

CGS PTO Meeting – October 8th, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Members present: Maria Arner, Denise Wallace, Michele Cuba, Jennifer Grigsby, Vanessa Sekinger, Selina Bautista, Theresa Aberg, Mike Smith, Sarah Chase, Jeanie VanDevender

Mike Smith, parent of CGS graduates and former CGS PTO President, made a presentation. He is a realtor. If anyone uses his company to buy/sell their home, he will donate \$250 to the CGS PTO. He can be reached at mpaulsmith@hotmail.com or (540) 841-3454.

Secretary's report: **Maria Arner** – Jennifer Grigsby made a motion to accept the September 10th, 2018 minutes as written. Theresa Aberg seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**.

Treasurer's report: **Denise Wallace**

- Income to date: \$10,080.53 (memberships, merchandise sales, donations, Amazon Smile)
- Expenses to date: \$3,404.26 (spirit wear order, new student orientation, and storage unit)
- Net for year to date: +\$6,676.27
- We have 204 memberships to date
- Spent \$10 on a gift card for the Rinko family as a thank you for doing the merit-based scholarship talk.

Director's report: **Jennifer Grigsby**

- **Toolkit for Success & Merit-Based Financial Aid Workshop – September 19th**
 - There were 50-60 families in attendance for each topic.
 - Toolkit for success: a functional lesson on how to pace assignments using an agenda and breaking down assignments into smaller, more manageable chunks was presented by Mrs. Grigsby and Mrs. Gladney.
 - Workshop on how to apply for merit-based aid and best increase your chances to win these types of awards was presented by the Rinko family.
 - Feedback:
 - Scheduling techniques helpful (working backwards).
 - The beginning information was stuff that students already know; don't need so much detail in this area.
 - Want more strategies for taking timed tests.
 - Would like an interactive activity.
- **Culminating Credit – currently**
 - This will be the first year that CGS seniors receive an elective credit for their CGS Culminating project. Spotsylvania, Caroline, and King George counties have all approved this. Stafford County has not approved it at this time. However, Dr. Chase is bringing a proposal to the Stafford County school board tomorrow evening for informational purposes in an attempt for them to approve the project as a for credit course. It will go before the board for voting approval on October 23rd.

- **Culminating DE Credit – for the future**
 - Working with Germanna CC to see if it would be 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.
 - The CGS Governing Board gave approval at the meeting to move forward with this plan and seeing if it was feasible for our program and students.
- **SOL End-of-Course Exams**
 - The CGS Governing Board approved the recommended testing calendar for students entering 9th grade in 2018-2019. Any students previously enrolled will only take SOL exams that are still required to meet graduation requirements.

Subject Area	CGS Course	EOC Exam	Time Frame Taken...
Mathematics	Honors Algebra II	Algebra II	Spring of 9 th Grade
Science	AP Biology	Biology	Spring of 10 th Grade
English	Honors English 10	Reading	Spring of 10 th Grade
Social Studies	AP US History	US/VA History	Spring of 11 th Grade
English	AP English Language & Composition	Writing	Spring of 11 th Grade

- **NVCGTE Annual Retreat**
 - Mrs. Grigsby attended the Northern Virginia Council for Gifted and Talented Education Annual Retreat in Luray on September 28th. The main topics of the retreat were critical thinking in classroom environments for gifted students and twice exceptional students. A wide variety of strategies and information was shared, which she plans on presenting to the teachers for consideration to be implemented in their classrooms.
- **CGS Application Process**
 - The CGS Application process was reviewed with all gifted coordinators and application administrators to ensure consistency across divisions. The category of activities was removed from the application. Points from that area were redistributed into the categories of honors and portfolio/presentation.
- **AYGS Fall Meeting**
 - Major discussion of funding formula used by the state to determine funding for all Governor's Schools. Consensus was to use the formula based on Standards of Quality, which would allow all AYGS to see an increase in funding (and reduce the deficit from funding that was removed for DE credit hours).
 - Discussion also revolved around the plan from the VCCS to have statewide fees for DE credits at \$50 per credit hour. This plan is a benefit to wealthier areas, such as Northern VA, but will decimate students' ability to take courses for credit in rural and low-socioeconomic areas. AYGS and superintendents across the state are petitioning for this to not take effect.

Old Business:

- **Spirit wear sales** have ended. Merchandise has been ordered and will be delivered to each of the sites later this month when it comes in.

New Business:

- **Fall Social – Rush Hour Live Escape Games on Sunday, November 11th**
 - Cost is \$20/student and Thursday, October 11th is the last day to buy tickets.
 - Need volunteers to pick up ticket packets/money from each site on Friday morning (October 12th)
 - Beginning the week of October 22nd, students will be able to go online and choose a room.
 - Participants are encouraged to bring peanut butter to the event to be donated to food pantries.
- **Opportunities to serve**
 - Need Teacher Appreciation Chairs for King George and Stafford HS.
- **Membership reminder:** family memberships are \$30 and families must be members for students to be eligible for a senior scholarship.
- **Save the dates:**
 - **Snow Ball** – Saturday, March 23th, 2019 at 7pm at the Eagles Lodge in Fredericksburg.
 - **Senior Recognition** – Sunday, May 19th, 2019 at 2pm at UMW.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- **Teacher Grants – Vanessa Sekinger**
 - We only received one grant application this year. It was from the Model UN coordinator at North Stafford HS. The group is comprised of about 50 students from all sites. They're requesting money to help pay for a bus for their trip to Baltimore to attend a Model UN conference. Maria Arner made a motion to approve the \$1,000 grant to the Model UN program. Selina Bautista seconded the motion and it was **unanimously approved**.

Kudos & Good News:

- None noted

The meeting was adjourned.

Next PTO meeting – November 12th, 2018 at 7 p.m. - Central Rappahannock Library – Headquarters/
Downtown Branch

Prepared by:

Maria Elena Arner, 2018-2019 CGS PTO Secretary