

CGS PTO Meeting – October 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 online via Zoom.

Members present: Michael Hart, Jennifer Grigsby, Maria Arner, Marisha Lecea, Denise Wallace, Jack O'Brien, Kristen Garvie, Kathrina Urann, Deann Fairfax, Tracie Short, Kerry Childers, Mary Becelia, William Clark, Ingrid Fitzpatrick, Tammie Morris, Lynda Francis, Jennifer Crisp, Olga Janicki, Theresa Aberg, Tamara Quick, John Bertotti, Crystal Larrazolo, Linda & Curt Ames, Kim Carryer, Joy Enre, V. Humphries, Kerry McShea, Carol Schaller, Olena Romanova, Melissa Rice, Vanessa Sekenger, Qili Rong

Secretary's report: Maria Arner – Marisha Lecea made a motion to approve the September 14, 2020 minutes as written. Theresa Aberg seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**.

Treasurer's report: Marisha Lecea

- Bank balances as of October 1, 2020:
 - Checking: \$7,779.38
 - Money Market: \$10,402.27
- There was a Square deposit for \$2,743.83
- There was a teller deposit for \$120.00
- The math award checks have not cashed yet.
- Memberships are still coming in.
- Received a thank-you note from Rebecca Batusta for her scholarship.

Membership report: Denise Wallace

- We have 195 members as of today.
- Marisha Lecea has 2 more teacher memberships and 8 more family memberships.

Merchandise Report: Michael Hart for Diane O'Hara

- Planning on placing an order for the holidays.

Director's report: Jennifer Grigsby

- **Hybrid**
 - Spotsy and Riverbend started hybrid today. Wednesday is their Asynchronous day.
 - King George is assessing the stats weekly and has a divided Board.
 - Caroline is all virtual for the first semester.
 - Stafford County is all virtual for the first semester.
 - Students will attend 2 days on site, in person teaching and 2 days at home virtual with teacher.
- **Faculty Meeting**
 - Going to send a survey on how students are feeling.
 - Homework should be 30minutes/night/subject for a max of 2 hours/night.
 - The WiFi is spotty at the Spotsy site.
 - Students want more “structure” on Asynchronous days; maybe time to review tests.
- Over the past several years the workload has lessened. The thought is quality over quantity.
 - There has been no significant reduction in AP scores.
 - 2020 – 72% pass rate.
 - 2019 – 74% pass rate.
 - 2018 – 74% pass rate.
 - This year students will need extra time outside of class to prepare for the AP tests.

- **College-board tests**
 - PSAT-10; taken sophomore year; each division is different about giving it.
 - PSAT – taken junior year; qualifier for National Merit Scholarships.
 - SAT – can be taken any time after taking Algebra III and geometry. Usually taken the end of sophomore year; beginning of junior year.

Old Business:

- **Merchandise distribution** – 98% of the merchandise was delivered to the sites. “Site” was not required on the form; a change needed for the next order.
- Michael Hart believes that one of the “missions” of the PTO is to enhance the scholastic and social experiences of the students.
- **Fall Social** – What do the **students** want regarding socialization?
 - The CGS activities since Covid started (Senior Celebration and freshman orientation) both had to be approved by all respective counties before they were allowed to take place and met the strict guidelines in place for large gatherings.
 - There are stringent guidelines we have to follow for any activity.
 - Mrs. Grigsby will let the Governing Board know that some members of the PTO would like to have an in-person event for CGS students. Some also indicated they do not support an in-person activity. She will check with central office about limitations for a social gathering per site if an in-person event were held.
 - Could be a grade-level only activity.
 - Could be a site-only activity.
 - Smaller events would mean more groups, which would mean more cost.
 - Maria Arner commented that the PTO is not in the business of “making money” and has carried a large balance for several years. If we need to dip into "savings" that is not the end of the world.
 - Vanessa Sekenger will look into a possible virtual event; talent show or musical event.
 - Maybe a freshman at each site could help draw out participation.

New Business:

- None

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- **Spotsy Teacher Appreciation** – Kristen Garvie reported that Amazon gift cards were given to the teachers.

Kudos & Good News:

- The students survived the first 9 weeks.
- At the Forge site, 2 parents reported that their students are having success meeting with teachers. The parents are sending positive emails to the teachers.



- The Commonwealth Governor’s School
- Commonwealth Governor’s School PTO

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Next PTO meeting – November 9, 2020 at 7 p.m. – via Zoom.

Prepared by: Maria Elena Arner, 2020-2021 CGS PTO Secretary