

CGS PTO Meeting – August 14th, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm.

Members present: Maria Arner, Denise Wallace, Merri Kae VanderPloeg, Michele Cuba, Vanessa McOsker, Mary Millburn, Ellen Gist, Joyce Baugher, Mary Becelia, Courtney Millburn

Secretary's report: **Maria Arner** – Mary Millburn made a motion to approve the June 12th, 2017 minutes with one change: add the last name Sprow to the second bullet under Kudos & Good News. Vanessa McOsker seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**.

Treasurer's report: **Denise Wallace**

- Income to date: \$3,523.04 (memberships and merchandise sales)
- Expenses to date: \$1,632.85 (spirit wear order and new student orientation)
- Net for year to date: +\$1,890.19
- We have 55 memberships to date

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

- **New student orientation** – went really well. For the first time in years the weather was perfect; not too hot.
- **2017-2018 enrollment**
 - There are a total of 595 students in CGS this year; up 14 students from last year.
 - There are 176 incoming freshmen.
 - Most sites are over capacity (not a big deal because students move/transfer/etc during the year). CFHS: 32; NSHS: 32; Riverbend: 31; Spotsy: 31; KG: 27 (capacity 25)
 - We need to turn in official numbers to the state the end of September.
- **Stafford County Program Evaluation**
 - The evaluation has been completed and Merri Kae found mistakes in the report.
 - The final review will be presented to the school board on September 12th.
 - The recommendations made were not all bad.
 - This is not a comparative study between signature programs (CGS, IB, APPX, STAT).
- **Germanna status**
 - Germanna Community College is up for accreditation in October.
 - They've stated that there needs to be changes in the way DE Chemistry is taught.
 - We can't meet their requirements so CGS (SCPS) has parted ways with Germanna.
 - We're currently looking at working with George Mason and Richard Bland Jr. College (part of William & Mary).
- **Back to school nights.**
 - Spotsy: September 20th
 - Stafford County: doesn't have them

Old Business:

- **New Student Orientation**
 - Thank you for all of the help; it went very well.

New Business:

- **Membership**
 - Started taking them at new student orientation.
 - People can join/pay with check, cash, or with credit card online.
 - We encourage people to become PTO members because that's how we communicate with parents. Every fall the list is purged of people no longer PTO members or requesting to stay on the list (alumni students and parents).
 - Site with the largest percentage of memberships for underclassmen (9th and 10th graders) will get an ice cream party.
 - Site with the largest percentage of memberships for upperclassmen (11th and 12th graders) will get donuts.
- **Spirit Wear Sales**
 - We don't do fundraisers; spirit wear is the only "fundraiser" we do.
- **Fall Social – Belvedere on October 28th from 6-10pm**
 - Cost is going to be \$20/student. Belvedere's fees have gone up from last year.
 - It's easiest to work with an even number; charged \$16 last year and ran out of \$1's for change several times.
 - Looked into SkyZone but it was too expensive and they couldn't accommodate our numbers.
- **Opportunities to serve**
 - We need a chairperson(s) for the family picnic. It's late May/early June.
 - Vanessa Sekinger has agreed to be the Spotsylvania VP.
- **September meeting**
 - We'll have a potluck at 6:00pm at the library before the next meeting on September 11th. We're requesting that people sign up for a main dish, side dish, or dessert.
- **Amazon Prime**
 - When people shop on Amazon Prime use smile and designate CGS so that we get 0.5% of each sale.
- **Culminating Symposium - April 25th, 2018**
 - Thinking of doing a "spirit night" before the event. Could choose several restaurants.
 - Denise Wallace will call restaurants in the area to inquire.
- All dates for events are still being finalized.
- **CGS 20th Anniversary 2017-2018**
 - Sites are doing localized events (such as open houses) and dignitaries from the counties will be invited.
 - Would like to have a special event for alumni – such as a BBQ in the summer of 2018; need an indoor venue.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- None noted.

Kudos & Good News:

- None noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Next PTO meeting – September 11th, 2017 at 7 p.m. (potluck at 6:00pm) - Central Rappahannock Library
– Headquarters/Downtown Branch

Prepared by:

Maria Elena Arner

2017-2018 CGS PTO Secretary