

CGS PTO Meeting – August 12th, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

Members present: Maria Arner, Jennifer Grigsby, Michael Hart, Lynda Francis, Mary Alice Adams, Walter Hamm, Janet Spencer, Cecelia Storm, Jack O'Brien, Vanessa Sekinger, Selina Bautista

Secretary's report: Maria Arner – Jack O'Brien made a motion to approve the June 10th, 2019 minutes as written. Mary Alice Adams seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**.

Membership and Treasurer's reports: given by Michael Hart

- We got 41 memberships at Freshman Information night and 3 more tonight.
- A deposit of \$2,154.49 was made; this includes \$600 that was withdrawn for change.

Director's report: Jennifer Grigsby

- **Enrollment**
 - 601 students as of 8/12/19
 - Caroline County – 20 out of 20 seats
 - King George County – 82 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 – 264 out of 360 seats
 - Colonial Forge Site – 93 out of 120 seats
 - North Stafford Site – 82 out of 120 seats
 - Stafford Site – 89 out of 120 seats
- **CGS School Counselor**
 - Mrs. Gladney, our CGS School Counselor last school year, 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.
- **Changes for 2019-2020**
 - Culminating Project
 - More time was built into the calendar for culminating, allowing students to have more work time in school compared to past years.
 - This will allow students to receive feedback and ask questions as they work through the process of the project and research.
 - The culminating research course will be included in the grade calculation at the end of the year to determine probationary status.
 - Students who do not earn a passing grade on their culminating project are in danger of being placed on probation.

- The culminating research project is how CGS responds to the VDOE expectation that all AYGS programs have an independent research project based on student interests as part of their curriculum.
 - Successfully completing the culminating project is a basic expectation of the CGS program.
 - In order to earn a seal on their diploma, students must graduate with a 2.5 GPA or higher in their CGS courses, complete at least their junior or senior year of high school with CGS, and earn a passing grade in the overall culminating research course.
- Homework Protocol
 - Given that some students will require more or less time than expected, homework assignments should be designed so that most students can complete the assigned tasks within the following time allotments:
 - CGS core courses: 30 minutes per night OR 2.5 hours per week per course.
 - CGS Culminating course: Students should be making progress on their culminating assignments by dedicating time each week to complete the goal.
- **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.
- **Questions for PTO**
 - Change to Toolkit for Success
 - Mrs. Grigsby is offering the Studying & Planning 101 session to all freshmen students on August 21st via broadcast to help them get situated and acclimated to their new environment. This session can really help our incoming students become successful, and too many students were unable to make the nightly session.
 - Scholarship Planning could still be offered as a night event to Juniors and Seniors and their parents. We talked about ideas for drawing people to this event. Maybe have someone to discuss the FAFSA process. Mrs. Grigsby needs to know if we'd like to host a Scholarship night so she can contact the Rinkos to see if they are able to present.
 - Website Link
 - Do we have a website link for people to use to join the PTO and/or order merchandise?
 - We will but it isn't up and running yet.
- **Dates for new students 2020-2021 school year**
 - Middle School Recruitment Visits – October 2019
 - Middle School Site Visits – November 2019
 - Information Nights – November & December 2019

Old Business:

- None to cover

New Business:

- **2019-2020 Event Dates**
 - **Fall Social** – Vanessa Sekinger is the chairperson and will look into several venues including: Belvedere, Kings Dominion, and Sky Zone. A date needs to be chosen; it appears that every Saturday in October is some high school's homecoming dance. Friday nights are out due to football games.
 - **Snow Ball** – March 7th, 2020 – tentative date
 - **Senior Symposium** – Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020 6:00-8:30PM at UMW Stafford University Hall
 - **Family Picnic** – May 8th, 2020 – tentative date
 - **Senior Recognition** – May 17th, 2020 – tentative date
- **September CGS PTO meeting**
 - The September meeting will begin at 6:00PM with a potluck. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:00PM. Maria Arner will let everyone know when she sends the meeting reminder. The PTO provides paper products and waters.
- **Future meeting room**
 - Starting in September we will be meeting in the main library building in Room LL2.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- **Stafford Teacher Appreciation:** Vanessa Dover, Carrie Verbosky, and Mary Becelia offered to be Teacher Appreciation Chairs at Stafford High School.

Kudos & Good News:

- None to report

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17.

Next PTO meeting – September 9th, 2019 at 7 p.m. - Central Rappahannock Library – Headquarters/
Downtown Branch

Prepared by:
Maria Elena Arner, 2019-2020 CGS PTO Secretary