

CGS PTO Meeting – June 6th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Members present: Michele Cuba, Maria Arner, Terri Rinko, Denise Wallace, Tinker Brace, Reta Daniels, Caroline Scanlon, Ana Rendich

Secretary's report: **Maria Arner** – Tinker Brace made a motion to accept the May 9th meeting minutes as written, Denise Wallace seconded, minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report: **Reenie Peppers (not present)**

- Main sources of income in May were \$280 in Senior Tributes and \$1,146 in Senior Reception Ticket sales.
- Expenses included \$854 for the Senior gift, \$3,964.50 for the Senior Reception, \$202.27 for Snow Ball, and \$90 for Teacher Appreciation.
- Tinker Brace made a motion to accept the financial report and it was unanimously accepted.

Director's report: **Merri Kae VanderPloeg (not present)**

- Merri Kae was very appreciative of the flowers/recognition at the Senior Recognition Ceremony for the completion of her doctorate.
- There are 127 CGS grads this year.
- Cookie events have been going well/have been well attended.
- AP Enviro Boot camp sign-up is open and available on-line. Not sure if there will be one for Biology.
- New Student Orientation is on August 9th & 10th
 - 9th is at home sites
 - 10th is at Stafford High School
 - Need help on August 10th to serve pizza, cake, help with CGS PTO merchandise sales, and to answer CGS/PTO questions from new families.
- In need of 1-2 CGS parents to represent us at the Friends of VA Governors Schools group. It's an advocacy group consisting of all 19 Governor Schools. They will meet via telephone so no driving needed. First meeting is on 6/21 at 4 pm via conference call. Merri Kae will give reps more info.

Old Business:

- **Senior Recognition - May 22nd - 2-4:30 at UMW (Dodd Auditorium).**
 - Merri Kae recommends moving food tables to the other side of the room to make it easier for people to get in the room.
 - Riverbend needs to personalize their speech more about the students.
 - Maria received an e-mail from Andrea Manninen with the following comments:
 - Thank you for all of the information that you have provided through the year. I appreciated knowing what was happening despite not being available to help in person.
 - The overall ceremony was lovely and in a beautiful location.
 - Is it possible to have the students step forward while they are being talked about by their teachers? (The stories about the students were appreciated.)
 - Is it possible to have the students' slides appear behind them on the screen when they walk across the stage?

- Is it possible that the slides where parents offered their congratulations and encouragement to their child could be seen by the child? (Maybe these can be kept on a loop in the reception area?)
- Is it possible to have a host in the reception area to let guests know there are two food lines to avoid the long wait in the hallway?
- Again, thank you for all that you have done on your time to make it special for our students. It is appreciated.
- The following students won scholarships: \$1,000 Michael Peruse (Riverbend), \$500 Jennifer Knerr (Courtland HS; Spotsy Site), \$500 Sean Close (Colonial Forge).

New Business:

- **Family Picnic** at Pratt Park in Stafford June 7th (rescheduled from June 3rd) 4:30-7pm
 - Upcoming freshman/transfers – take side dishes
 - Current 9th-12th – take desserts
- **PTO board for 2016-2017** – There are still a few positions available. If you are interested in a board or committee chair position, please let Michele know.
 - **Executive Board**
 - President – Michele Cuba
 - **VP Caroline – OPEN**
 - VP King George – Terri Rinko
 - VP Stafford – Vanessa McOsker
 - **VP Spotsylvania – OPEN**
 - Treasurer – Denise Wallace
 - Secretary – Maria Arner
 - **Committee Chairs**
 - Toolkit for Success – Terri Rinko
 - **Fall Social – OPEN**
 - College Forum – Debra Haines
 - Snow Ball – Annette Richards
 - Senior Scholarship – Sarah Chase
 - Family Picnic – Rita Daniels
 - **Senior Recognition – OPEN**
 - PTO Grant Program – Lisa Earnesty
 - **Teacher Appreciation**
 - King George – Jennifer Josselyn
 - North Stafford – Michele Egan
 - Stafford – Vanessa McOsker
 - Colonial Forge – Cathy Close
 - Riverbend – Karen Amelung
 - Spotsylvania – Michel Cuba
 - Ana Rendich made a motion to approve the slate provided; Caroline Scanlon seconded, and the vote for all was unanimous.

- **Budget discussion for 2016-2017**

- There was a discussion regarding every income and expense line in an attempt to balance the budget. A summary of the discussion follows.
 - Discussed raising dues to \$30/family.
 - Discussed raising the Fall Social ticket price to \$20/person.
 - Discussed charging \$5/person (5 and under free) for Senior Reception.
 - Discussed changing scholarships to 1/\$1,000 1/\$500 and 1/\$250.
 - Discussed choosing a less expensive senior gift.
 - Discussed lowering Teacher Appreciation to \$25/teacher + \$300 for lunch.
 - Added Storage Unit line for \$1,020.
 - Discussed the possibility of raising the price of spirit wear.
- Silent auctions (means of income) – something we can try to raise funds but must have someone to coordinate. One person has volunteered to help but doesn't want to coordinate.
- We ran out of time and didn't have the chance to balance the budget (there is still a \$3,853 shortfall) or vote. Discussion will continue via e-mail.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- Riverbend High – They're getting end of year baskets together for the teachers.
- Spotsy High – Teacher Appreciation – Held an end of year Breakfast and gave \$10 gift cards to B&N.

Kudos & Good News:

- Aline Brace - Riverbend Senior – won the GSCV scholarship award (Girls Scout)
- Audrey Arner & Zachary Cuba – Valedictorians of Colonial Forge and of Spotsy High 😊
- Correspondence received – Thank you notes from Riverbend students and staff for AP exam snacks 😊

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.

Next PTO meeting - August 8, 2016 - Central Rappahannock library – Headquarters/Downtown Branch 7pm

Prepared by:

Maria Elena Arner
2015-2016 CGS Secretary