

CGS PTO Meeting – August 10th, 2015 - APPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Members present: Denise Wallace, Debbi Maass, Marcia Huntington, Vanessa McOsker, Sarah Chase, Bob McNichols, Reenie Peppers, Merri Kae VanderPloeg, Michele Cuba, Maria Elena Arner, Rita Daniels, Terri Rinko

President's Welcome: ☺ - Glad to see everyone here. We went around the table and introduced ourselves stating how many students we have, their grades, and which site we're at.

Secretary's report: Michele Cuba presented the minutes from the 6/8/15 meeting. Reenie motioned to accept the minutes as written, it was seconded by Terri, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Reenie is the new treasurer but Bob McNichols presented the Treasurer's reports dated 7/31/15. Bob will prepare the taxes in December. We were over budget \$6,674.33 last year but tried several new things that didn't necessarily work out: different type of membership drive, subsidized the fall social, and revamped the Senior awards ceremony. We had carried over a large surplus for years so we're still financially in good condition. Motion to accept the report as presented was made by Sarah. It was seconded by Vanessa and passed unanimously.

Director's report: Presented by Merri Kae.

- Today was the first day with teachers. Teachers from Stafford HS (SHS) were at Riverbend since the new school isn't finished.
- On July 13 students went on a day trip to tour Bridgewater (listed in the top 100 small colleges) and JMU.
- The AP Bio boot-camp was last week and received a lot of positive feedback.
- The APES (AP Env. Science) boot-camp is August 27th at Riverbend.
- Will be getting a tour of the new SHS building tomorrow.
 - SHS houses the heart of technology for all of the Stafford sites: it runs the broadcasts and intranet.
- New student orientation for SHS students will be at Colonial Forge on 8/19 in the morning with a parent technology meeting 11:00-12:00.
- Background checks are required by Spotsy for the PTO President and Treasurer. Need to coordinate with Andrea in HR. They are every 2 weeks on Thursdays in the afternoon; there is one this week.
- They are looking for spunky students to be crew members for new student orientation on the 19th and 20th. They will get special t-shirts so they can be easily recognized by new students.

New Business:

- **Orientation @ Riverbend on August 20th**
 - Overview of evening/help needed
 - 4:30 - Set up to serve pizza, veggies & soda
 - 5:00 - Serve students/staff
 - 5:30 – Clean up then

- Set up for PTO reception
 - Set up table for each site & main table
 - Cut cakes
 - Reps will be at each table to field CGS questions/encourage memberships
 - Merchandise (t-shirts, polos, magnets, hoodies) will be for sale @ main table and payment for memberships
 - Who can help? Michele, Bob, Maria, Reenie (for part). We NEED help.
 - Encouraging Membership - Giving away sling backpacks to first 75 who join that evening
- **Membership**
 - On-line form modified to include payment link
 - Separate link is also available in case folks want to fill out paper and pay via credit card.
 - Information/membership packets will go home with students first week of school; along with spirit wear order forms
- **T-shirt design contest**
 - Had 9 designs submitted
 - Winner was Audrey Arner, rising senior at Colonial Forge.
- Dates for school orientations/back to school nights (**great place to encourage memberships/encourage spirit wear sales/get names of parents who want to help with teacher appreciation**):
 - KG – August 20th
 - Caroline – starts school August 17th
 - Stafford – Colonial Forge and North Stafford September 1st in the evening; SHS September 3rd 5-8pm
 - Spotsylvania – September 30th
- **Fall Social @ Belvedere – Sept. 26th 6-10 p.m.**
 - Last year ~300 students attended
 - We will need donations for s'mores, chips, snacks, etc AND chaperones.
 - Can we get a discount for teachers attending? Michele will check into.
 - Terri made a motion to charge students \$15 and for the PTO to cover the additional \$0.50/person (total cost is \$15.50/attendeo). Sarah seconded and the motion passed.
 - **Hungry Tummy Project:** Merri Kae suggested having students bring pre-packaged (peanut free) snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, etc) that will then be donated to elementary schools for after school snacks.
 - Terri stated that she needs a co-chair to help with this event the night of. She can do the leg-work ahead of time but will be out of town the night of the event.
- **“Fundraising” opportunities**
 - Amazon Smile – when shopping online designate CGS as your charity and we receive a percentage.
 - Box Tops – had an issue with this in the past because there is no central address for the program.
 - Target/Giant/Food Lion cards – Michele will check into; may be address issue with these programs.
 - Possible spirit night at Barnes & Nobles – Michele will check into details.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

Teacher Appreciation Committees:

- Each teacher is allocated \$40 for the year from the PTO.
- Chairs are encouraged to get names/email address of parents willing to help/donate items.
- Spotsy does something little every other month for teachers. For Valentine's Day each teacher got a gift card for a restaurant.

Kudos & Good News:

- Merri Kae: 29 of the graduating seniors in 2015 are going to top 100 colleges/universities.
- Merri Kae's daughter, Wendy, was at the meeting and announced that she will be 7 in 10 days and is starting first grade.
- Sarah Chase: her daughter Elizabeth went to the Summer Institute for Biology Statistics at NC State and her roommate was a CGS alumni from Colonial Forge. Also, her daughter Katherine was the national champion for architectural drafting.

Next PTO meeting – September 14th, 2015 – Potluck from 6-7, Meeting from 7-9 p.m. Meeting will be in the auditorium. A signup sheet was passed around for people to bring food.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.