

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

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

Other: Sofia Bossard, Rebecca Koetter

Absent: Breann Tierschel (Treasurer), Erica Scott (Fundraising co-chairperson)

Rebekah opened the meeting at 8:03pm.

Welcome and President's Update: Rebekah presented. She noted that this meeting will be focused primarily on committee updates and that we are always looking for volunteers to help out.

NAAPID Events Recap and Update on Soirée Gastronomique: Michou presented. She said that the NAAPID event on February 13 was a success. Many parents were able to help out and the student performances were excellent. For the Soirée Gastronomique, information will be sent out to parents next week, and it is expected that the rescheduling will be on Friday, March 31. Practice for NAAPID dances will be held until the new date, and there will also be a talent show held on the night of the Soirée Gastronomique. All students of LNFI will be eligible to participate in the talent show, and they can sign up!

Principal's Update: Principal Bossard presented. The faculty are getting ready for the parent-teacher conferences. Conferences are on March 21, 23, and 24.

The French soccer program will be a paid program, but the school is working with the organization to see if scholarships can be distributed for students who need them. The soccer camps will be conducted in French. More information on the camps are included in the Principal's newsletter. Next year's school budget should be coming from the district on March 23. She does not have our projected enrollment yet, but it is possible that there will be a decline (but this is a district-wide issue). She and the school remain optimistic that enrollment will increase and that there will be an increase in the school budget. The principal also said that there will be weekly check-ins with the school safety team to ensure that everyone is aware of the safety of the students, faculty, and building.

Mme Scholl has returned, and Principal Bossard expressed her thanks to Mme Weinberg and Mme Laurnadie for serving as substitutes during Mme Scholl's maternity leave. Fifth-grade students are fundraising for earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey, so please support them. There was time for discussion and questions.

Committee Updates: Christophe updated everyone on the Intern Committee. Host family recruitment is underway and he is looking forward to hearing from families who are interested. He expressed his thanks to Malia for distributing information about the host program through various media. Anyone is welcome to contact him with any questions about hosting an intern. The PTO is looking for 12 host families, as well as 1-2 backup families, to ensure that there will be the same number of interns next year as this year (6).

A new initiative that Christophe is trying is introducing host family coaches. These are families that have served as hosts in the past, but will be available to coach new host families and to help with the Intern Committee. As of this evening, there are no families signed up, but they are looking forward to any families willing to help out. There was discussion about requirements for host families. The deadline for host family applications is March 24. There was further discussion.

Jessica talked about Social Committee updates. There is a potluck signup for spring conferences (you can see signups on Facebook/the PTO newsletter email/printed fliers). Lunch will be provided by the PTO on Tuesday (3/21) and Thursday (3/23), and snacks will be provided on Friday (3/24). Friday, June 2 will be the date for Kermesse, and it will be held at the school. More updates will be provided in the future. There was discussion.

Malia talked about Communications updates. The spring book fair will be held at the same time as the parent-teacher conferences. Students will be able to shop during the day on Tuesday, March 21 (open for 2nd-5th grade students). The book fair will also be open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (4-8pm) and Friday during conferences. Books in English and French will be available, as well as school supplies and other bibelots. Malia said that there will be a limited number of adult books on sale, and that they are also looking for volunteers to help run the book fair.

Regan gave an update on the spirit gear drive. The spirit gear in the spring will feature the school's new logo, and t-shirts and hoodies will be sold. A parent volunteer will be helping out to get the merchandise distributed after orders. There will be more colors and sizes available than last year, and sales will be open from April 1 - 21. There was discussion.

Rebecca Koetter presented information about the plant sale. She has been in charge of this particular fundraiser for about 5 five years. The sale is through Gertens and Malia has already started advertising for the fundraiser. Gertens is now insisting that any fundraisers use a website that they have created, which makes the ordering and distribution process much easier for the PTO. Gertens sets their prices for the plants, but they still distribute the proceeds (30% for plants sold, 15% for gift cards sold) to the PTO. Delivery for plants this year will be on May 12. Rebecca asked Principal Bossard where delivery and distribution will take place on the LNFI campus (in previous years, deliveries were done at Lower Campus). Rebecca does need volunteers for the delivery date, for organizing the orders and pickup. The plant sale deadline is April 6, but this is also set by Gertens. There was discussion.

Rebekah presented the Glow Run recap. We raised just over \$19,000 from the event! Rebekah expressed her thanks for everyone's help, participation, and donations. There will be a Chipotle fundraiser on April 12, from 4-8pm (2303 White Bear Ave location). You will have to bring in the flier that the PTO will send out in order to have the funds distributed to the PTO. Chipotle will give 30% of the proceeds to the PTO.

Rebekah opened up the meeting to additional questions and comments.

Rebekah expressed her thanks to all attendees and ended the meeting at 9:10pm.

Amicalement,
Colin Nelson-Dusek, secretary