

CGS PTO Meeting – November 9th, 2015 - APPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

Members present: Reenie Peppers, Valerie Wilson, Nancy Carroll, Lisa Earnesty, Carol Gick, Vanessa McOsker, KJ Mushung, Morgen Reeb, Michele Cuba, Maria Arner

President's Welcome: **Michele Cuba** - Moment of silence for the Brown family from Spotsty High whose two sons (Jalen and Ian) were killed in a car accident last week.– memorial service is tonight.

Secretary's report: **Maria Arner** – Special thank you to Denise for filling in at the October meeting. Reenie motioned to accept the minutes from the October 13th meeting with one correction, Lisa seconded; minutes were unanimously approved. The correction is under the third bullet in Treasurer's Report under "Report distributed": "Ticket sales to date....\$2,137.00"

Treasurer's report: **Reenie Peppers**

- Current checking account balance is: \$10,314.35.
- Current Money Market account balance is: \$13,408.14.
- Fall Social refunds – Email has been sent to students/parents asking if we can roll over their Belvedere ticket money to Snow Ball or senior recognition so that Reenie doesn't have to write so many checks. Of responses so far, most people want their money rolled over.
- Maria motioned to approve the minutes, KJ seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

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

- Dr. Mary Anderson, Caroline Co. Board member and a representative of the CGS Governing Board, passed away on October 18. She was a fervent advocate of the program and found delight in the accomplishments of our students. A Celebration of Life/Halloween party was held in her honor on Oct. 31st which happened to be her birthday. The Caroline Co. board will seek a replacement in January.
- Mr. Ray Lora (Spotsylvania Co.) and Mr. Ken Novell (King George Co.) will be retiring from their positions on the school boards and on the Governing Board in January. It has not been determined who will replace them. Mr. Dewayne McCosker (Stafford) was re-elected and will continue on the CGS Board.
- The CGS Stafford County sites will be opening their classrooms on November 20th to FOCUS middle school teachers. There are several new FOCUS teachers and CGS thought it would be beneficial for the teachers if they could see what CGS classrooms look like. The visits will be from 11-1 p.m. CGS is seeking donations for lunch for the FOCUS and CGS teachers at the Stafford and CFHS sites. Cindi Christophersen from North Stafford is catering for the site. If you care to donate salads, drinks, bread, and desserts, please speak to the site leaders (Mike Thompson-CFHS) and Winona Siegmund (Stafford).
- Merri Kae has visited all but one of the middle schools in the region to promote and recruit new students for the 2016-17 school year. The Stafford Parent Info Night will be on 11/18 from 6:30-8:30 at CFHS and Stafford. Caroline's Info's Session will be 11/18 from 5:30-7:30 at Caroline Middle. King George has theirs on 12/3 at King George Middle School, and Spotsy's Info session will be on 12/8 from 6:30-8:30 at their 2 sites. Perspective students will have an opportunity to tour the sites during classtime in December. The applications open on 1/4/2016.

Old Business:

- The Fall Social at Belvedere was cancelled. Belvedere is refunding our full deposit.
- Received a suggestion to hold a "Fall social" with a possible roller skating retro theme at Cavaleer in Stafford. It was determined that it would be difficult to find a date that would work for most of our students between now and Christmas and not sure if teens would go for it.

- Merchandise order was received and distributed to schools last week.

New Business:

- **Membership**
 - 208 memberships so far.
- **Snow Ball theme suggestions from students**
 - Sent an email out to students requesting theme ideas. Have had a lot of feedback. 27+ themes suggested thus far. Will have students vote on those (multiple rounds).
- **Request to rotate meeting night**
 - Maria received a request from a member to rotate the meeting night so that people with Monday commitments can make the meetings. We appreciate the concern but it's too difficult/confusing to rotate meeting night/location.
- **Evaluation of Teacher Grant requests – Lisa Earnesty**
 - We spent \$600 last year on grants and voted at our October meeting this year to spend up to \$1,500 this year. This money will come out of our money market account since it was not listed as a line item in our 2015/2016 budget.
 - Much discussion was held on the pros/cons of each grant request and also the recommendations of the grant committee were discussed. After discussing all of the requests, the group then went back through the requests and voted on each one as follows:
 - **Shotwell – Kilroy Robotics**
 - Carol made a motion to fund this grant at \$300 to pay for the hardware. KJ seconded and it passed unanimously.
 - **Jim McNamee – Mentoring**
 - Reenie made a motion to fund this grant for the full amount of \$400. Lisa seconded and it passed unanimously.
 - **Pogue – Vacuum pump**
 - It was decided not to fund this request because of the large dollar amount for one school/one piece of equipment when a computer demo can be shown to the students. Carol made a motion, Reenie seconded, and it passed unanimously.
 - **Thompson – AP Calculus**
 - It was decided not to fund this request at this time for several reasons. The PTO cannot afford a classroom set of these calculators. Many students have achieved excellent scores on the AP Calculus exam in the past using the classroom set of 84's which are already provided. The PTO would be more comfortable if the same technology is shared with each site. If a request were submitted to purchase one of the 89's for each school for demo purposes, it might be considered for next year. Reenie made a motion, Morgan seconded, and it passed NOT unanimously.
- **Cancelling December meeting**
 - The December meeting will be cancelled.

Committee and/or VP Reports/Kudos & Good News:

- Due to the long amount of time spent on Grant request, we did not have time to discuss these items.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Next PTO meeting – January 11th, 2016 at 7p.m.

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