

**THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL**

**Spotsylvania County School Board Office**

**Conference Room I**

**Governing Board Meeting**

**September 19, 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. Sarah Calveric (Superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools); Dr. Robert Benson (Superintendent of King George County Public Schools); Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County Public Schools); Mr. Keith Wolfe (Executive Director of Secondary Education for Spotsylvania County Public Schools); Dr. Tom Nichols (Chief Officer of High Schools and School Safety for Stafford County Public Schools); Dr. Stephenie Fellingner (Teaching & Learning Facilitator for K-12 Gifted Education and Secondary Programs – Stafford County); Ms. Kristine Lentz-Johnston (Director of Professional Learning and Instructional Programs – Spotsylvania County); Ms. Nikki Kiger (Gifted Specialist & Governor's School Coordinator – Caroline County); Mr. James Conlee (Mathematics Teacher at CGS Riverbend HS site); Mrs. Jennifer Grigsby (The Commonwealth Governor's School Director)**

**Absent: Dr. Scott Kizner (Superintendent of Stafford County Public Schools)**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**The meeting was called to order by Chair Mr. John Copeland at 4:00pm on September 19, 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 Mr. Copeland. The motion passed 3-0.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Blaine stated that he believes strongly in the mission of the CGS program, and he is proud to have been associated with the Governing Board for all of these years.

Mr. Copeland shared that he has spoken with the counties surrounding Caroline County to discuss if there is enough interest in potentially starting a CGS site in their county. He would like to expand the local students' opportunities to have access to both CGS and The Chesapeake Bay Governor's School.

## **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

There were no superintendent comments.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Enrollment
  - 598 students as of 9/19/19 & submitted for September 30 Enrollment
    - Caroline County – 20 out of 20 seats
    - King George County – 83 out of 80 seats
    - Spotsylvania County – 235 out of 240 seats
      - Riverbend Site – 123 out of 120 seats
      - Spotsylvania Site – 112 out of 120 seats
    - Stafford County – 260 out of 360 seats
      - Colonial Forge Site – 93 out of 120 seats
      - North Stafford Site – 79 out of 120 seats
      - Stafford Site – 88 out of 120 seats

- **CGS School Counselor**
  - Last year's CGS School Counselor resigned her part-time post at the end of the school year.
  - We are looking for a part-time counselor for the 2019-2020 school year, and we are planning on adding a full-time counselor to the budget for the 2020-2021 school year.
  
- **Engaging Instruction Professional Development**
  - I presented to teachers and administrators in Spotsylvania County a session on Engaging Instruction based upon the research of John Hattie and the SURN Student Engagement Tool (which we use for CGS Teacher observations).
    - I presented to over 200 educators over the course of the summer through the division's LLE (Leadership & Learning Exchange) conference, Division Work-Day Self-Selected sessions, and one large session to all teachers at Spotsylvania HS.
    - I am more than willing to present to any of our divisions on this topic or others. Please let me know if you are interested.
  
- **New Student Orientation 2019-2020**
  - New Student Orientation went well! We had fantastic participation by our incoming students, and their feedback on the surveys was overwhelmingly positive.
    - Recommendations for 2020-2021:
      - Extending the on-site session for next year to allow more time to get to know site peers and learn about site-specific items
      - Moving CGS Orientation to the week prior to HS Open Houses as to not overburden the CGS staff, students, and families with so many events in one week and to reduce conflicts with athletics and activities.
  
- **Toolkit for Success**
  - Toolkit for Success was previously taught in the evening in coordination with the Scholarship presentation for upperclassmen. We changed that this year to better meet the needs of all of the students.
  - I taught a session to the freshmen class via Broadcast on study techniques and tools to be successful in both CGS and high school (and beyond). I received feedback from two of the six sites that they felt it was beneficial, they left with some new skills to try, and some suggestions on how to improve the session for the future.
  - We plan to host a scholarship night in addition to a FAFSA night for upperclassmen in November/December.

- **Field Experiences**
  - Trips began last week
    - Canoe Trip at Lake Mooney – 9/9-9/13 (Grade 9)
    - Theatre – A Midsummer Night’s Dream – 9/12/19 (Grade 10)
    - Williamsburg Trip – 9/12/19 (Grade 11)
    - Theatre – As You Like It – 9/23/19 (Grade 12)
    - Chesapeake Bay Field Station Overnight Trip (Grade 10)
      - 9/29/19-9/30/19
        - Rescheduled due to Hurricane Dorian
      - 10/7/19-10/8/19
    - Problem-Solving Workshop – 10/2/19 (Grade 9)
    - National Archives & The Newseum – 10/2/19 (Grade 10)
    - Theatre – The Crucible – 10/2/19 (Grade 11)
- **Important Dates**
  - Application Meeting – All Participating Divisions – September 24 @ 9am @ Stafford HS
  - MS Recruitment Visits – October 2019
  - MS CGS Site Visits – November 2019
  - Information Nights – November & December 2019
  - All application and notification of acceptance deadlines for Stafford County programs will match this school year.
  - Senior Symposium – Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at UMW Stafford University Hall 6-8:30pm

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDAS**

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

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **2018-2019 SOL & AP Score Results**

Mr. James Conlee, Mathematics Teacher at the CGS Riverbend HS site, presented both the SOL and AP scores for the 2018-2019 school year. Overall, CGS students performed better than the international average in 10 out of the 12 AP tests given across all counties. In total, 74% of CGS

students earned a 3 or higher on the AP exams. This data is discussed and plans are created to improve upon the annual results in our teachers' Professional Learning Community meetings.

With the changes made in the testing requirements in Virginia, many students were able to earn a verified credit for scoring a 2 or higher on an AP exam. For example, students who chose to take the AP European History exam were not required to take the World History II End-of-Course SOL examination. This is a benefit as students are not being given as many high-stakes tests, and it reduces the stress of the end of the school year with our new pre-Labor Day start (which drastically condenses our time to provide review for EOC SOL exams).

Dr. Baker inquired why less students seem to be motivated to take the AP Physics exam and the results are lower than other subject areas. Mr. Conlee mentioned that the early sign-up pilot program last year that Spotsylvania County participated in may have affected some of the students who would not have decided to take the exam once they got further into the course and recognized their ability in that subject area. Mrs. Grigsby responded that many of the seniors in CGS have maxed out on the number of transferable credits that are accepted to colleges, and thus, they do not sign up for senior year exams (especially AP Physics 1 and AP Literature & Composition) as they cannot benefit from taking the test.

Dr. Benson questioned if the AP results counting as an SOL exam will impact accreditation in the future. Mrs. Grigsby responded that the AP scores should be added by each county as a substitute test into the Pearson system after the July results are released, and those scores should help overall pass rates increase prior to VDOE accreditation release dates for the public.

### **CGS Testing Plan**

There was a minor change to the CGS testing plan in that the EOC Writing Exam has been moved for all counties to the Fall of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. This eliminates this test from the spring testing window (which is laden with EOC SOL exams and AP tests), and the CGS students are well prepared for the exam as they have been working with their CGS English teachers consistently for two years in the program.

### **CGS Culminating Course & Recommended Governor's School Seal Change**

Since the VDOE has an expectation that all Academic-Year Governor's Schools include an independent research component to their program, the Director is recommending the following change to the requirement to earn a Governor's School Seal:

### **Current Governor's School Seal Policy**

Any student who completes at least their junior and senior years with CGS and earns a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA in the four core subject area classes at CGS will receive the Virginia Governor's School seal on their diploma.

### **Suggested Governor's School Seal Policy**

Any student who completes at least their junior and senior years with CGS, earns a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA in the four core subject area classes at CGS, and earns a passing grade in their culminating research course, will receive the Virginia Governor's School seal on their diploma.

Since the Culminating course is part of the CGS curriculum, we feel strongly that all students should pass this course in order to earn the Governor's School seal as it is a significant component of CGS and such a benefit to the students as they progress into the college arena.

Also, we amended our late policy for this course (please see handouts from last meeting) to benefit the students, the culminating project and presentations replaces final exams (in terms of time but not the grade), and the culminating course grade is displayed on the senior year mid-year and final transcripts.

The only portion of this informational item that needs board approval is the Governor's School Seal Policy change.

### **CGS Homework Protocol**

Overall, the goal of the CGS program is to focus on quality, not volume. We are focusing on research-based methods of teaching gifted and highly-motivated students, and less instructional exposures are needed for our students to master content. Thus, our homework protocol matches that research and the strategies being implemented are to help students manage a healthy balance between academics and life.

Please see the informational item handout for specifics.

### **CGS Amended Governing Board Meetings**

Please see the informational handout included in the packet. The only change is in location to Caroline HS for the March 2020 meeting.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

Next meeting is on October 17, 2019 at Stafford County SBO Executive Session Conference Room starting at 4:00pm.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Chase motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:53pm. Mr. Blaine seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.