

CGS PTO Meeting – September 14th, 2015 - APPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Debra Haines, Sarah Chase, Buzz Briggs, Lori Milton, K. Mushung, Amy Anderson, Denise Wallace, LeighAnne VanDoren, John B. Hager, Kimberly Barker-Brugman, Morgen Reeb, Rosa Hogue, Alicia Robbins, Reenie Peppers, Nancy Carroll, Gina & Sean Stallard, Jennifer Nelson, Teresa Ma, Caroline Scanlon, Amy Clayman, Terri Rinko, Richard Vorder Bruegge, Tinker Brace, Sebastian Sicari, Shana Pfeiffer, Kristy Vann, Rita Daniels, Debbi Maass, Belinda Madeam, Merri Kae VanderPloeg, Michele Cuba, Maria Arner

President's Welcome: **Michele Cuba** - 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: **Maria Arner** - Sarah motioned to accept the minutes from the August 10th meeting with one correction, Reenie seconded; minutes were unanimously approved. The correction is under the first bullet in Kudos: "29 of the **graduating** seniors..." "

Treasurer's report: **Reenie Peppers**

- We have 99 members; 1 faculty member.
- As of 9/10/15 we are \$906.22 in the black. We've made about \$550 on merchandise sales and \$2,416.69 on memberships. Our cash balance as of September 10th, 2015 is \$18,027.36. One of the reasons our membership amount is "weird" is that we're charged a % for all square orders.
- Sarah made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Buzz seconded; report was unanimously approved.
- Reenie would like to buy a software program, such as Quick Books, to help make report preparation easier. She investigated prices and they range from \$90 to \$179. Maria made a motion to spend up to \$200 on a software program to help the treasurer, Lori seconded; motion was unanimously approved.
- Possibility of buying an inexpensive laptop to be passed from treasurer to treasurer. Anyone able to donate a computer?

Director's report: **Merri Kae VanderPloeg**

- New student orientation was a huge success. There was almost 100% participation. She used left over (frozen) hot dogs from the cookout for a snack. Feedback included pushing the time for the second day 2-7pm due to extra-curricular activities for many students.
- Sunshine Club was started by Chrissy Lowry, and Morgan Jones at Riverbend is keeping it up. The purpose of the club is to spread sunshine to students throughout the year. Looking for student volunteers to "run" the program at each site.
- Alumni e-mails – received 4 from freshman.
 - Student in Advanced Biology at UVa – knew what a syllabus was and was comfortable with the labs due to CGS experience.
 - Culminating has provided awesome opportunities in college including TA positions and research.
 - Student taking Calculus is very confident after taking CGS Calculus.

- Culminating experts
 - Looking for experts in ANY field to provide feedback to students on their culminating projects.
- Web-site PR
 - Looking for testimonials for the website.
 - Need pictures from any outing/activity to post on the website.
 - Be sure to friend Commonwealth Governor's School and CGS PTO on facebook.
- The CGS Advisory Committee (an advocacy group) will meet at Barnes & Nobles on 10/8 at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.
- Friends of VA Governor's Schools (includes 19 directors)
 - This is a state board that discusses issues such as funding. Meetings are in Richmond. Let Merri Kae know if you're interested in attending the meetings.

Old Business:

- Thanks to all of the volunteers that helped with the new student orientation at Riverbend.
- We will place an order in October for additional spirit wear.
- We sold all of the old spirit wear!! We are out of AS and AM of the new shirt design.

New Business:

- **Membership**
 - Our students don't sell "stuff", income is from family memberships.
- **CGS Spirit Wear**
 - Deadline for ordering is October 9th. Can order via order form or via the CGS website.
- **Need representatives at each site for back to school events.**
 - We would like to have Teacher Appreciation/County VP's at schools' back to nights to answer questions about CGS.
- **Fall Social @ Belvedere – Sept. 26th 6-10 p.m.**
 - Ticket prices - \$15 and one snack item for the Hungry Tummy Project. The PTO is subsidizing \$0.50/ticket. Students are allowed to bring one guest. Tickets are currently being sold at each site and Thursday will be the last day. VP's for each site will need to collect money/extra tickets and get them to Michele. Tickets will be sold at the door.
 - Chaperones are needed.
 - We need snack donations from students: s'more fixings, canned sodas, and chips.
 - Teachers don't get a discount so we'd love for parents to sponsor teachers. Let Michelle or Merri Kae now if you're interested in sponsoring a teacher.
- **Toolkit for Success and Merit Based Scholarship Workshop – Thursday, October 1st at Stafford High School from 7-8:30pm.**
 - Sabrina Gladney is a new CGS councilor that is contracted to work part-time. She will do a session on how to get organized and study smart.
 - Terri Rinko and her husband will discuss ways to get merit-based scholarships for college.
 - Merri Kae hosts a first semester survival party.
- **Grants**
 - We give grant money to teachers requesting it. Lisa Earnesty is the committee chair. We spent ~\$600 on grants last year. If you would like to be on this committee let Lisa know.
 - Previous examples include: a 360 classroom at King George, a cricket machine at King George, and science multiprobes at all sites.

- **Copy Services**
 - We have no copy privileges at any school. To make copies for all students we need ~600 copies.
 - If anyone has connections for copy services that would be great. We can provide paper and ink.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

None presented

Kudos & Good News:

- Paul Vann is 12 years old and will be a speaker at Derby Con in Louisville. 500 people applied to speak and only 100 were chosen.
- Jenny Reeb is going to the Experimental Aircraft Association Academy in Wisconsin. This was possible due to her culminating project in aerodynamics.
- Terri Rinko: her daughter Anna (a freshman at Mary Washington) got to present her culminating (the psychology of movie trailers) research to teachers at Mary Washington. Her project is a blurb on the admissions page for Mary Washington.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next PTO meeting – October 12th, 2015 at 7p.m.

Prepared by: Maria Elena Arner, 2015-2016 CGS Secretary