

CGS PTO Meeting – September 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 online via Zoom.

Members present: Michael Hart, Jennifer Grigsby, Maria Arner, Marisha Lecea, Diane O’Hara, Denise Wallace, Jack O’Brien, Ann Baker, Kristen Garvie, Kathrina Urann, Deann Fairfax, Doug Berndt, Melissa Berndt, Shivani Singh, Kim Bohn, Tracie Short, Kerry Childers, Mona Jani, Suzanne Haskell, Mary Becelia, Kerry McShea, Regina C., Lori Smith, Susan Kiddie, Michelle Chaudoir, W. Clark, Ingrid Fitzpatrick, Tammie Morris, Lynda Francis, Rachel Glauber, Emily Cloe, Jennifer Crisp, Tripp, Kim Carryer, Deborah, Olga, George, Regina, Jbertotti

Secretary’s report: Maria Arner – Marisha Lecea made a motion to approve the August 10, 2020 minutes as written. Lynda Francis seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**. Starting with the October 2020 meeting, parents must be CGS PTO members to get the meeting reminders.

Treasurer’s report: Marisha Lecea

- Bank balances as of August 31, 2020:
 - Checking: \$7,269.98
 - Money Market: \$10,402.18
- Received \$78.51 from AmazonSmile.
- Mrs. Grigsby has math checks and will mail to winners.

Membership report: Denise Wallace

- Memberships are \$30/family and \$10/staff member.
- We have 119 members as of today.
- Mrs. Grigsby will send an email to parents reminding them to join the CGS PTO.
- Budget goal is to have 230 members.

Merchandise Report: Diane O’Hara

- We had ~100 clothing orders. We get \$2 per clothing order.
- We will be receiving a ~\$400 check from the vendor.
- We prepurchased 32 t-shirts (of the student design) in limited sizes. Cost was \$526.34.
- We’re thinking about doing a second order before the holidays.

Director’s report: Jennifer Grigsby

- **Senior Symposium** – date set for April 21, 2021 at 6:00PM at the UMW Stafford site.
- **Senior Recognition Ceremony** – date set for May 23, 2021 at 3:00PM at the Fredericksburg Expo Center. Plan is to do 3 sites at one time.
- **Mandatory report for Governor Northam’s Office**
 - Putting together a diversity report.
 - Our program is 35% minority students and 65% white. Of the 35% minority students, 1% are American Indian/Alaska Native, 11% are Asian, 9% are Black, 7% are Hispanic, 1% are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 7% are two or more races. The four school divisions combined have 49% minority students and 51% white students.
 - The demographics of the applicant pool and those accepted into the program are closely matched (within 3%). Applicants were 41% minority students and 59% white. Students accepting their seat in the program were 38% minority students and 62% white.
 - Changes are being made to the application process to make it more equitable for all and to increase the number of applicants from diverse backgrounds applying to the program.

- The Governor’s School Task Force being led by the VA Secretary of Education did not represent all Governor’s Schools.
 - Only four out of 19 Governor’s School directors were invited to participate.
 - Thomas Jefferson and Maggie Walker are currently being targeted as schools where a pilot program dictated by the state needs to be implemented to address admissions concerns in regard to diversity.
- There is a Governing Board meeting on Thursday.
- Students should have their cameras turned on during class (unless there is a bandwidth issue).
- Plan is to coordinate for students to “meet” online for lunch.
- If students are having issues in a class, they need to follow the following protocol: reach out to their teacher first to try and resolve the issue. If issue isn’t resolved, then the parents should reach out to the teacher then to Mrs. Grigsby.
- Teachers should be posting their class videos online.

Old Business:

- **Fall Social** – Lynda Francis and Vanessa Sekinger haven’t discussed it yet due to waiting to see how open schools and businesses will be in the fall.

New Business:

- **None**

Committee and/or VP Reports:

- **Teacher Appreciation**
 - **Colonial Forge** – sent electronic Panera gift cards to all teachers at the beginning of the year.
 - **Riverbend** – got Panera gift cards. Mrs. Grigsby thanked the CGS PTO.
 - Denise Wallace will send parent lists to Teacher Appreciation chairs.
 - For now, Teacher Appreciation Chairs should stick with virtual “gifts”.

Kudos & Good News:

- **None**



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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18.

Next PTO meeting – October 12, 2020 at 7 p.m. – via Zoom.

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