**CGS PTO Meeting – September 10th, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Everyone introduced themselves.

**Members present:** Maria Arner, Denise Wallace, Michele Cuba, Tracy Ramos, Vanessa Sekinger, Melissa Rice, Soumya Bhowmic, Selina Bautista, Tina Jones, Theresa Aberg, May Sanders, Cynthia Weaver, Beth Merriman, Elizabeth Utsching, Lori Smith, Egan Davson, Cassandra Davson

Rebekah Bautista is a junior at the Spotsy site. This summer she participated in the High School Diplomats U.S. Program for ten days at Princeton University. The camp brings 40 American students and 40 Japanese students together to exchange and learn about each other's cultures' and build lasting relationships. Students who are accepted are given a scholarship to attend. The program was absolutely life-changing for her. She is going to apply to the extension program, HSD Japan, this year, and one of the application requirements is to spread the word about this wonderful program so she gave a presentation at the meeting.

**Secretary’s report: Maria Arner –** Tracy Ramos mad a motion to accept the August 13th, 2018 minutes as written. Melissa Rice seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**.

**Treasurer’s report: Denise Wallace**

* Income to date: $6,086.42 (memberships, merchandise sales, donations, Amazon Smile)
* Expenses to date: $3,394.26 (spirit wear order, new student orientation, and storage unit)
* Net for year to date: +$2,692.16
* We have 132+ memberships to date

**Director’s report: Jennifer Grigsby – given by Michele Cuba**

* She is scheduling meetings with all of the CGS stakeholders. All information gleaned from these meetings will be disaggregated and used to create a plan of improvement that correlates with feedback received from the VDOE in our last mid-cycle evaluation update.
  + Has formally met or have scheduled meetings with the following:
    - Governing Board Members (3 out of 4)
    - Executive Directors
    - Principals at CGS sites
    - Gifted Coordinators
    - Site Leaders
  + Once all of these meetings are complete, she will begin meeting with the following:
    - Principals at feeder sites
    - All teachers individually
    - Interested students (Student Advisory Committee)
    - Interested Parents (Parent Advisory Committee)
* She will be observing each teacher 4x/year in order to assess and provide feedback on how to increase student engagement in the classroom.
  + She has already formally observed 10 teachers. All observations will also have students’ pictures taken and (with consent) posted on the CGS Facebook page. Please follow our page to see the exciting lessons that our students are engaged in weekly!
  + Formal PD will be presented to teachers on November 6th by Dr. Amy Colley from the School-University Research Network through The College of William and Mary regarding engaging strategies and gifted learners.
* **Toolkit for Success & Merit-Based Financial Aid Workshop**
  + September 19th @ Riverbend HS - 6:30-8:30pm – Library & Lecture Hall
  + Functional lesson on how to pace assignments using an agenda and breaking down assignments into smaller, more manageable chunks.
  + Workshop on how to apply for merit-based aid and best increase your chances to win these types of awards.
* **CGS FIRST Robotics Club**
  + Will be moving to North Stafford HS; the move should be complete by October.
  + All CGS students are welcome to join, regardless of site. If space is available, non-CGS students may join.
  + Fundraiser at Panera Bread on Sat. September 22nd from 4-8pm at 1005 Stafford Marketplace location (Please present attached flyer in order to have funds donated to organization).
* **ClearCare Dental**
  + Interested in possibly sponsoring 3-5 student DE Scholarships to offset the cost of enrollment in DE Chemistry course each year.
* **Culminating DE Credit**
  + Currently working with Germanna Community College (GCC) to see if it’s possible to offer DE credit for English 240 for students who complete culminating during their senior year.
  + This would begin for the 2019-2020 seniors if approved by all counties and specifics are worked out with GCC.
* Apologies for not being able to attend tonight! She is at the Spotsylvania County School Board meeting participating in a presentation on Advanced High School program options.

**Old Business:**

* Nothing to report

**New Business:**

* **Membership –** Amy Duncan is the chairperson this year.
  + Really want to encourage memberships! Family membership is $30.
  + We do not fundraise (other than spirit wear sales at beginning of year). PTO relies on these funds to pay for our programs/events. One of the best reasons to join the PTO is that you’ll be put on our email list and will have information sent directly to you.
  + Incentives for joining–
    - Students – the underclassman class (9th & 10th) with most memberships will receive an ice cream party; the upperclassman class (11th & 12th) with the most memberships will receive free donuts.
    - Families of seniors – the last date to join to be eligible for a PTO scholarship is January 31st, 2019.
  + You can join online via the CGS website.
  + Membership packets with spirit wear order forms went home with students first week of school.
* **Spirit Wear Sales** – Tracy Ramos is the chairperson this year.
  + The deadline for spirit wear orders is September 21st.
  + A new item this year is popsockets ($10).
* **Fall Social – Rush Hour Live Escape Games on Sunday, November 11th** 
  + Cost is going to be $20/student.
  + Students will purchase tickets in advance (sales anticipated to be mid-September to mid-October) then will sign up for a specific time/room once we know how many students to expect.
  + Need parents to coordinate/support Minute-to-Win-it games while students are waiting.
* **Opportunities to serve**
  + Still looking for a President-in-training; Michele’s youngest graduates next year.
  + Need a Snow Ball decorating chairperson.
  + Need Teacher Appreciation Chairs for King George and Stafford HS.
* **Teacher Grants** – Vanessa Sekinger is the chairperson this year.
  + Our PTO provides grants for teachers who are in need of items for their classrooms that aren’t provided for in Mrs. Grigsby’s budget. If teachers have a need, they submit an application. Applications are evaluated by a committee using a rubric. They will be presented at our November meeting and we will be voting on the committee’s recommendations at that meeting. This year we have up to $1,000 set aside for grants.

**Committee and/or VP Reports:**

* None noted

**Kudos & Good News:**

* None noted

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

Next PTO meeting – October 8th, 2018 at 7 p.m. - Central Rappahannock Library – Headquarters/Downtown Branch

Prepared by:

Maria Elena Arner, 2018-2019 CGS PTO Secretary