

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

Spotsylvania County School Board Office

Conference Room I

Governing Board Meeting

May 16, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Mr. John Copeland, Chair (Caroline); Mrs. Gayle Hock (King George); Mr. Bill Blaine, (Spotsylvania); Dr. Sarah Chase, Vice-Chair (Stafford)

Also attending: Dr. Robert Benson (Superintendent of King George County Public Schools); Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County Public Schools); Dr. Scott Kizner (Superintendent of Stafford County Public Schools); Dr. Joanne Jones (Director of Curriculum & Instruction for Caroline County Public Schools); Mr. Keith Wolfe (Executive Director of Secondary Education for Spotsylvania County Public Schools); Dr. Stephenie Fellingner (Teaching & Learning Facilitator for K-12 Gifted Education and Secondary Programs); Mrs. Jennifer Grigsby (The Commonwealth Governor's School Director)

Absent: Dr. Sarah Calveric (Superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mr. John Copeland at 4:00pm on May 16, 2019. A quorum was determined by Mr. Copeland at 4:00pm via the sign-in sheet.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Blaine made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, and this was seconded by Dr. Chase. The motion passed 4-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Blaine congratulated the CGS Director, Mrs. Grigsby, on completing her first year in the position and for a job well done. Mr. Copeland concurred.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

There were no superintendent comments.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **CGS Application Process**
 - All applicants will be notified by the following dates –
 - Stafford County – letters were mailed; finalized lists from Dr. Fellingner are being uploaded into the Google sheet based on acceptance responses as we speak
 - Finalized lists for Spotsylvania, King George, & Caroline counties have been collected by the CGS office.
 - All seats at all sites were filled as of May 16, 2019.
- **Summer Work Calendar**
 - The CGS Summer Work Calendar was approved by all counties through June 2020.
- **Cookies with the Commonwealth Event**
 - There was fantastic attendance at all of the getting-to-know-you events for our incoming students!
 - Riverbend – 29 out of 30
 - Spotsylvania – 30 out of 33
 - Stafford – 50 out of 90
 - King George – 17 out of 25
 - We incorporated an ice-breaker activity and had seniors presenting their culminating work at three of the events. Feedback from parents at the most recent PTO meeting (we had a dozen new parents in attendance) was very positive. Their children liked the ice-breaker activity and it was the right amount of social interaction with background information.

- **Staffing 2019-2020**
 - Most staff positions have been tentatively filled for 2019-2020. We will have six new teachers entering the program and two teachers transferring to other sites. Some are replacing current teachers and others are new positions being opened. Thank you to those principals who invited me to participate in the selection process. Ideally, I would like this to become the practice at all sites.
- **Senior Symposium**
 - Event went very well, and students did an excellent job with creating their boards and presenting their research both formally and informally.
- **Mindfulness Counseling Session**
 - Students had the opportunity to participate in a small group counseling session with Mrs. Sabrina Gladney, CGS school counselor, on mindfulness and techniques to reduce anxiety at each of the individual sites prior to AP/SOL testing. A signed parent permission form was required for students to be allowed to participate.
- **New Field Experience**
 - AP Biology
 - Chincoteague Bay Field Station
 - Overnight trip
 - Intertidal studies, wetland ecology, dune ecology, maritime forest, sustainable wetland ecology, marine invertebrates, fish biology, coastal botany, ornithology, organism dissection, nocturnal adaptations hike, life history of arthropods, teambuilding
 - Approval received from Spotsylvania, Caroline, KG & Stafford (tentative)
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Senior Recognition Ceremony
 - May 19 – 2pm – UMW Fredericksburg
 - CGS Picnic
 - May 31 – 4:30-7:00pm – Pratt Park
- **Questions, Comments, Concerns?**
 - Mr. Copeland shared his excitement with the new field experience at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station.
 - Mr. Blaine asked what needs the director felt would be upcoming for the program. Mrs. Grigsby responded that CGS is continuing to gauge the need for a potential full-time counselor due to the specific social-emotional needs of gifted and highly motivated students. The current set-up with a part-time counselor does not allow students to access the CGS counselor often enough to truly build a relationship due to time constraints of the position. Also, the addition of an assistant director position would allow the director to spend more time on instructional leadership and less time on the managerial components of the position. In terms of priority,

the counselor position would be first and the assistant director position would be second. Mrs. Hock stated that she fully supports the addition of a full-time counselor in order to differentiate the social-emotional needs as well as college application/scholarship needs of our students. Mr. Copeland asked if the position would be contracted or hired by the program. Mrs. Grigsby responded that she would like to hire the position solely for the program and that person would travel from site to site like the director does. Dr. Chase did mention that hiring for this position may be difficult due to the limited number of counselors in the applicant pool due to the increase in funding connected to counselor-student ratios in Virginia.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDAS

Dr. Chase made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which includes the meeting minutes from March 2019 and financial report for May 2019. Mrs. Hock seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

SOL Testing Plan Update

The Director updated the board with the testing changes made to align with the state and federal requirements for student participation and verified credits for graduation requirements. The largest change occurred in the area of Social Studies. If students took a high school credit course in middle school and passed the course and corresponding EOC exam, they met their verified credit requirement and will not test any further. If they did not meet the testing requirement in middle school, then the student would have to EITHER take the AP European History exam OR take the World History II EOC examination. This is due to the VDOE still having the World History II exam listed as an aligned exam with the AP European History course. Most students do not have major issues with this requirement, but there is more of a concern now due to the school calendar being pushed forward and having little time to review SOL content prior to that exam with the close proximity of the AP exams.

CGS 2018-2019 Review

As outlined in our CGS Constitution, By-Laws, & Joint Agreement, the Director will update the Governing Board on the program's annual progress and upcoming direction of the program for the future. Included in these minutes are the presentation slides reviewed by Mrs. Grigsby.

CGS Governing Board Meetings

The 2019-2020 CGS Governing Board meeting calendar was listed for next school year. This delineated between bill listing approval meetings and full CGS Governing Board meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

CGS Budget

The CGS Budget was presented, and the discussion started with questions by Dr. Chase. First, is the funding received per student for CGS in addition to the ADM funding received for each student by each county? Mrs. Grigsby responded that the CGS funding is in addition to ADM funding. Secondly, if there is extra funding left over at the end of the school year, where does that funding go? Mrs. Grigsby informed the board that there is never funding left over. Mrs. Welch does an excellent job of ensuring that all funds are spent, and we often will purchase items for the following year in advance if sufficient funding remains before the financial spending cut-off. Currently, the monies marked as unencumbered (approximately \$50,000) will be shifted into the field experience line item to help pay for the Chincoteague Bay Field Station overnight excursion. The amount shifted from unencumbered will be dependent on student enrollment and finalized funding from September 30 ADM.

Mr. Blaine motioned to approve the CGS Budget as presented. Dr. Chase seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Blaine mentioned that he would like to see an increase in diversity in terms of our student population. Dr. Chase and Mrs. Hock would like to see the demographic information for the incoming students since the removal of the activity portion of the application process. Mrs. Grigsby mentioned that this would be tabulated and presented to the Governing Board in October. Mr. Copeland and Mr. Blaine both commented that they would like to see CGS reaching out to students at a younger age so they know about potential options in the future. Mrs. Hock mentioned that having a full-time counselor may be able to help in the recruitment process of first-generation college students. Dr. Jones spoke to creating an application rubric where minority, first-generation, English-language learners, and low socioeconomic students would receive slightly more points to provide them a better opportunity to be accepted into the program. Dr. Fellingner mentioned that supports need to be put into place to help students be successful in the CGS program that come from more diverse backgrounds.

Next meeting is on September 19, 2019 at Spotsylvania County School Board Office in Conference Room E starting at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Copeland motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:49pm. Dr. Chase seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.