

## CGS PTO Meeting – February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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

**Members present:** Maria Arner, Denise Wallace, Michele Cuba, Selina Bautista, Tracy Ramos, Elizabeth Utschig, Jennifer Grigsby, Sarah Goldsmith, Kristen Garvie, Theresa Aberg, Jeanie VanDevender, Lori Smith, Mary Becelia

**Secretary's report:** **Maria Arner** – Tracy Ramos made a motion to accept the November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 minutes with one update (take “n” out of Utschig). Theresa Aberg seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved.**

**Treasurer's report:** **Denise Wallace**

- Income to date: \$13,746.31 (memberships, merchandise sales, donations, Amazon Smile, Fall Social ticket sales)
- Expenses to date: \$8,882.67 (spirit wear order, new student orientation, storage unit, fall social, snowball deposit, teacher appreciation, Robotics, family picnic deposit)
- Net for year to date: +\$4,863.64
- We have 232 memberships to date

**Director's report:** **Jennifer Grigsby**

- **CGS Application Process**
  - All application deadlines are past.
  - Interviews/portfolio presentations are in process in all counties.
  - Testing is either in process or completed in all counties.
  - Visits by the director and selected students were made to all middle schools in all four counties as well as one private school (Holy Cross Academy).
  - All interested middle school students were invited to complete visits to the CGS site associated with their middle school. These occurred in November – January.
    - The plan next year will be for all visits to occur before winter break.
  - CGS had parent information nights for each county and presented at the Stafford County College & Career Pathways event.
  - Applicants by County
    - Caroline County – 13 applicants for 5 seats
    - King George County – 39 applicants for 20 seats
    - Spotsylvania County – 178 applicants for 60 seats
    - Stafford County – 166 applicants (online only) for 90 seats
  - All applicants will be notified by the following dates:
    - Caroline County – end of March 2019
    - King George County – end of March 2019
    - Spotsylvania County – end of February 2019
    - Stafford County – March/April 2019

- **AYGS November Meeting**
  - Continued 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). There will be attempts to make contact with lawmakers and state leaders to elicit a change for FY20, but if that is not possible, then to advocate for the change in the next biennium.
  - 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. This option is still currently in limbo, but appears to not be moving forward at this time.
  - Dr. Poland from the VDOE is looking to secure funding for professional development in NAGC microcredentialing courses for all AYGS teachers for gifted education. This potentially could be an alternative to a traditional gifted endorsement if all four microcredentialing courses are completed.
  - There will be no Capitol Day for all of the AYGS programs in Virginia this year due to several concerns, including the probability of snow forcing a cancellation, the distance for some programs, difficulty scheduling appointments, and the lack of organizational help from FOVGS (which is restructuring their leadership).
  - The next AYGS meeting is February 12<sup>th</sup> in Richmond.
- **Northern Virginia Council for Gifted & Talented Education**
  - Mrs. Grigsby attended this meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> in Prince William County. There was significant discussion as to the process of identifying gifted students as well as what programs are in place for students who do not meet the qualifications for gifted, but exposure could help with identification at a later date.
  - There was also discussion on the process for acceptance into Governor's School programs.
- All teachers will have their first observation and post-observation conference complete by the end of this month. Mrs. Grigsby is hoping for some time to upload some of the pictures she's taken of the students during the engaging instruction they are experiencing during these observations.
- Mrs. Grigsby continues to attend all principal meetings in KG (quarterly), Spotsylvania (monthly), and Stafford Counties (monthly). In addition, she attends all Division Leadership meetings in King George (quarterly) and Spotsylvania counties (monthly).
- Three CGS teams (from across the counties) participated in the Mountain Vista Governor's School Quiz Bowl on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Congratulations to Sarah Schaefer for being accepted to participate in the 2019 HS Diplomats Japan program. Sarah is also a finalist for the UVA Jefferson Scholarship.
- Congratulations to Gabe Gilbert for winning the Harry F. Byrd scholarship in the amount of \$10,000! This is a repeat win for a North Stafford CGS student as Alexandra Leake won last year.
- The next CGS Governing Board meeting will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm at Stafford County Administrative Offices.
- **Summer college trip:** will be on July 17<sup>th</sup> to VCU.

## Old Business:

- None

## New Business:

- **Senior scholarship:** the deadline for submission is March 30<sup>th</sup>
  - 3 scholarships - \$1,000, \$500 and \$250
  - Must be a PTO member to participate
- **Snow Ball:** March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at 7 pm at the Eagles Lodge – Masquerade Ball theme 😊
  - Ticket sales will be at the sites March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Ticket prices: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door
  - Added money to the budget for decorating because we had to change the color theme from all of the decorations we have from previous years.
  - Non-high school students need to sign a waver form.
- **College Forum:** awaiting a date from UMW – will be sometime late March.
- **Senior recognition:** Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 2:00pm at UMW with a reception to follow.
- **CGS Family Picnic:** May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 4:30-7pm at Pratt Park in Stafford.
- **Senior Symposium:** April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Stafford Campus of UMW.
- **Board Positions:** We have several parents of seniors on our board. We will have nominations/elections in a few months, but there are 2 positions in particular that really need to be filled: President and Treasurer. If you are interested in either position please contact Michele Cuba.

## Committee and/or VP Reports:

- **Spotsy:** Gave cookie/goodie platters for CGS teachers and janitors for the holidays. They'll be providing a Valentine themed breakfast and goody bags on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. Each teacher will get a \$30 gift card to a restaurant.
- **King George:** hosted a "For the Love of Pizza and Pasta" Valentine lunch for the wonderful CGS teachers. They had pizza, hot and cold pasta creations, desserts, and drinks. This was their second event of the school year and they're hoping to host at least two more before school ends in May.
- **Colonial Forge:** Hosted a ham and fixings luncheon for the CGS teachers before the holidays.
- **Stafford HS:** Gave teachers cookies and gift cards for the holidays.
- **Thank you:** Received a thank you note from Mrs. Grigsby for the CGS PTO's \$750 donation to the Robotics team.

## Kudos & Good News:

- Two CGS students from Stafford HS are going to the Model UN conference.
- Michael Arner from Colonial Forge has qualified for the National track meet with the 4x800 relay.
- Kudos to Mrs. Grigsby for subbing for Mrs. Greene (Spotsy site) while she was out.
- Good news that a new English teacher has been found for the Spotsy site.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04.

Next PTO meeting – March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7 p.m. - Central Rappahannock Library – Headquarters/ Downtown Branch

Prepared by:

Maria Elena Arner, 2018-2019 CGS PTO Secretary