

CGS PTO Meeting – November 12th, 2018

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

Members present: Maria Arner, Denise Wallace, Michele Cuba, Vanessa Sekinger, Selina Bautista, Sarah Goldsmith, Rachel Dunlap, Tracy Ramos, Mary Alice Adams, Elizabeth Utschig

Secretary's report: **Maria Arner** – Vanessa Sekinger made a motion to accept the October 8th, 2018 minutes as written. Tracy Ramos seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**.

Treasurer's report: **Denise Wallace**

- Income to date: \$13,125.70 (memberships, merchandise sales, donations, Amazon Smile, Fall Social ticket sales)
- Expenses to date: \$7,285.55 (spirit wear order, new student orientation, storage unit, fall social, snowball deposit)
- Net for year to date: +\$5,840.15
- We have 213 memberships to date

Director's report: **Jennifer Grigsby (given by Michele Cuba)**

- **Culminating:** was approved by the Stafford School Board as an elective credit for Stafford County schools starting in the 2019-2020 school year. This year, students will continue to use culminating as their final exam grade. In 2019-2020, students will have the option to have the credit show as a percentage grade or pass/fail. The plus side of this is that the credit will show on a student's transcript, but it will not hurt their GPA (in case they previously hadn't performed as well as they would have liked). This option will exist until this year's freshman class (Class of 2022) graduates. From that point forward, the pass/fail option will be removed (since incoming freshmen will be aware of how it applies to their transcript from entrance into the program).
- **Middle School Information visits:** she is in the midst of these visits. She has completed Spotsylvania County, has done half of Stafford County, and will complete Caroline and King George later this month.
- **Parent Information Night:** Has completed at Caroline HS. She has scheduled Parent Nights for all other counties (KG – 11/28, Stafford – 12/3, and Spotsylvania – 12/4). CGS will also participate in "Career and College Pathway Night" in Stafford at Brooke Point HS on November 15th.
- **Visits to CGS:** middle school visits are being scheduled.
- **Teacher and student observations:** they are continuing, and she hopes to flood Facebook with pictures once she is able to get back into the office (she has been visiting MS sites and will continue that this week).
- **Fall Social:** seemed to go very well, and students commented often on how much fun they had. Hopefully now that we have the first year under our belt, the students will share their positive experience and more students will sign up for next year (if the PTO decides to continue it). We sold 132 tickets. One idea for advertising events is to have students create "commercials" to play over broadcast. Possible idea is to do a poll to get students' thoughts on a fall social location.

Old Business:

- **Spirit wear merchandise:** has been distributed to the sites.
- **Membership drive:** The freshmen at the Colonial Forge site had the largest membership participation and will get a treat. The junior class at Riverbend had the largest membership participation for the upper grades and will get donuts.

New Business:

- **Opportunities to serve**
 - Need a Teacher Appreciation Chair for Stafford HS.
- **Senior Scholarship Essay (Mary Becelia is the chairperson):** We voted on the prompt for the Senior Scholarship Essay. The essay prompt will be released in December but submissions won't be accepted until the spring.
- **Save the dates:**
 - **Snow Ball** – Saturday, March 23th, 2019 at 7pm at the Eagles Lodge in Fredericksburg. The theme is Masquerade Ball.
 - **Senior Recognition** – Sunday, May 19th, 2019 at 2pm at UMW.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- **King George:** Teacher Appreciation hosted a breakfast on November 2nd
- **Spotsy:** Teacher Appreciation will host a “Thankful for You” lunch on November 14th
- **Colonial Forge:** Teacher Appreciation gave mini bread loaves to the teachers.

Kudos & Good News:

- Cole Ramos (Colonial Forge) and Sarah Schaefer (North Stafford) are National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.
- Rebekah Bautista submitted her application for the program to Japan. Acceptances are sent in January.
- The Coolidge Scholarship is a great opportunity for high school juniors. They give 4-year merit-based scholarships.
- If students are interested in Penn State and a STEM field be sure to look into the Millennium Scholars Program. The program offers full tuition and half room and board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24.

Next PTO meeting – January 14th, 2019 at 7 p.m. - Central Rappahannock Library – Headquarters/
Downtown Branch

Prepared by:

Maria Elena Arner, 2018-2019 CGS PTO Secretary