

**THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL**

**12301 Spotswood Furnace Road**

**Fredericksburg, VA 22407**

Governing Board Meeting

January 16, 2014

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Mr. Duane McOsker (Stafford); Mr. Ray Lora, Vice Chair (Spotsylvania); Dr. Mary Anderson (Caroline);

Members Absent: Mr. Kenneth Novell (King George)

Also attending: Mrs. Merri Kae VanderPloeg (The Commonwealth Governor's School Director); Kristin Tolliver (Alternate Governing Board Member, King George); Dr. Chris Quinn (Assistant Superintendent of Stafford County Schools); Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County Schools); Dr. Greg Killough (Superintendent of Caroline County Schools); Mr. Robert Benson (Superintendent of King George County Schools); Keith Wolfe (Executive Director of Secondary Education and Leadership).

Mr. Lora determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Lora asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Lora discussed the procedures of the election of officers. In the past, Mrs. Bomkhe was the Chair for two years. Mr. Lora was the Vice Chair. Mr. Lora recommended that he serve as Chair and Mr. Novell would be Vice Chair. Dr. Anderson had spoken to Mr. Novell about the election and wanted to nominate him for the Chair position. Mr. McOsker said that he was just selected to be on the Governing Board two days ago and questioned if everyone present was

already elected by their representatives. Mr. Lora said that he had been elected to represent on the CGS board. Dr. Anderson said that she had been selected as well by her board. Mr. Lora said that Mrs. Tolliver could vote in Mr. Novell's place. Mr. Benson spoke to Mr. Novell and he was fine for the board to proceed. Mrs. Tolliver said she did not get any direction from Mr. Novell to vote. Mr. McOsker said there was no burning desire to make the selections at this point. He suggested the board wait until the March meeting. Dr. Anderson is fine with postponing the election. Mrs. Tolliver said that Mr. Novell thought it was possible to postpone until his return. The members decided to table selection of Chair and Vice Chair. The selection of the Executive Superintendent would be tabled until the next meeting. At this point, Dr. Killough would remain the Acting Executive Superintendent until March.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Lora led the meeting to order since he was the Vice Chair of the CGS Governing Board during the last election cycle. All members and visitors of the board introduced themselves. Mr. Duane McOsker was recently selected as the board representative for Stafford County Public Schools. He replaced Mrs. Meg Bohmke. Mr. McOsker is excited to be part of the board because CGS is a great program. He currently has a son in CGS at Stafford High School. Mrs. Kristin Tolliver, King George Alternate CGS Governing Board member, attended the meeting since Mr. Novell was absent.

Mr. Lora gave a brief history of the program and stated that he has been a part of the program for many years. He applauded the work CGS conducts for the gifted and talented students of Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George, and Caroline. The students of CGS need a special program such as CGS in order to tap into their talents and to be successful as athletes need athletic programs.

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Dr. Baker welcomed everyone back and was happy to see that Mrs. VanderPloeg had returned after her medical leave. Mr. Benson echoed the same sentiments. Dr. Killough thanked Mr. Lora for his comments about the history of CGS and agreed with Mr. Lora's assertions to provide an academic program for the region's gifted and talented students. Dr. Quinn sent Dr. Symons greetings and announced the selection of a new superintendent, Dr. Bruce Benson, who will begin working in the division in April.

### **DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Mrs. VanderPloeg welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all of the board members a Happy New Year!

The 2014-15 CGS application rolled out at the beginning of the New Year. The application deadline is during the Valentine's Day time-frame.

Early action college acceptances and some military academy acceptances have been coming forward for the CGS students. Many CGS students have been accomplishing incredible accolades in the community. Two Riverbend CGS seniors had leading roles in the Fredericksburg production of the 'Nutcracker' in December. They did a fabulous job and were able to keep up with their studies in CGS. Spotsylvania High School won a top forensics award at the state level. Senior CGS student, Miranda Roberts earned first place in the acting division. The CGS Robotics team has been working with middle school science students in preparation for the county science fairs. In November, the Stafford High School CGS students were buddies to the Drew Middle School science club for an orienteering event.

There are several CGS events occurring in the next month. Mrs. VanderPloeg will speak at the Spotsylvania Gifted Advisory Board later in the month. On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, CGS students representing the six sites will be meeting with state legislatures during the Governors' Schools Capital Day event in Richmond. There will be a parent social on February 15<sup>th</sup> for CGS parents entitled, 'I Survived First Semester'. The program is geared for parents of CGS 9<sup>th</sup> graders and new parents who would like to discuss ways to continue to support their student through the academic challenges of CGS. The social will be held at the Eagle Run Public Library in Stafford. The Snowball will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Eagles Lodge. Governing Board members are welcome to attend. Finally, the CGS College Forum will be held on the campus of University of Mary Washington on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Final report on the National Association of Gifted Children Conference in Indianapolis, IN**

Dr. Walker and Mrs. VanderPloeg presented to twenty individuals from all over the country at the NAGC. Several educators of gifted approached them and complimented CGS on their thoroughness of the study. The Gifted Child Quarterly is reviewing the study for publication. The presentation will be on the NAGC website for a year for convention and non-convention participants to review.

While Mrs. VanderPloeg was at the NAGC conference, she attended several workshops on online learning. Mr. Lora asked if CGS was exploring online learning. Mrs. VanderPloeg said that the CGS Culminating committee was meeting in February to discuss the option of providing the culminating class as an online credit option. Mr. Lora asked how the CGS students were addressing the required Personal Finance course. Mrs. VanderPloeg said that 75% of the students were taking the 'Personal Finance' class online and it was not interfering with the electives.

Mr. Lora praised CGS as a groundbreaker for many courses and the advancement of the AP courses in the program and for students who attend non-CGS Advanced Placement courses in the four divisions. He looks forward to seeing if CGS can investigate online options for the future.

### **CGS FY 2015 Budget**

The CGS Governing Board received a draft copy of the FY2015 budget. Mrs. VanderPloeg said that Governor McDonnell proposed increasing \$1.00 per pupil who will attend the Governor's Schools. The budget will not be finalized until May when the state adopts a budget. Furthermore, the school divisions will be adopting their school budgets during that time period. Mr. Lora also reminded everyone that the CGS Governing Board will review the FY15 budget in October to determine if any amendments need to be made due to enrollment changes or changes in funding. Mr. Benson asked if there were any variables at the school division level that they needed to be aware of. Mrs. VanderPloeg agreed with Mr. Lora's remarks that the budget would be reviewed again in October of 2014. If amendments would be made, they would occur at that time. The school division budgets do not directly impact the CGS budget; however, Spotsylvania County determines the salaries and benefit costs of the three office personnel in CGS so that could be a variable that may be changed after the Spotsylvania budget was adopted by the county supervisors.

### **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Anderson moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Lora seconded the motion. It passed 3-0.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Lora made the motion to adjourn. Mr. McOsker seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. The Governing Board adjourned at 3:51 p.m.