

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

12301 Spotswood Furnace Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Governing Board Meeting

March 17, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. John Copeland, Vice Chair (Caroline); Ms. Tammy Indseth (King George); Mr. Bill Blaine, Chair (Spotsylvania)

Also attending: Dr. Merri Kae VanderPloeg (The Commonwealth Governor's School Director); Dr. Robert Benson (Superintendent of King George County Schools and Executive Superintendent of the Governing Board); Dr. George Parker (Superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools); Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County); Mr. Keith Wolfe (Executive Director of Secondary Education)

Dewayne McOsker (Stafford County) was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Merri Kae VanderPloeg determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Dr. VanderPloeg welcomed members of the CGS Governing Board, division administration, and guests.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2016 AGENDA

Mrs. Indseth made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments at this time.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mrs. Insedth inquired about the location of the board minutes. Dr. VanderPloeg stated that the minutes were archived on the program website for the fiscal year. Mr. Copeland had no comments. Mr. Copeland asked if there was an update on the FY17 budget for CGS. The board would review the draft budget in May as well as review changes in on-going expenditures.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Parker asked if there were recent developments in the state budgetary process. At the time of the board meeting, the state had not made any new changes to the FY17 proposed budget.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

The CGS Kilroy Robotics team qualified for the semi-final championships and ranked 16th out of 39 teams. They were nominated by their competitors for the Entrepreneur Award. The team has worked diligently to fund the program with private grants and donations. The robot is primarily student designed and programmed with some guidance from mentors. On competition day, the students are responsible for the operation of the robot.

The seventeenth annual 'Snowball' formal was held on March 12 at the Eagles Lodge in Fredericksburg. Four hundred and forty-seven students attended in spite of multiple extra-curricular activities held across the region. As part of the admission price, students were asked to bring an after-school snack donation for needy children in the region. Nine elementary schools, one middle school, two Headstart programs, and Stafford Junction Community Outreach Center received donations.

Three participating CGS counties had an increase in applications for the 2016-17 school year. King George applications were slightly smaller than in years past but it was not something to be alarmed about. The gifted coordinators handle the application process but the Director meets with them every fall to discuss the application process and requirements.

The inaugural film festival is slated for March 23 at Riverbend High School. All of the sites were invited to participate in the film contest and the film festival. On April 20, the CGS Culminating Symposium will be held at the University of Mary Washington-Stafford Campus. One hundred and thirty-four seniors will show their projects and selected students will present their research to guests. The CGS Senior Recognition Ceremony will be May 22 at University of Mary Washington, Dodd Auditorium. All division superintendents, directors, principals, and school board members will be invited to attend the ceremony. The CGS Family picnic is scheduled for June 3 at Pratt Park in Fredericksburg.

Mr. Blaine asked how many applicants CGS was looking for in the applicant pool. Dr. VanderPloeg believed there is not a “target” number because the program needs to fit a certain kind of student-someone who is motivated and academically strong. Each site except for King George has a thirty seat cap in each grade level per site. King George/Caroline has a 25 student cap per grade level. Mr. Blaine asked how teachers and school divisions communicate the requirements and expectations of the program. Most of the school divisions host a signature programs event for parents in the counties. The events spotlight CGS. In addition to the program events, CGS collaborates with Caroline and King George to offer outreach programs which highlights CGS to younger students.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Indseth made a motion to approve the financial report and consent agenda. Mr. Blaine seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Blaine made a motion to approve the financial report and Mrs. Insedth seconded the motion. Dr. Robert Benson asked if CGS can carry over funds after the fiscal year. Mrs. Indseth inquired about the charter bus expenses. Dr. VanderPloeg explained that trips to Washington and trips over fifty miles would take charter buses. The buses are \$1500 each. Dr. VandePloeg explained that CGS cannot carry over funds into the next budget cycle. Each site has a designated month to spend their funding allocation. Because carry over funds are not allowed, some large projects are divided between two budget cycles. The financial report passed 3-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Culminating Research Presentation: Danny MacNamera, Erica McGuinness, and Donald Saunders will be sharing highlights of the Culminating project and Interdisciplinary projects found in all grade levels of CGS.

Devin Drake, King George senior, explored facets of electrical engineering and built a solar powered door opener for a chicken coop. Devin plans on attending Virginia Tech in August and will major in engineering. Devin will be showing his chicken coop prototype at the Symposium.

Kaylyn Saguid, King George senior, conducted research on physical therapy for children with disabilities, children with birth defects, and student athletes. As her product, she developed two case files which focused on treatment plans which support best practices in physical therapy. Kaylyn learned through her research and work with her expert that she may focus her major on athletic injuries and not specifically pediatric therapies. Kaylyn also participated in the CGS summer mentorship program last year and shadowed a variety of medical professions. Kaylyn will be attending Boston University in the fall.

Sean Gatewood, King George senior, researched a variety of space missions and developed a catalog of missions for aerospace engineers, researchers, and space enthusiasts. Sean will be majoring in aerospace engineering at Virginia Tech.

The students found culminating to be a benefit because they could explore topics of their choosing. Kaylyn believes culminating narrowed down her scope of college study/major. The research project will prepare her for future research experiences at the college level. Sean commented that when he took a college level research course at RCC, culminating gave him a “leg up”. Culminating enables students to make connections with experts in their field of interest. Mr. MacNamera met with an alum who is attending school in NYC. This particular student’s culminating project opened doors in college and a future internship. Dr. VanderPloeg noted that many students each year receive scholarships because of their culminating research projects.

Donald Saunders and Erica McGuinness explained the interdisciplinary projects CGS students do over the school year. Mr. Saunders provided examples of grade level projects. Mrs. McGuinness emphasized that interdisciplinary projects make purposeful content connections, develop critical thinking skills, and applied fields within the context of topics (i.e. study of music, fashion, ethics, and cultural influences).

Mr. Blaine noted that collaboration is key in order to successfully lead interdisciplinary units. Mr. Saunders stated that it would be difficult in a general education setting because of the differences in faculty schedules and grade level expectations. A number of hours of committee meetings, common planning, and curricular orchestration must be held in order to initiate the units and the culminating project. Dr. VanderPloeg emphasized the need for faculty to have common planning time in order to develop units. Dr. Parker echoed the need for solid professional learning, content experience, and a comfort level of specific content.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be May 19th at the Spotsylvania Co. School Board office. Mrs. Indseth made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Blaine seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. The Governing Board adjourned at 5:18 p.m.