

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

12301 Spotswood Furnace Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Governing Board Meeting

September 15, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. John Copeland, Vice Chair (Caroline); Ms. Tammy Indseth (King George); Mr. Bill Blaine, Chair (Spotsylvania); Dewayne McOsker (Stafford) participated by speaker phone.

Also attending: Dr. Merri Kae VanderPloeg (The Commonwealth Governor's School Director); Dr. Sarah Calvarec (Assistant Superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools); Dr. Robert Benson (Superintendent of King George County Schools) Mr. Tom Nichols (Executive Director of Secondary Education of Spotsylvania County Schools)

Absent: Dr. Bruce Benson (Superintendent of Stafford County Schools); Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County Schools); Dr. George Parker (Superintendent of Caroline County Schools)

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 SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 AGENDA

Mrs. Indseth made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Blaine seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Indseth made a motion to approve the consent agenda and financial statement. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda and financial report. It passed 3-0. Mr. McOsker had to leave the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dana Brown, parent of a 9th grade student at the North Stafford site was present.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. McOsker commented that two of his children are enrolled in CGS and he stays abreast of CGS related events from his family and that he is a strong supporter of the program. Mr. Blaine said it was a pleasure to continue on the Governing Board for another school year. There were no further comments from other board members and guests.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

No comments were made.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

CGS had a very busy summer sponsoring a variety of enrichment activities. Forty-five students participated in the Fredericksburg Regional Governor's School mentorship program under the direction of CGS teachers, Jim McNamee and Connie Kronander. Participating students chose a career field in the community to shadow for two weeks. A variety of career fields were represented such as engineering, medicine, and business.

In late June, Mr. Butch Morris led a five-day environmental science trip in which students camped along the Rappahannock River and on Fox Island in the Chesapeake Bay area. Fifteen students participated and were featured in a Fredericksburg Free Lance Star news article.

Dr. VanderPloeg took twenty-two students to visit the U.S. Supreme Court building and the Native American Museum on July 14. A week later, twenty-eight students visited University of Virginia and toured Monticello. The college visit was specifically geared for Governor's School students.

One hundred and sixty-one new students attended the CGS New Student Orientation on August 9 and 10. A parent technology workshop was offered at the six CGS sites and a regional parent program occurred on August 10.

Three Advanced Placement course boot camps were offered free of charge to the students in mid-August. Twenty-five students attended an AP European History boot camp hosted by Ms. Joan Darby at North Stafford High School. Forty-seven students attended the AP Environmental Science boot camp at Riverbend and sixteen sophomores attended an AP Biology boot camp.

All of the sites participate in the back-to-school nights. Some of the sites hold separate open houses which do not interfere with the main school back-to-school events. Later in the quarter, some of the sites will hold additional meetings.

Dr. Martin Wilder, former Spotsylvania County school board member and parent of two daughters who attended CGS at Riverbend, corresponded to Dr. VanderPloeg and announced a scholarship opportunity for Spotsylvania County CGS students. He and his wife have set up a scholarship endowment for CGS graduates who wish to attend University of Mary Washington. His family wanted to extend their appreciation of The Commonwealth Governor's School by setting up a student scholarship.

The next board meeting which is in October will be at King George High School.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2016 SOL/AP Profiles of Performance

Mr. James Conlee, CGS mathematics teacher, graciously compiled the 2016 Advanced Placement and Standards of Learning data for board members and other CGS stakeholders to review. He explained the correlations and variables which impacted the students' scores as well as how curriculum and assessments have changed over the years. Governing Board members were given a data packet to review and ask questions.

Dr. VanderPloeg discussed ways in which the CGS faculty can use the data to improve instruction, develop professional learning communities, and ensure that the CGS curriculum is aligned with SOL assessments and Advanced Placement standards. Some of the subjects that experienced a decline of pass advanced scores over the last three years will be closely reviewed this year as part of the program's school improvement plan. Dr. Calvarich inquired about the correlation of students who did not receive a perfect score on the SOL in a particular area yet they received a passing score on the Advanced Placement exams. Dr. VanderPloeg stated that it happens quite often because the AP subjects and objectives sometimes do not correlate with what the state SOL assessments.

Mr. Blaine asked why Stafford County School sites have fewer students enrolled in CGS compared to other division. Mr. Nichols said that Stafford County School offers a variety of programs such as the IB program and STAT. A variety of program choices and opportunities can decrease the number of applicants in each program. Mr. Blaine wondered if a similar situation could occur in Spotsylvania since it is not offering IB. Mr. Conlee has some apprehension that multiple programs in a division will be vying for the same caliber of student but he is thankful high school students have choices in their education and that each program is different.

Mr. Blaine is concerned certain students may not be identified for academic programs. Dr. VanderPloeg and Mr. Conlee conveyed that CGS is offering middle school visits, CGS tours, evening parent programs open to the public as well as providing elementary school outreach opportunities which promote CGS. The program works very hard to recruit students and advertise the program to the public. Dr. VanderPloeg emphasized that academic readiness for an academic program such as CGS is important to consider. In order for students to be eligible for CGS, they need to have completed Algebra I by the 9th grade in addition to possessing the minimum competencies required on the CGS application. Mr. Copeland asked if the program reviews the demographics of the applicants. Dr. VanderPloeg said the gifted coordinators review the number of applicants at each middle school and the divisions are striving for curriculum parity across the subject areas. Dr. Calvaric has been part of the selection process and explained the application portfolios are multi-faceted in order to reach a range of student ability levels.

Mr. McOsker commented that the SOL/AP profile data points are beneficial to the school divisions. He said that it is important for board members to be informed about the various school programs and why enrollment fluctuates at the sites.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the 2016-19 CGS Strategic Plan

The CGS Strategic Plan has been in existence for six years. The 2016-19 Strategic Plan is the second edition and was developed by a variety of program stakeholders such as teachers, parents, advisory members, and administration. Dr. VanderPloeg highlighted a few new initiatives that will improve professional development, student achievement, student and community outreach, and college/career readiness. Additionally, the program will investigate future curricular options which can be offered online.

Mr. Blaine made a motion to approve the strategic plan. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be October 20 at the King George CGS site at 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Indseth made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Copeland seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. The Governing Board adjourned at 5:22 p.m.