

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

Stafford County School Board Office

Executive Session Room

Governing Board Meeting

January 16, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Mr. John Copeland, Chair (Caroline); Mr. Baron Braswell, (Spotsylvania); Dr. Sarah Chase, Vice-Chair (Stafford); Mr. T.C. Collins (King George)

Also attending: Dr. Robert Benson (Superintendent of King George 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); Mrs. Karen Foster (Director of Secondary Education for Caroline County Public Schools); Dr. Stephenie Fellingner (Teaching & Learning Facilitator for K-12 Gifted Education and Secondary Programs for Stafford County); Kristine Lentz-Johnston (Director of Professional Learning and Instructional Programs for Spotsylvania County Public Schools); Mrs. Jennifer Grigsby (The Commonwealth Governor's School Director)

Absent: Dr. Scott Kizner (Superintendent of Stafford County Public Schools); Dr. Scott Baker (Superintendent of Spotsylvania County Public Schools); 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 January 16, 2020. A quorum was determined by Mr. Copeland at 4:00pm via the sign-in sheet.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Chase attended the Capitol Conference and heard from the Secretary of Education that all AYGS programs will be required to report the demographics for their students versus the participating division demographics. If those two numbers are not aligned, then each AYGS program will be required to create a plan of improvement to move those numbers toward alignment. Mr. Copeland asked the question if each county will report their particular demographics or will it be reported for the entire program and combining the demographics for all of the divisions. Mrs. Grigsby noted the question for her upcoming meeting in Richmond with the Secretary of Education.

Mr. Braswell stated that Spotsylvania County tabled the decision to assign committee assignments until the end of January, and he was filling in today as the chairperson. He stated that in all likelihood Dr. Rita Daniels will be filling the seat as the representative for the Spotsylvania County Board.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

There were no superintendent comments.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Enrollment**
 - 586 students as of 01/13/2020 (-15 students since 1st day of school – 2.5%)
 - Colonial Forge Site – 92 students
 - North Stafford Site – 77 students
 - Stafford Site – 85 students
 - King George Site – 101 students
 - Riverbend Site – 122 students
 - Spotsylvania Site – 109 students

- **Field Experiences**
 - Upcoming Trips
 - Dr. Atalay Presentation – 2/26 – Grade 10
 - Film Workshop – 2/26 – Grade 11
 - Embassy Trip – 2/26 – Grade 12
 - Holocaust Museum – 3/4 - Grade 9
 - Poetry Workshop – 3/4 – Grade 12

- **Junior Pinning Ceremonies**
 - At the completion of the sophomore year, all sites host a pinning ceremony. At this event, students are recognized for their hard work and effort in the first two years of the program and awarded a CGS pin for completing the first half of the program. Students may wear their pin (along with their medal upon completion of the program) on their robe at graduation. All pinning ceremonies were completed at all sites. Thank you to the families who were able to come out and see their children be recognized.

- **Dates**
 - Application Due Dates
 - Caroline County – Friday, January 10 – 13 applicants for 5 seats
 - Stafford County – Friday, January 10 – 190+ applicants for 90 seats
 - King George County – Tuesday, January 14 – 30 applicants for 20 seats
 - Spotsylvania County – Friday, January 24 - TBD
 - Senior Symposium – Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at UMW Stafford University Hall 6-8:30pm
 - Senior Recognition Ceremony – Sunday, May 17, 2020 at Fredericksburg Expo Center 4:00pm

- **Observations of teachers have begun. I have completed observations of all teachers at Stafford HS and Riverbend HS. My next group observed will be Colonial Forge HS**

starting at the end of this week. Every teacher is observed twice per school year, and I meet with each teacher individually to provide them with feedback on their observation. Additionally, teachers are working on adding more engaging strategies to their lessons that are less frequently used in order to continue growing and improving their skill sets.

- **CGS Kilroy Robotics received three laptops from Stafford County Public Schools to use for their technology needs. Thank you to Stafford County for their help!**
- **Alumni Breakfasts**
 - **All sites held their alumni breakfast event where CGS graduates return to speak with the upperclassmen to discuss their next steps and how CGS helped them in their current life chapters. There was some rescheduling due to weather days, but all events were held.**
- **Governor's Budget**
 - **Amendments have been submitted to relevant committees in both the Virginia House and Senate related to funding for Academic Year Governor's Schools. In the Senate, two amendments were submitted: The first amendment submitted would direct the DOE to provide SOQ-based funding for AYGS. This is what the directors have been lobbying to occur. The second amendment is submitted as an alternative (if the first is not successful) and would reinstitute the \$50/student/course stopgap funding AYGS had in the 2016-17 biennium. In the House, the second amendment mentioned above was submitted only. If you have contacts with legislators, please reach out to them and request that they support these funding initiatives to ensure stable and consistent funding levels for AYGS programs, which heavily support the future workforce of Virginia through advanced instruction in various areas.**
- **New Item in the Governor's Proposed Budget**
 - **Each Academic Year Governor's School shall set diversity goals for its student body and faculty, and develop a plan to meet said goals in collaboration with community partners at public meetings. Each school shall submit a report to the Governor by October 1 of each year on its goals and status of implementing its plan. The report shall include, but not be limited to the following: utilization of universal screenings in feeder divisions; admission processes in place or under consideration that promote access for historically underserved students; and outreach and communication efforts deployed to recruit historically underserved students. The report shall include the racial/ethnic make-up and socioeconomic diversity of its students, faculty, and applicants.**

- This is Item 27, Letter I in the Governor's proposed budget. See <https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/item/2020/1/sb30/introduced/1/145/>.
- To meet this potential new requirement as well as to address the concerns discussed in our last meeting, I will be meeting with the division application liaisons to disaggregate the data for each participating county to identify areas of concern in the application process. Once those are identified, I will work with those representatives as well as CGS stakeholders to outline current practices, concerns with practices, and new ideas to correct areas of identified weakness in the recruitment and application process. A plan of action will be created this summer and brought to the CGS Governing Board in September for your review before I submit the aforementioned report on October 1 (if approved in the budget).

Questions?

The board members would like clarification as to how the demographic numbers will be reported (by individual division versus by AYGS program/participating divisions). The director stated that she would ask the question at her upcoming AYGS meeting with the Secretary of Education.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDAS

Dr. Chase made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which includes the meeting minutes from October 2019 and financial report for January 2020. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

FY2021 CGS Proposed Budget

The FY 2021 CGS Regional Office operating budget was developed based on projected student enrollment, anticipated state revenues, and each school division's composite index. As outlined in the CGS Joint Agreement, the Governing Board shall consider the proposed budget, make any recommendations, and then approve an operating budget no later than May 31 of each year. An amended budget will then need to be approved in October based on actual September 30, 2020 student enrollment for FY 2021. This is the first reading of the CGS FY 2021 budget.

The proposed budget is requesting the addition of a school counselor or social worker for 2020-2021 to meet the social-emotional and academic needs of CGS students as over half of the student

exits relate to mental health concerns. Additionally, the VDOE evaluation of CGS has recommended this position during each six-year cycle.

ACTION ITEMS

CGS Culminating Course & Recommended Governor's School Seal Change

The Virginia Department of Education has an outlined expectation for all students participating in Academic-Year Governor's Schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia to complete independent research projects as part of their Governor's School curriculum.

The Commonwealth Governor's School meets this requirement through the Culminating Research, Writing, and Created Product course. This course earns students a high school credit on their transcripts and is a key component of the CGS program. Thus, in order to earn the Governor's School seal, the Director is recommending adjusting the current requirements to include successful completion of the culminating course.

The first reading information was taken to the Stafford County School Board as an informational item, and their board did not support changing the policy as recommended for the 2019-2020 school year.

After the second reading of this change, the Stafford County School Board did support the policy change for the 2020-2021 school year and voted in the affirmative.

Dr. Chase made a motion to accept the proposed CGS Seal Change as presented, and Mr. Braswell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

CGS Governing Board Election Positions for 2020-2021

Dr. Chase nominated Mr. John Copeland for the position of CGS Governing Board Chairperson, and Mr. Braswell seconded that nomination. The motion passed 4-0. By voting Mr. Copeland the chairperson, Dr. Sarah Calveric is the corresponding executive superintendent.

Mr. Copeland nominated Dr. Sarah Chase for the position of CGS Governing Board Vice-Chairperson, and Mr. Braswell seconded that nomination. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Copeland nominated Mrs. Jennifer Grigsby for the position of CGS Governing Board Clerk, and Dr. Chase seconded that nomination. The motion passed 4-0.

CGS March Governing Board Meeting Date Change

Dr. Chase moved to change the CGS Governing Board meeting from March 19 to March 12 due to a conflict with the VSBA Spring Network Forum, and Mr. Braswell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

FINAL COMMENTS

Next meeting is on March 12, 2020 in the Caroline High School Library, starting at 4pm.

Mr. T.C. Collins was introduced by Dr. Benson and welcomed as the King George School Board CGS representative.

Adjournment

Mr. Copeland motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:36pm. Mr. Braswell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.