

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
Spotsylvania County Public Schools, School Board Office
Fredericksburg, VA
Governing Board Meeting
January 18, 2018

MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. John Copeland, Chair (Caroline); Mr. Bill Blaine, (Spotsylvania); Dr. Sarah Chase, Co-Chair (Stafford); Mrs. Gayle Hock (King George)

Also attending: Dr. Merri Kae VanderPloeg (The Commonwealth Governor's School Director); Dr. Robert Benson (Superintendent of King George Schools); Mr. Mike Brown (Director of Professional Development and Special Programs of Spotsylvania County Schools); Dr. Bruce Benson (Superintendent of Stafford County Schools); Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County Schools)

Absent: Mr. Keith Wolfe (Executive Director of Secondary Education for Spotsylvania County Schools); Mr. Tom Nichols (Director of Secondary Education in Stafford County); Dr. Sarah Calveric (Assistant Superintendent of Caroline County Schools)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF January 18, 2018 CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Merri Kae VanderPloeg determined there was a quorum. Introductions of new board members were made. Mrs. Hock from King George introduced herself as well as Dr. Chase. The board publically recognized Mrs. Indseth and Mr. McOsker for their service on the Governing Board. Mr. Copeland asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Blaine seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2018

Mr. Blaine nominated Mr. John Copeland as Chair of the Governing Board. Nomination passed 4-0. Mr. Copeland asked for nominations of the Vice Chair. Mrs. Hock nominated Dr. Chase

for Vice-Chair. Motion passed 4-0. Dr. Rob Benson was asked to be the Executive Superintendent again for 2018. He agreed to continue the position.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19, 2017 MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Blaine made a motion to pass the minutes. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion. Dr. VanderPloeg clarified there was not a quorum in October. Mr. Blaine amended his motion that it was an unofficial meeting. Mr. Blaine and Mr. Copeland were able to meet with Mr. McOsker later in the day and were able to pass the 2018 budget. The motion passed 3-0 to pass the 2018 budget.

Dr. Chase asked for clarification about the financial reports. Mr. Copeland asked if one of the purchases were licensing renewals for software. Dr. VanderPloeg explained that software renewals were some of the purchases. Dr. Chase asked for clarification about the contracted counselor. Dr. VanderPloeg explained the counselor's duties in the program and three years ago, the board approved the contracted position. Mr. Copeland asked for a motion to pass the financial report. Dr. Chase made the motion to pass the financial report and Mr. Blaine seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Copeland was looking forward to working with the school divisions and CGS for another school year.

Mr. Blaine commented that as former chair of the board, it was a pleasure to work with Program Manager, Mrs. Donna Welch and Dr. VanderPloeg over the last few years. He received emails from a few parents asking to suspend semester exams due to the in-climate weather. Spotsylvania Co. Schools determined that exams would be canceled.

No other comments.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

No comments were made.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Dr. VanderPloeg shared pictures of students participating in the NCTE town hall as well as the French Salon from Stafford High School which took place in December.

The Commonwealth Governor's School is officially kicking off its 20th anniversary celebration with activities at each site. In December, the Riverbend and Stafford High School sites hosted a dignitary breakfast. Alumni and students were invited to speak to school board members, county officials, and school administration about their CGS experience and what they are currently pursuing in their lives. Some alumni from the first graduating class were in attendance. On June 23rd, there will be a CGS All-Class reunion reception at Riverbend High School. Alumni from the last twenty years will be invited to attend.

The mid-year climate survey will be launched in late January to give CGS feedback about their class experience. A parent survey will be launched later in the school year.

Several sites are facilitating French Salons, Mock Trials, and other interdisciplinary project-based events later in the month. On February 13th, the English Poetry slam will occur at Riverbend and Stafford High School. On February 28th, the annual Film Workshop will occur at the University of Mary Washington. Finally, the robotics team will compete on February 24 and March 10. The Model UN team will compete in Baltimore on February 8-10.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mrs. Winona Siegmund (Stafford site) and Ms. Kelley Ross (King George site) presented information about the NCTE town hall meeting. Mrs. Siegmund explained to the board how CGS was selected to participate in the town hall meeting. For the last five years, CGS has collaborated with former Harvard Professor, Dr. Jocelyn Chadwick, on various literary topics. Dr. Chadwick currently is the president of NCTE and thought it would be an enriching opportunity to involve students across the nation at a professional conference. She found CGS students to be very articulate and academically advanced and believed they would be appropriate student guests. In November, twelve CGS students participated in the event and discussed the importance of exploring controversial literature in school. CGS students, Madison Henry (Stafford site), John Hagar (King George site), and Jade Campos (King George site/Caroline student) shared their experiences with the board. All of the students and faculty found the town hall to be a rewarding opportunity and an honor to be recognized on a national stage.

CGS hopes to receive a video recording of the town hall session from NCTE. Mr. Blaine commented that the town hall experience the CGS students had is needed more in society. He has observed lately that adults have a difficult time having civil discourse over differing views.

Dr. VanderPloeg and Mr. Brown gave an update on the Richard Bland College (RBC) partnership and Germanna Community College's (GCC) disagreement with the CGS/ RBC collaboration. Dr. VanderPloeg reviewed the timeline of attempting to work with GCC and following their new course guidelines. During the summer of 2017, CGS was unable to meet GCC's guidelines; therefore, CGS informed Germanna they would have to dissolve their partnership and look for another partner. CGS contacted several colleges and was able to develop a partnership with Richard Bland College. In October, Germanna contacted CGS and informed the program that they believed RBC overstepped their bounds and needed permission from GCC to work with a high school program in their region. Dr. Baker interjected that GCC was undergoing a leadership transition and their new Chancellor was unaware of this dual enrollment conflict and change until after it occurred. In November, Tom Nichols, Keith Wolfe, Mike Brown, and Stephenie Fellingner met with GCC to discuss this disagreement. Moreover, Tom Nichols contacted the accreditation organization and learned that the partnership between RBC and CGS was acceptable. In December, Dr. VanderPloeg, Mr. Nichols, and Mike Wolfe to discuss future terms.

Dr. VanderPloeg asked GCC to provide a DE proposal that would cover our current staffing by the end of February for the 2018-19 school year. Richard Bland College would like to continue their partnership with CGS but does not want to cause conflict. Dr. Chase asked what the tuition from the Germanna Community College covered. Dr. VanderPloeg stated that in the past tuition paid for the credit, the transcript, the use of their electronic library, and tutoring services if students were able to go on the GCC campus. This year, Richard Bland College matched the tuition rate of GCC. They provided the electronic library, opportunities to collaborate with their science department, a student campus visit, and free tuition to students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Currently, twelve students in CGS are taking advantage of this opportunity. Mrs. Hock asked if there are similar concerns with community college's and other Governor's Schools. Dr. VanderPloeg said that some governor's schools partner with multiple colleges. Dr. Bruce Benson commented that Stafford County has used RBC for other courses in the division and the institution has been very accommodating. Mr. Copeland asked if GCC has any legal recourse. Dr. VanderPloeg explained that GCC can file an appeal with the accreditors. As far as legal action, she is not aware of it. Dr. Baker responded that essentially it was a conflict between two higher education institutions but GCC would like to renew its relationship with The Commonwealth Governor's School.

FINAL COMMENTS

Adjournment

Mrs. Hock made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Blaine seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. The Governing Board adjourned at 5:04 p.m.