

Governing Board Meeting Minutes September 21, 2017

Attendance:

Mrs. Tammy Indseth (King George); Mr. John Copeland, Vice Chair (Caroline); Mr. Bill Blaine, Chair (Spotsylvania)

Members Absent: Mr. Dewayne McOsker (Stafford)

Also attending: Mrs. Merri Kae VanderPloeg (The Commonwealth Governor's School Director); Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County Schools); Dr. Robert Benson (Superintendent of King George County Schools); Mr. Keith Wolfe, Executive Director of Secondary Education (Spotsylvania County Schools); Mr. Tom Nichols, Executive Director of Secondary Education (Stafford County Schools); Mr. Mike Brown, Director of Professional Learning and Special Programs (Spotsylvania County Schools)

Mr. Blaine determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Indseth moved that the consent agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Indseth made a motion to approve the minutes and financial report. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dr. Stephenie Fellingner, Supervisor of Gifted and Advanced Program from Stafford County Schools was in attendance.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Blaine welcomed everyone to the first Governing Board meeting of the school year. No other comments were made.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

None were received.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Dr. VanderPloeg welcomed all board members and division executives and provided them with a new student handbook, CGS calendar, and CGS pen. Since the May meeting, CGS facilitated three day trips and one college campus visit. In June, students toured the Spy Museum in Washington, DC and had an opportunity to have lunch with a former CIA operative and ask questions about her career and what steps one takes to join the intelligence community. In July, students visited the U.S. Capitol and met with Congressman Whittman as well as toured the campus of Georgetown University. Later in the summer, The Commonwealth Governor's School hosted a private screening of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' for neighboring Governor's Schools at the Packard Theater in Culpeper. It was an opportunity to explore classic cinematography and network with fellow Governor's School students from Blue Ridge and Mountain Vista Governors' School.

Four Advanced Placement boot camps were offered to rising 9th and 10th grade students in Spotsylvania and Stafford counties while the King George and Caroline students began school in August. The AP Biology boot camp attendance was lower than the past year but the AP European History boot camps attendance were well attended in Spotsylvania and Stafford. The AP Environmental Science boot camp was full for the morning and afternoon sessions in August. Dr. VanderPloeg believes the low attendance for the AP Biology boot camp was due to extra-curricular conflicts such as band camps, football and field hockey practices that began the same week.

Dr. VanderPloeg presented a tentative enrollment count to the board and reminded the stakeholders that the official count will be presented at the October 19th Governing Board meeting. Board members are welcome to attend any of the events.

The annual CGS 'Toolkits for Success and Scholarship Search' workshop will be on October 4th at Riverbend High School for students and families. The CGS student and parent advisory committee will meet on October 12th. Stafford County Schools is hosting a Signature Program event on October 25th and the CGS Fall Social is slated for October 28th at Belvedere Plantation.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. James Conlee presented the SOL and Advanced Placement data for 2017 to the Governing Board. For the last nineteen years, Mr. Conlee has presented the yearly CGS achievement profile to the Governing Board. Each board member and administrator received a copy of the report.

The 2017 achievement scoring data was excellent overall on the Advanced Placement and SOL assessments. Furthermore, there was an increase in exam participation in several AP content areas. Many AP subject area scores exceeded the national average scores in 2017 and some subject area scores at some of the sites demonstrated performance growth compared to the past year. Some subject areas continue to have stagnant growth or had a decreased average score compared to 2016. Advanced Placement BC Calculus had a score decline. The departments and specific content areas which need to demonstrate improvement are currently reviewing the summative assessment data, comparing the data with curricular strands that are taught, developing performance goals, and tracking performance through the 2017-18 school year. Dr. VanderPloeg encouraged the departments to explore effective

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
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strategies, seek continued professional development, explore new instructional tools, and effective instructional practices in addition to expecting teachers to develop personal performance goals that center on the growth areas. Mrs. Indseth and Mr. Copeland asked specific questions about site and subject specific achievement scores. Drs. Fellingner and VanderPloeg gave an explanation of data results and complimented the program for exposing students with different academic strengths the four core subject areas. Mr. Blaine asked if the school division could support CGS more. Mr. Conlee thanked the board members for their advocacy of the program and hoped they will continue their support. Similar to the King George and Caroline calendar, Mr. Conlee believed the new calendar Spotsylvania County adopted for 2018 will enhance instruction and the pace of curriculum.

Dr. Benson had questions about the participation rate of the Advanced Placement courses compared to the general education population. Dr. VanderPloeg stated that the Stafford County Program evaluation of CGS made that comparison but she did not have data from the other divisions. Dr. Baker would like to know how other Governor's Schools' Advanced Placement scores compare to The Commonwealth Governor's School. Dr. VanderPloeg explained to the board that the VDOE does not report achievement profiles of other Governor's Schools. It would also be difficult to compare because many of the other Governor's Schools offer dual enrollment courses instead of AP course. Additionally, Dr. Baker hoped financial need would not be a barrier for a student who wanted to take an AP exam. He would like to know if cost is the primary reason for not taking the AP exam or if there were other reasons. Mr. Conlee said the participation rate of seniors taking certain AP exams drops because their accepted colleges will not provide course credit; therefore, it was not a priority for them to pay and take the exam. Dr. VanderPloeg said she would include that question in the end-of-year program survey.

Adjournment

Mr. Copeland made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Indseth seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 and the Governing Board adjourned at 4:15 p.m.