

CGS PTO Meeting – March 14th, 2016 - APPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Members present: Reenie Peppers, Laura Dean, Michele Cuba, Maria Arner, Lane Poe, Tinker Brace, Merri Kae VanderPloeg, Debbi Maass, Alan Koenig

Secretary's report: **Maria Arner** – Reenie motioned to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Tinker; and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report: **Reenie Peppers**

- All snowball income has been accounted for.
- For snowball it is suggested to keep all of the Lodge stuff together and put all other expenses in another line item.
- We need to add a line item for grants next year.
- Laura motioned to approve the treasurer's report; seconded by Debbi; and it was unanimously approved.

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

- **Hungry Tummy Donations** – We received a ton of donations and they were given to 11 different schools.
- **Film Festival – March 23rd at Riverbend HS.** This event will be hosted by the English department. Merri Kae has secured 2 judges: Anna Rinko (a CGS graduate) and Moseetta Stone (video teacher @ SHS). 15 films have been submitted. Merri Kae needs help with the red carpet reception.
- **Senior Symposium – April 20th at UMW Stafford Campus 6:30-8:30.**
- **CGS Advisory Committee will not meet this month.**

Old Business:

- **College Forum** was held on March 3rd. Despite poor weather and low attendance, the Deans from the University of Richmond, UVA, W&M, and UMW did an awesome job addressing the college admission process.
- **Snow Ball was held on March 12th.** Laura Dean and Trudi Phillips were cochairs. It was a great night and the students had a great time.
 - **Positive Notes:**
 - Lots of volunteers and supportive parents. There was PLENTY of food. A lot of parents showed up to help decorate. Parents were very flexible that night regarding where they were stationed.
 - Huge thank you to Donna Welch; she was super helpful.
 - The PTO board was very helpful and supportive.
 - The Lodge was great to work with.
 - The invites (45) for the VIPs (school board members, Principals, guidance counselors, etc) were printed at Costco and that went very well. Faculty got invites.
 - The DJ was very easy to work with.
 - The souvenirs (stylus/pens) ended up costing \$1/each.
 - Many of the decorations were donated; only spent ~\$100 on decorating.
 - The photo booth setup worked well.
 - All communication was done with a snowball-specific e-mail address and would recommend that for the future.

○ **Suggestions:**

- Having a single lead staff person at each site to coordinate would be very helpful.
- Site captains need to be more clear regarding who is responsible for what.
- Recommend tweeting to students; e-mails are too long and don't get read.
- For Sign-Up Genius (donations) add site and phone number in case people need to be contacted.
- There were many conflicts with the date this year; maybe move to later March.
- Suggestion to drape material from the ceiling to add atmosphere.
- Need to make sure students are kept off of the stage.
- **Food**
 - No cheese platters; more fruit platters.
 - Had 288 little bottles of water and we ran out; need more water/cups. Filling the coolers worked well when water bottles ran out.
 - The chocolate fountain and cake were not missed.
- The front of the room was very hot/back by the food was cold.
- No one asked about door prizes.
- Guests need to be on the dance floor with their "escorts". There was some inappropriate dancing; mostly by non-CGS students.
- Maybe provide wrist bands for guests to wear. Need to have more control over guests purchasing tickets.
- It would be helpful to have direction signs in the parking lot.
- Change the hours to 7-11 for the dance.

New Business:

- **Senior Essay Scholarship deadline** – this Thursday, **March 17th**.
- **Senior Recognition - May 22nd - 2-3:30 at UMW** (Dodd Auditorium). Terri Renko is the chairperson. Invites should be sent out in the next couple of weeks. The reception will be held in the new campus center. Merri Kae noted that the student videos will not be shown at the senior recognition but will be shown onsite via broadcast.
- **Family Picnic - June 3rd – 4:30-7:00pm - Pratt Park in Stafford.** The picnic chairperson had to step down so we need another chairperson. It is suggested to sell spirit wear at the picnic.
- **Spirit Wear** – Want to have another t-shirt design contest. 15 April will be the cutoff date for submissions and voting will be due by 29 April. This will give us time to order and have the spirit wear in time for the Family Picnic.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- Spotsy site gave Valentine's Day goodies and a restaurant gift card to all teachers.

Kudos & Good News:

- Merri Kae's daughter, Wendy, announced that Dr. Benson (the Stafford Superintendent) read at her school.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Next PTO meeting - April 11th, 2016 at 7p.m.

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