studies curriculum, how French is used in the classroom, and projects that have been done by middle school students in the past.

Time was allotted for questions from attendees. There was discussion. The issue of retention and matriculation from LNFI to Hidden River/Central was addressed. It seems that at least 50% of 5th-grade LNFI students move to Hidden River, year over year. Sofia said that one of the main reasons that students do not continue onto the immersion pathway was due to bus transportation and living out of district. Sofia also said that around 30% of LNFI students come from out of district.

Teresa said that students from LNFI are guaranteed a spot at Hidden River, due to being a part of the French Immersion program. There was further discussion about transition from LNFI, to Hidden River, to Central.

Kevin presented the immersion program at Central High School. Kevin talked about the French teachers at Central. The high school is also an IB school, and completing the French immersion program will be noted on the high school diploma and transcript. Testing at the 11th-grade level also allows students to obtain a bilingual IB diploma.

Kevin also talked about the activities that students can participate in as part of the immersion program, and reviewed the benefits of the IB immersion program.

Nia Winsell, Caroline Belden, and Kieran students from Central High School, talked about their experiences as students in the immersion program.

Time was allotted for questions from parents and attendees. There was discussion. Further details about electives, curriculum, and students experiences were mentioned. There was further discussion.

Rebekah expressed her thanks for everyone who presented this evening. She asked any LNFI families in attendance to please stay on for a special PTO vote.

New Business - Voting of Fundraising Chair Candidate: Rebekah presented. She introduced Erica Scott as the Fundraising Chair candidate. Erica introduced herself and discussed her background in fundraising. Rebekah called for a vote to approve Erica as the Fundraising chair. Erica was unanimously approved as the Fundraising chair. A round of welcomes was given to Erica for becoming a new committee member. There was discussion.

Rebekah expressed her thanks to all attendees and ended the meeting at 7:35pm.

Amicalement,
Colin Nelson-Dusek, secretary

Addendum: There was a special meeting held on Tuesday, January 31 to discuss the event on February 24 and to vote on the budget request for the February 24 event.

The special meeting began at 8:10pm. Erica described the event on February 24. There will be a meet and greet and introduction at the beginning. A PTO table will be installed and invitations will be sent out to community members who may be interested in attending. Dances will be performed, along with a poem recited by the students. The students also made art, which will be put on display for the performance. Students will sing the Black National Anthem. There will also be a talent show.

For the rest of the month, parents will be coming to classrooms and sharing cultural stories with students (on Fridays). There was discussion about distributing a sign-up sheet for parent volunteers.

Michou described the events on February 13. There will be two assemblies, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Parents will be invited and there will be parent speakers. A talent show will also be part of the assembly.

LNFI PTO now has a TikTok account. The plan is to use it for social media advertising. An announcement for the fun run has been posted.

Erica talked about the updated budget request. The budget request was originally for \$5000. It still is \$5000, but Principal Bossard said that the school could donate \$1500. The ask for the Feb. 24 event is now \$3500.

Breann presented the budget forecast to give perspective on what funds we are able to distribute. There was discussion about the budget.

A vote was held to approve the \$3500 budget request for the Feb. 24 event. The budget request was approved.

The meeting ended at 9:01pm.