

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
King George County Public Schools, School Board Office
9100 St. Anthony's Road, King George, VA 22554

Governing Board Meeting

March 16, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. John Copeland, Vice Chair (Caroline); Ms. Tammy Indseth (King George); Mr. Bill Blaine, Chair (Spotsylvania); Dewayne McOsker (Stafford) present for a portion of the meeting.

Also attending: Dr. Merri Kae VanderPloeg (The Commonwealth Governor's School Director); Dr. Robert Benson (Superintendent of King George County Schools) and Betsy Shortt (Director of Assessment and Evaluation, Caroline County Schools)

Absent: Dr. Bruce Benson (Superintendent of Stafford County Schools); Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County Schools); Mr. Keith Wolfe (Executive Director of Secondary Education for Spotsylvania County Schools, and 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 4:05 p.m. Dr. VanderPloeg welcomed members of the CGS Governing Board, division administration, and guests.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2017 CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Copeland made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Indseth seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Mr. McOsker left the meeting after the consent agenda was approved and board remarks were made.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizens were present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Copeland made the motion to approve the minutes and financial report. Mrs. Indseth seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. McOsker gave an update on the Stafford County Public Schools program evaluation. He emphasized that all of the programs in the division would be evaluated by members of the division. A report would be given to the school board later in the year. Dr. VanderPloeg shared that teachers from the sites and the CGS office staff were interviewed earlier in the month. Dr. VanderPloeg was interviewed as well. Mr. McOsker gave an update on the SCPS redistricting process. The school division is redistricting neighborhoods to alleviate overcrowding at Colonial Forge. At the time of the meeting, the CFHS site was under consideration to be moved out of the high school.

Mr. Blaine attended the CGS Snowball on March 11th. He had an opportunity to visit with students, teachers, and parents who were chaperoning the event. The students were having a good time and applauded the PTO for their work. The parents he visited with were excited about the program; however, he noticed there were not a lot of minorities represented among the student body. He understands the divisions are trying to address this issue and the Governing Board is aware of the concern. He stressed that the divisions should continue to recruit at the feeder middle schools and spread the word about CGS.

Mrs. Indseth and Mr. Copeland had no comments.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

No comments were made.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

CGS participated in a Quiz Bowl on March 4th, sponsored by the Mountain Vista Governor's School in Warrenton. Twenty-three students in grades 9-12 participated in the event. Three of the four school divisions were in attendance.

The CGS Snowball was a great success on March 11th. Five hundred and seventeen students attended. As part of the admission, students were asked to bring a healthy, non-perishable box of snacks that could be donated to area elementary schools. The CGS students were so generous that nineteen elementary schools, a local Head Start Program, and Stafford Junction received donations to be given to need children.

Dr. VanderPloeg distributed the CGS summer enrichment packet to board members. Many of the summer opportunities and field trips are free or have a minimal fee. All of the CGS students received the packet via email and the packet was posted on the website.

The CGS Senior Symposium will be held on April 26th at the University of Mary Washington, Stafford campus. All of the CGS Seniors will exhibit their culminating research project and twenty-five students will present their research to attendees. Invitations were mailed to Governing Board members, school board members from the four divisions, county supervisors, school division administration, and state dignitaries. Parents of seniors were also invited to the event.

This spring, CGS will sponsor a pinning ceremony and reception for students who completed the tenth grade in the program. The pinning ceremony will recognize students' hard work, academic excellence, and participation in the program over the last two years. Parents will be invited to the ceremony and reception. Dr. VanderPloeg will let the board members know when the ceremonies will occur so they can attend.

The annual CGS/PTO College Forum will be March 29th at the University of Mary Washington. Admissions counselors from University of Virginia, Richmond University, College of William and Mary, and University of Mary Washington will discuss the admission process, financial aid opportunities, and what students should look for when selecting a college. CGS and non-CGS students as well as their parents are invited to the presentation. On April 6, Colonel Pearson, a service academy admissions counselor and CGS parent, will give a presentation after-school via the CGS broadcast system on military academy admissions and ROTC admissions. Students who are unable to attend the presentation can watch it on the broadcast archives.

INFORMATION ITEMS

CGS Outreach Presentation, Mr. Danny McNamara, King George CGS site leader

Dr. VanderPloeg introduced Mr. Danny McNamara, the King George site leader. Mr. McNamara presented the STEM outreach day that was held in late January. The CGS students from King George and Caroline collaborated with King George 5th and 6th graders. Fifty students spent the day exploring a variety of math and science activities. Each year, the faculty introduces different hands-on, problems based activities to the younger students and the CGS

10th grade students assist in the activities. Mr. McNamera provided the board members a brochure of photos and activity descriptions. The King George site chooses to host the activities during a time when the other sites are conducting midterm exams. This time of the year is ideal because the end of the year can be hectic for all grade levels and mid-January was a natural break between content units, AP review, and culminating research time.

The outreach program sparks interest among the younger students to excel in school and to think about applying to CGS when they are in eighth grade. Dr. VanderPloeg stated that King George is not the only site that conducts outreach with lower grade levels. For example, Stafford High will have their outreach day at the end of March. Riverbend partners with Special Olympics and neighboring elementary schools during field days. The Spotsylvania site partners with neighboring elementary schools. North Stafford assists with middle school debate and Colonial Forge conducts robotics demonstrations to feeder elementary and middle schools.

Mr. Blaine asked if the application numbers were adequate for the 2017-18 school year. Dr. VanderPloeg shared that over 150 applications were received in Spotsylvania and Stafford. Caroline had 27 applications and King George had 38 applications. All of the 9th grade seats are filled in King George, Caroline, and Spotsylvania. Stafford County usually has 85-90% percent of their seats filled because several applications do not reach the minimum score needed for acceptance. More details about the applications and acceptances will follow at the May meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mid-Year Climate Survey

Each year, students are given an end-of-year course evaluation; however, Dr. Bruce Benson suggested at the previous meeting to conduct a mid-year climate survey. The climate survey does not replace the course evaluation. Rather, it is a mid-year check of how students feel about the CGS program. Two hundred and sixty-two students participated which is a little over half of the student body. The number of participants was evenly distributed among the sites. In order keep the survey anonymous, the evaluation did not ask the students' grade level or site location but the end-of-year evaluation does ask for the grade level, site name, and course name. Mrs. Indseth asked how the program developed the survey. The survey was developed by Dr. VanderPloeg and Mrs. Gladney and was edited by a few CGS statistics teachers. Mr. Copeland wondered if the students who responded as "most dissatisfied" were the same group of students or was there a range of students who gave this response. Since the survey was anonymous, it was uncertain. Mr. Copeland believed it was important to specifically ask students why they were dissatisfied. Mrs. Shortt suggested that a comments section could be included after the questions. Dr. Benson suggested that the mid-year survey could be triangulated with the end-of-year course evaluation. Dr. VanderPloeg said that would be a good idea for future surveys. Currently, Dr. VanderPloeg meets individually with teachers and with each site to discuss the

course evaluation. The meetings are held over the summer during the staff development contract days. Mrs. Insedth stated that she would like to see more specifics from students about their satisfaction and dissatisfaction of the program. Mr. Copeland echoed Mrs. Insedth's remarks.

2016-19 Strategic Planning Update

Dr. VanderPloeg gave a mid-year report of the strategic planning initiatives of the 2016-17 school year. All of the CGS teachers are placed on strategic planning committees to develop and execute the different initiatives. All of the Governing Board members received a copy of the progress report. A full report of the initiatives and a evaluative narrative of the initiatives for the 2016-17 school year will be given to Governing Board members in September.

Second Reading of the Proposed FY2018 CGS Budget

Dr. VanderPloeg shared a draft of the FY2018 budget to the Governing Board in January. She explained the Virginia Department of Education changed the funding formula of a weighted composite index of each participating division to an average weighted composite index formula. The recalculated average composite index is .3533. The per pupil amount is currently \$4,983.

The second reading of the FY2018 budget details funding allocations of each line item. Dr. Robert Benson asked how salaries and benefits were calculated. Salaries of CGS office staff were based on the salaries and benefits of employees from the fiscal agent which is Spotsylvania County. Dr. Benson asked why the legal liability insurance rate increased. CGS decided to add a cyber security component to the liability policy because so much of instruction and financial transactions are tied to internet and computer lines across three of the four divisions. Mrs. Insedth asked if the items were determined based on need. The proposed budget is developed based on past funding needs and can be transferred to other line items during the fiscal year.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Blaine asked if Dr. VanderPloeg could think of other programmatic needs in addition to the budget. Dr. VanderPloeg was concerned by the number of science openings in King George and Spotsylvania County because it is difficult to compete for teachers from larger divisions. She hoped the divisions would be able to fill the open positions soon.

Adjournment

Mrs. Indseth made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Copeland seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. The Governing Board adjourned at 5:24 p.m.