

CGS PTO Meeting – January 11th, 2016 - APPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Members present: Reenie Peppers, Michele Cuba, Maria Arner, Caroline Scanlon, Sarah Chase, Lane Poe, Tinker Brace, Cynthia Weaver, Merri Kae VanderPloeg, Debbi Maass, Laura Dean, Vanessa McOsker, Michael Martin, Rita Daniels, Jennifer Nelson

Secretary's report: **Maria Arner** – Reenie motioned to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Carolyn; and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: **Reenie Peppers**

- \$378 income under Fall Social was for the Belvedere refund.
- \$513 expense under Fall Social was for Belvedere refunds.
- We've met our membership goal for the year.
- Discussion on raising the budget for Snow Ball. Last year's expenses exceeded the budget. No decision was made.
- Carolyn motioned to approve the treasurer's report; seconded by Maria; and they were unanimously approved.

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

- Thank you for the plant from the PTO. (The PTO gave her a plant as a congratulations for defending her dissertation and earning her PhD).
- On December 17th, 2015 gifted education was finally recognized by the federal government.
 - “No Child Left Behind” has been buried.
 - The new initiative is Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
 - Title I schools must set aside money for gifted students/programs.
 - Title II schools must set aside money for professional development. ALL teachers will be trained in gifted programs.
 - There will be money for assessments.
 - Schools will have to report how advanced students do on placement tests.
- **Budget** – the funding formula has not changed in 20 years. Governor would like a change.
 - Hopefully get money per pupil in CGS.
 - Would like money for instructional staff (APs, Counselors, etc).
 - Please write thank you notes to the VA Secretary of Education, Mrs. Anne Holton, thanking her for her support of the CGS sites.
- **Hosting I Survived First Semester!**
 - Saturday February 6th 1-2:30 at Salem Church Library.
 - Due to space issues this is for parents only.
- **Capital Day**
 - February 8th. Will be taking students to the Capital in Richmond to thank legislators.
- On Thursday January 7th two CGS alumni (girls) spoke about their college experiences. One is at the Naval Academy and the other is a Cadet at Virginia Tech. Their presentations are on the archives. Archives are only active for 3 weeks.
- Thank you for the fall social donations for the Hungry Tummy project. All of the schools were very grateful for the donations. Would like to continue the project for Snow Ball.
- On Saturday January 9th Michele and Merri Kae attended a dinner at Colonial Forge hosted by the Robotics team for sponsors. It was a very nice dinner and they both enjoyed talking to the students.

Old Business:

- On November 11th, 2015 Carol Gick made a motion via email to support the grant for Ms. McGuinness for purchasing a clear board for \$250 as long as funds permit. Reenie Peppers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously via e-mail by the people who had previously attended the November 9th PTO meeting where teacher grants were discussed.

New Business:

- **Senior Essay Scholarship – Sarah Chase**
 - Families must be PTO members by January 15th, 2016 for students to be eligible to participate in the contest.
 - Three potential questions for the contest were presented and voted on. One was chosen.
 - Three winners will be chosen. First place is \$1,000 and two second place \$500 scholarships will be awarded.
- **Snow Ball – Laura Dean (and Trudy Phillips)**
 - Starry Night was chosen as the theme. 456 students voted.
 - There is a conflict with a Robotics competition that involves 35 CGS students. After discussion it was decided to leave the date (March 12th).
 - Needs a list of administrator invitees.
 - Still to be done: ticket packages, invites to administrators, Eagles Lodge will provide hot food, need cold food donations, contact last year's DJ, decorating committee, photographers, cake(?), (decided we don't need to purchase one), favors (stylus/pins).
 - Advanced tickets will be \$15 and sales will send sooner. \$20 at door.
- **College Forum – March 3rd**
 - At the University of Mary Washington Dodd Auditorium 7-8:30pm.
- **Family Picnic Chair Needed**
 - June 3rd at Pratt Park.
 - Responsibilities include: making a flyer, purchasing meat, organizing grill.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- **Teacher Appreciation**
 - Stafford (Vanessa) – provided lunch for teachers before Thanksgiving break; hosted a December lunch; gave each teacher a \$40 gift card.
 - Spotsy – Gave containers of goodies to each teacher.
 - Riverbend – For Thanksgiving provided coffee and cakes. For Christmas hosted a breakfast.
 - Forge – Before Christmas break had parents donate cookies for a teacher cookie exchange.
- **Culminating Symposium**
 - Tuesday, April 19th
- **Senior Recognition**
 - Sunday, May 22nd

Kudos & Good News:

- Michele's son, Zachary, has been accepted to William & Mary.
- Laura's son, Jacob, is a cello player. The director from Layola hosts a workshop and commented that Jacob "performed" this year, as opposed to "playing" last year. This is quite a complement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Next PTO meeting – February 8th, 2016 at 7p.m.

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