

CGS PTO Meeting – January 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

Members present: Maria Arner, Jennifer Grigsby, Lynda Francis, Vanessa Sekinger, Marisha Lecea, Lori Smith, Denise Wallace, Diane O'Hara, Kevin Powell, Selina Bautista, Janet Spencer, Mary Becelia, Jeanie VanDevender, Minnette Reid, Elizabeth Utschig

Secretary's report: Maria Arner – Marisha Lecea made a motion to approve the November 11, 2019 minutes as written. Mary Becelia seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**.

Treasurer's report: Marisha Lecea

- Bank balances as of December 31, 2019
 - Checking: \$8,804.14
 - Money Market: \$10,401.14
- A \$750 check was written to Kilroy Robotics.
- We got a check for \$71.19 in December for Amazon Smile donations.
- Maria Arner requested a breakout on Income. It's great to know what our bank balance is but we need to know what our income is for the year; a line-item income breakout is necessary to know how we're doing with regard to each line item.

Director's report: Jennifer Grigsby

- **Enrollment**
 - 586 students as of 01/13/2020 (we've lost 15 students since 1st day of school – 2.5%)
 - Colonial Forge Site – 92 students (-1)
 - North Stafford Site – 77 students (-2)
 - Stafford Site – 85 students (-1)
 - King George Site – 101 students (0)
 - Riverbend Site – 122 students (-1)
 - Spotsylvania Site – 109 students (-1)
- **Field Experiences**
 - We had some hiccups with our Library of Congress trip, and we will work on correcting those for next year. Thanks to the parents for bringing those issues to our attention!
 - 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**
 - 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 10th
 - Stafford County – Friday, January 10th
 - King George County – Tuesday, January 14th
 - Spotsylvania County – Friday, January 24th
 - **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. Mrs. Grigsby has completed observations of all teachers at Stafford HS and Riverbend HS. The next group observed will be Colonial Forge HS starting at the end of this week. Every teacher is observed twice per school year, and she meets 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.

Old Business:

- **Membership Email list**
 - After a discussion about the old Google email distribution list and the Excel spreadsheet of the current year members, it was decided that going forward, we will only contact those people that have joined the PTO the current year. Maria will contact Denise when sending the meeting reminders to make sure she has the most updated list.
 - Denise will send Mrs. Grigsby an email with links to the paper and online forms that Mrs. Grigsby can forward to the parent emails she has in order to recruit more members. Maria will send the same email to the Google group to notify people they must join the PTO to continue receiving emails.

New Business:

- **SnowBall – February 21, 2020 at the Eagle’s Lodge in Stafford 7:00-11:00PM**
 - They’ve looked at the hall, retrieved items from storage, and decorations are coming along.
 - The first Friday in February they will be meeting with the food guy.
 - Eagle’s Lodge is not comfortable with us bringing in food. Since they’ve worked with us before we’ll be allowed to do the candy bar.
 - Getting a cotton candy machine from a parent.

- We have a traffic “director” on board.
 - We need a lot of volunteers to help us set up.
 - Ticket sales.
 - Can get a roster for all sites from Donna Welch. Will need this to put the ticket envelopes together for each site.
 - Ladies showed a ticket mock-up; super cute.
 - Mrs. Grigsby will deliver tickets to all of the sites on February 5th.
 - Ticket sales end on February 19th. People will pick up at each site on February 20th and meet at Barnes & Noble in Central Park at 11:00 to drop off envelopes.
 - Will do a peanut butter and jelly drive. Items must be in plastic containers.
- **Senior Scholarship**
 - Kevin Powell presented 4 potential essay prompts. A vote was taken (those with seniors refrained from voting) and the one with the most votes won.
 - Kevin will update the application with the prompt and forward to Donna Welch at the CGS office tomorrow so that she can get it distributed to all of the Seniors.
 - **Position Descriptions**
 - Maria Arner mentioned that we need to develop position descriptions in the next couple of months so that people know what they’re taking on when they agree to take a position. It was also discussed that position binders be put together for each position in order to make transitions easier.
 - Diane O’Hara brought up the idea of a “Currier” position. This person would be responsible for going to all of the sites to pick up tickets for events such as Fall Social and Snow Ball. It was mentioned that it takes about 3 hours to go to every site.

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- **Teacher Appreciation:**
 - Riverbend site: teachers have been fed every month.
 - Lori Taylor from the Spotsy site has done the following: lunch for Halloween, dinner on conference night, dinner before break, and baked goods for the bus drivers.
 - Stafford site: September - gave treats to the teachers; October - gourds of treats; November chili, cornbread, and brownies; December – gift cards; January – restock teachers’ supply pantry.
 - Cathy Close from the Colonial Forge site did a ham dinner with the fixins’ before the holiday break. Thank you to Mrs. Grigsby for forwarding the Sign-Up Genius to the Forge parents.

Kudos & Good News:

- Jadzia Lecea, and Cody Balloek from the Spotsy site had their art displayed.
- Fiona Gordon (a Junior) will be going to Belgium for a judo trip; part of Project 2024, getting ready for the Olympics.
- Brianna Wallace (a Junior) made the mid-Atlantic flute choir.
- Katherine Calvert received a scholarship from VCU that is almost a full-ride.
- Rebekah Bautista received a scholarship from Dominion Electric. Cash was also given to her high school and CGS.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Next PTO meeting – February 10, 2020 at 7 p.m. - Central Rappahannock Library – Headquarters/ Downtown Branch

Prepared by:

Maria Elena Arner, 2019-2020 CGS PTO Secretary