

## CGS PTO Meeting – October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - APPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

**Members present:** Michele Cuba, Maria Arner, Denise Wallace, Merri Kae VanderPloeg, Rita Daniels, Annette Richards, Mary Becelia, Laura Lee Jaworski, John Hager, Buzz Briggs, Lisa Bruer, Paminder Singh, Vanessa McOsker, Jodi Redman, Mary Alice Adams, Lori Smith

**Secretary's report:** **Maria Arner** – Buzz Briggs made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Denise Wallace seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**.

**Treasurer's report:** **Denise Wallace**

- There has been no money spent since last month's meeting.
- Checking account balance: ~\$10,500.
- Money Market account: ~\$10,400.
- We have surpassed our projected membership income by over \$1,000.
- As a reminder to all, the budget that was approved has us in the hole \$3,853 for the year.

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

- **Head of Gifted for the State**
  - Transportation, teachers, and books are paid for by the counties.
  - The state budget is just a little over \$1M; it most likely won't change this year.
  - Per pupil funding has remained about the same for 15 years.
  - Funding per pupil went up this past year but probably won't stay up. Extra funds were used for AP and DE training.
- **College Pathway Workshop** – took place last Thursday
  - Tips and strategies were shared.
  - October 19<sup>th</sup> – college fair at Spotsylvania Mall.
  - October 23<sup>rd</sup> – National college fair at the DC Convention Center 1-3:30pm.
  - FAFSA opened on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Colleges use information provided to capture specific students.
- **CGS Governing Board Meeting** – October 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm at King George.
- **Advisory Committee Meeting** – October 20<sup>th</sup>. There are 30 students interested. Merri Kae would like for students to produce a new video for the CGS website.

**Old Business:**

- **Membership Update:**
  - 234 memberships thus far! We had 198 last year.
  - Winners for highest percentage of memberships:
    - Underclassman site (will receive ice cream/popsicles) is Riverbend – 9<sup>th</sup> grade 80%
    - Upperclassman site (will receive donuts) is Riverbend – 12<sup>th</sup> grade 50%
  - In order to be eligible for a Senior Scholarship, families must be members by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
  - There is still time to join - maintenance on the email list will be happening soon - all non PTO members for the 2016-2017 school year will be deleted (will give alum opportunity to stay on list).

- **Spirit Wear sales** – Spirit wear sales have ended. The order was placed last week and we hope to be distributing items to the sites in about two weeks. Magnets, lanyards, and string backpacks are still available.

### New Business:

- **Toolkit for Success/Merit based Scholarship information night** – Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 pm at Riverbend site.
  - Toolkit portion is geared to freshman/new students to help provide study and time management tips.
  - Merit based scholarship portion is designed to give information about resources/places to look for available scholarships
- **Fall Social @ Belvedere** – Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> 6-10 p.m.
  - Tickets will be on-sale Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Ticket prices – \$16 + one hungry tummy project item (pre-packaged snack items for school staff to hand out to hungry students. We donate to elementary schools in the counties in which we have sites; Merri Kae rotates which schools receive them).
  - Should we have weather issues, an email will be sent and we'll post an update on the CGS website.
  - We need chaperones for this event. Please let Michele know if you can help. Unfortunately, chaperones have to pay.
  - Belvedere will not give a discount for teachers so we will ask families if they want to make a donation to sponsor a teacher; any amount is greatly appreciated (we love to have our teachers at our event). There are 43 teachers and typically 10-12 attend this event.
  - We will also be asking for snacks – s'more fixings (graham crackers, marshmallows, choc. bars), canned sodas, bottled water, and chips. Please send in with your student or bring to the event.
- **Teacher Grants** – Our PTO Teacher grant application went out to teachers last week and they're due back by 10/21. If you indicated that you were interested in helping evaluate grants on your membership form, Lisa Earnesty (the Teacher Grant Committee Chairperson) will be contacting you to meet later this month to review applications. We will be voting on the committee's recommendations at the November meeting. This year we have up to \$1,000 set aside for grants.
- **Senior recognition** – We've booked Dodd Auditorium for May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 for this event. We're not sure where the reception will be held. Jodi Redman and Mary Alice Adams stepped up to co-chair this event. They will get a lot of help along the way, especially from Terri Rinko; last year's chair.

### Committee and/or VP Reports:

- Spotsy High Site – Provided cookies for bus drivers who transport students to/from site, for librarians at each of the home sites, and to custodians who clean the CGS area.
- Stafford High School – Gave teachers their favorite snacks in September.

## **Kudos & Good News:**

- The teachers at the Spotsy site were very supportive when a student had an issue.
- Sean McOsker is a semi-finalist for the National Merit competition.
- Leah Oferstatter won first place in the Piedmont Regional science fair and second place in the State Science fair last year. Her project was to simulate tornados and use sound to disrupt them. She went to NOAA camp in Alabama. Look for her to do well this year.
- There are several science experiences that are great for students to attend in the summer. The BLAST program is for 9<sup>th</sup> graders; VA Space Coast Scholars for 10<sup>th</sup> graders; a technical writing experience where students plan a mission to Mars for 11<sup>th</sup> graders; and 12<sup>th</sup> graders so something with satellite imaging.
- Wendy (Merri Kae's daughter) got a part in *Clara's Child*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Next PTO meeting – November 14th, 2016 at 7 p.m. - Central Rappahannock library – Headquarters/  
Downtown Branch

Prepared by:

Maria Elena Arner  
2016-2017 CGS Secretary