

APPROVED

At 7:07 on **February 13, 2017** the meeting was called to order.

The following were in **attendance**: Denise Wallace, Sarah Chase, Annette Richards, Deidre Jett, Jodi Webb, Vanessa Dover, Mary Becline, Vanessa McOsker, MaryAlice Adams, Jeanie VanDevender, Karen Amelung, Craig Amelung, Merri Kae VanderPloeg, Michele Cuba

The **Secretary's report** was approved by a motion by Denise Wallace and seconded by Mary Alice Adams.

Treasurers Report: CGS PTA received \$178 from Amazon. Members are encouraged to use the "Smile Link" on Amazon.com to donate 0.5% of their purchase.

Director's Report:

- In January, the "I survived" workshop was held. It offered tips on how to support students and also discussed the "ins and outs" of asking for help.
- January Governor's School Directors meeting (1/20) discussed state funding changes. Not foreseeable that funding will increase in FY18. Concerns about Spotsy County budget gap have been raised but shouldn't have a direct impact on CGS. There has been a lot of discussion about IB program in Spotsy and their funding sources.
- Stafford County is conducting a division-wide program evaluation. CGS is the first program to be evaluated. The division will review enrollment, funding, staffing, program offerings, achievement scores, and will probably want to interview parents, students, teachers, and alumni.
- Redistricting in Stafford
 - Stafford School Board holding a work session on Thursday, February 16th.
 - Working on options to alleviate overcrowding at Colonial Forge.
 - Considering moving CGS out of Colonial Forge.
 - One option was to move students to North Stafford. This is not feasible due to infrastructure and lack of space. Another issue is that North Stafford was "off the grid" for a two week period earlier in the school year.
 - All CGS parents were asked to contact the Stafford School Board.
- School Board members visiting the CGS sites.
 - Mr. Scott Hirons on 2/14 at Stafford High.
 - Mr. Mike Brown on 3/3 at Riverbend.
 - Mrs. Decatur on 3/24 at North Stafford.
 - Mr. Blaine on 4/4 at Spotsy High.
- April 6th Film Festival for Juniors
 - 6-8 minute film
 - Need volunteer
 - Riverbend High School
- Summer Enrichment Opportunities
 - Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) float trip. TDB, tentative dates June 26-June 29th.
 - Spy Museum – June 28th
 - US Capital – July 13th. This will also include a visit to the campus of Georgetown.
 - National Achieves Theater in Culpeper – TBD
 - Expect a flyer at the end of the month.

Old Business - None

New Business

- **Snow Ball** – March 11th 7:00-11:00pm at the Eagles Lodge in Stafford.
 - Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door
 - Theme is Red Carpet
 - Rules will be sent electronically
 - The DJ is booked and students can request songs online. We have requested that he edit out inappropriate songs.
 - Sign-ups will be coming soon for drinks, cold snacks, and volunteers.
 - We will need one captain per site to pick up Hungry Tummy donations and ticket money.
- **College Forum** - March 29th 7:00-8:30pm at UMW (Dodd Auditorium). Several (four?) major VA universities will have senior admission representatives onsite to give information on the college search process, admission process, writing your best college essay, and financial aid & scholarship information. There will be a Q&A session.
- April 6th – Lt. Col Pearson will discuss Military Academy application process and ROTC application process.
- **Senior Essay Contest.** Deadline is April 10th. Seniors are encouraged to submit an essay. Information has been distributed to English teachers, students' emails, and is available on the CGS website. Sarah Chase is chairing this committee.
- **Senior recognition** is May 21st 2:00-4:30 at UMW (Dodd Auditorium)
 - Mary Alice Adams and Jodie Redman are organizing the event.
 - Seeking suggestions for senior gift ideas in the \$7.00 to \$8.00 range.
 - Ideas included portable phone charges and framed photos.
 - The current venue, set-up and cost were discussed.
 - Reminder that some students have food allergies.
- **Family Picnic** June 2nd 4:30-7:00 at Pratt Park. Rita Daniels is chairing the event.

Committee Reports

- **Teacher Appreciation:**
 - Riverbend - Provided meals to teachers for conference night in Nov. Planning Valentine gift cards for teachers so they can eat out.
 - North Stafford - For Christmas break they provided "Have a relaxing Break!" themed baskets with fleece blankets, Red Box rentals, \$10 Amazon gift card, cookie, etc...
 - Stafford – Luncheon each month. Christmas cookies/gift cards for December.
 - Colonial Forge – "Welcome Back to School gift" earlier in the 1st semester. Christmas luncheon. Pumpkin bread.
 - King George – August provided Goody bags, for Christmas gave a large basket of goodies to teachers with coffee, snacks, soup, etc...
 - Spotsy – Dec: Container of baked Christmas cookies/goodies for each teacher, this morning had a Valentine breakfast and each teacher got a goody bag with candy, snacks and a \$30 gift card for dinner.

The 1st Annual Governor's Quiz bowl to be held March 4th was discussed.

Kudos:

Some of the outstanding achievements of CGS students were discussed. These included leadership scholarship (M. Shalaby), finalist for Merit scholarship (Sean McOsker), and French summer exchange programs (Meredith and Suzie). Also discussed was the Aspire Award.

Next PTO meeting is on March 13th, 2017 at 7:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Deidre Jett