

**THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL**

**Stafford County Public Schools, School Board Office**

**Fredericksburg, VA**

**Governing Board Meeting**

**May 17, 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) ; Dr. Bruce Benson (Superintendent of Stafford County Schools); Mr. Keith Wolfe (Executive Director of Secondary Education for Spotsylvania County Schools); Dr. George Parker (Superintendent Caroline County Schools)**

**Absent: Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County Schools)**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF May 17, 2018 CONSENT AGENDA**

**Dr. Merri Kae VanderPloeg determined there was a quorum. Mr. Copeland asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Blaine seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**Megan Brown, a Mountain View High School student in CGS at the North Stafford site, spoke about concerns relating to the sites and her experience in CGS.**

## **APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2018 MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Hock made a motion to approve the minutes and financial report and Mr. Blaine seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

### **BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Dr. Chase asked the board to consider reviewing the CGS By-laws and perhaps receive guidance on the roles of board members, fiscal agent, and Governing Board policies. She suggested a representative from the Virginia Department of Education could speak about the issues at the September board meeting. Dr. VanderPloeg said she would speak to Dr. Poland, the VDOE Director of Governor's School, to see if she would be available to present to the board. She attended a CGS Governing Board meeting several years ago and spoke on this subject to the CGS board. The presentation proved valuable to the board six years ago. There were no other comments.

Mr. Blaine praised Dr. VanderPloeg's eight year tenure as CGS Director and wished her well as she moves to Arizona. He appreciated her assistance, leadership, and the many contributions she gave to the CGS community.

Mr. Copeland was grateful for Dr. VanderPloeg's guidance when he became Chair of the Board and her work in bringing Caroline County to the program.

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Dr. Parker raised concerns about new dual enrollment policies and consolidating tuition costs across the state. Potential rising costs will be detrimental to school division budgets particularly small divisions. Mr. Copeland asked to include this item under discussion items. Furthermore, Dr. Parker complimented Dr. VanderPloeg's work as Director and thought her leadership was outstanding. He thanked her for including Caroline six years ago because it raised academic excellence for the division's students.

There were no further comments.

### **DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

The CGS film festival was in March and the board members are welcome to watch the winning films on the CGS website. There were five winning entries from across the sites.

This spring, there will be two pinning ceremonies (Stafford High and Riverbend High) for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. The other four sites chose to hold their pinning ceremonies in September.

The 11<sup>th</sup> grade Chemistry class at Stafford High School led a STEM outreach for Dixon-Smith and Drew Middle School sixth and seventh grade students. The CGS students facilitated labs under the guidance of their teacher. The high school students were able to articulate chemistry principles and concepts as well as demonstrate them into practice.

Caroline and King George held their 'Cookies with the Commonwealth' event at King George on May 15. Stafford and Spotsylvania County will have their 'Cookies' events the following week. The Senior Ceremony would be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The CGS Family Picnic will be June 1<sup>st</sup> at Pratt Park. Finally, on June 23<sup>rd</sup> CGS will be hosting an All Alumni 20<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

As CGS looks ahead to the 2018-19 school year, August 7<sup>th</sup> will be the new student orientation. Stafford County students will have on-site orientations on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. VanderPloeg recognized Dr. George Parker and Dr. Bruce Benson for their service on the CGS Governing Board and as leaders in their division. Lastly, Dr. VanderPloeg introduced Mrs. Jennifer Grigsby who will be the new Director and gave final remarks about her service in CGS.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Virginia Department of Education Mid-Term Report**

Dr. VanderPloeg shared the VDOE Governor's School mid-term report with the board. The report is a mid-term self-evaluation of performance items the VDOE Governor's School evaluation team recommended CGS review/modify/change. The report needed to be submitted to VDOE before June 30, 2018. The mid-term report is done between the six-year audit from the state.

Mr. Blaine asked if there were highlights in the report. Dr. VanderPloeg gave an example of the evaluation team observing the delivery of broadcast lessons three years ago. At time of the observations, the team believed the delivery of instruction on the broadcast system was passive with little interaction or site exchange from students. Since the evaluation team visited, instructional delivery has improved with more small group discussion on broadcast, the departments are planning instructional delivery ahead of time so more students can be involved in broadcast discussions. Additionally, there are more cross-site discussions in several classes such as in AP European History and AP Environmental Science.

Other recommendations included improving safety measures in the science lab at the King George CGS site, and adding lab space at North Stafford and Stafford High School. Since the team visited, Stafford High was rebuilt and the school has a devoted lab for CGS. North Stafford remodeled classroom space to be a modified science lab. It still needs plumbing and gas for the classroom but it is able to conduct more labs than in the past.

Mr. Copeland asked if there were any areas that have declined or areas that need improvement. Stafford County continues to not offer graded credit to students who complete the Culminating research project. Dr. VanderPloeg said she is working with Dr. Fellingner, the Stafford County Gifted Supervisor, to see if another alternative can be arranged for graded credit or if the division can approve this in the future. Mr. Copeland asked about the counseling position and how it met the recommendations of the VDOE. Since the team visited, CGS hired a contracted counselor to work with students in the areas of college readiness, academic performance, and social emotional concerns. This service would be in addition to the counseling services students receive at their schools. Mrs. Hock asked if the students were getting adequate guidance in college admissions and Dr. VanderPloeg stated the program partners with admissions representatives in the area to discuss the college admissions process. Additionally, the program developed curriculum in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade which focuses on the college admissions process. Mrs. Gladney is available to work with students in this area and has assisted on several projects relating to college admissions.

Mr. Blaine asked if there was anything Dr. VanderPloeg would change or modify in the program. Dr. VanderPloeg is pleased the student retention rate has improved since the evaluation team visited CGS. She wants the program to continue to seek culminating credit for Stafford County schools and to expand network opportunities for students.

#### **Dual Enrollment Recommendations and a Community College System Study**

Dr. Parker shared the JLARC Community College study on dual enrollment course standardization and tuition cost with the Governing Board. He raised concerns about the increase in cost for small school divisions and wanted the school divisions to be aware of the potential changes. The board asked if this would impact CGS. Dr. VanderPloeg fears the increase in tuition and the recent decision to decrease program funds from the VDOE would make it difficult to provide tuition assistance in the future.

#### **FY 2019 Governor's School Budget**

Dr. VanderPloeg presented the FY19 budget. Since the March meeting, the budget has decreased. The VDOE removed the \$50 per student/per course allowance which decreased funding for FY19. The projected enrollment is 603 students and the projected per pupil based increased slightly since the first reading. Due to changes in funding, adjustments to the technology and equipment line items were made.

Since the last meeting, Dr. Chase requested a narrative about the Program Manager's supplement increase. That was included in the board packet. Maintenance contracts and equipment upgrades increased in FY19 because software licenses and student online service contracts were renewed. There was no further discussion. Mr. Blaine made a motion to approve the FY 2019 budget. Dr. Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

### **Adjournment**

**Mr. Blaine made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Hock seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. The Governing Board adjourned at 5:09 p.m.**