

## CGS PTO Meeting – November 9, 2020

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

**Members present:** Michael Hart, Jennifer Grigsby, Maria Arner, Marisha Lecea, Jack O'Brien, Kristen Garvie, Kathrina Urann, Tracie Short, Kerry Childers, Ingrid Fitzpatrick, Tammie Morris, Lynda Francis, Jennifer Crisp, Venice Humphries, Vanessa Sekinger, Shivani Singh, Rebeca Malin, Nick Bohn, Diane O'Hara, Anthony & Kai Hatzis

**Secretary's report: Maria Arner** – Marisha Lecea made a motion to approve the October 12, 2020 minutes as written. Lynda Francis seconded the motion and they were **unanimously approved**.

### **Treasurer's report: Marisha Lecea**

- Bank balances as of October 31, 2020:
  - Checking: \$8,427.04
  - Money Market: \$10,402.36
- Square deposits totaled \$454.18 for memberships.
- There was a teller deposit of \$706.00 on 10/16/20.
- There is one math award check for \$12.50 that hasn't cleared yet.

### **Membership report: Denise Wallace via email**

- We have 205 members as of today.

### **Merchandise Report: Diane O'Hara**

- We earned \$330 on the original merchandise drive.
- Next time we need to provide step-by-step instructions. Students' name and site MUST be listed on the form.
- Would like to have a winter sale with a 2-week sale period.
- All monies we make from here on out will be pure profit.
- Do we want a new color scheme for CGS? After discussion it was decided to keep the colors for official purposes, but it's fine for the student-designed shirt to be a different color.

### **Director's report: Jennifer Grigsby**

#### **Application Updates**

- Currently, Mrs. Grigsby is doing virtual middle school sessions by county. This has been a complicated process since students are not in person and have to login to the sessions.
- Family Information Nights (one per county) will occur in November and December.
  - KG – November 17, 2020 at 5pm
  - Caroline – TBD
  - Spotsylvania – December 3 & 5, 2020 at 6pm
  - Stafford – December 8, 2020 at 6pm
- Applications open in early to mid-December and close in mid- to late January.
- Application process has been altered slightly:
  - Academic Section
    - Ability Test
    - Achievement Tests (Math & English)
    - GPA

- Recommendations
  - 4 recommendations will be requested.
  - Will add the 3 highest recommendations together for final score.
  - Changed the process to reduce teacher bias.
- Interview/Portfolio
  - 10 minutes interview with panel of educators.
  - 5-10 minute presentation of portfolio projects that reflect love of learning and show research abilities, creative thinking, and what makes you you.
- Honors/Awards Section was completely REMOVED.
  - This was to ensure equal access for students from varying socioeconomic backgrounds.

### **Fall Social**

- All school divisions support a virtual fall social event only at this time. Due to the rise in cases in the area, an in-person social event would be difficult to maintain appropriate mitigation strategies and keep students safe. Additionally, not all students would be able to participate. If we are moving forward with this event, Mrs. Grigsby recommends it occurring before winter break.

### **Workload**

- Students should have seen a decrease in workload since the past meeting. Teachers have intentionally slowed the pace in classes and are omitting some assignments each unit to ensure students are having a balanced approach to their learning.
- Students who choose to take AP exams should be prepared to attend extra study sessions and independently review materials to prepare for the exams.

### **Return to Learn Plan**

- Currently, Spotsylvania County is the only county participating in hybrid learning. However, since the hybrid plan started, there has been a decrease in numbers of students participating in this option as cases have risen in the area and in the schools or students realize the in-school environment isn't what they expected.
- King George, Caroline, and Stafford Counties are all planning to look at in-person or hybrid return to learn plans for the second Semester for high school-age students.

### **CGS Diversity Steering Committee**

- Prior to winter break, Mrs. Grigsby would like to host the first virtual CGS Diversity Steering Committee meeting. At this meeting, she will review the Diversity Improvement Plan that was submitted to the VDOE and Governor Northam's office. We will discuss thoughts and ideas regarding the plan, and create subcommittees to discuss various components of the plan including action steps for different categories. She is tentatively considering December 15 at 6pm for the meeting. Once confirmed, she will send out the date to all the families, students, and representatives who volunteered for the committee.

### **VDOE Evaluation**

- CGS is up to be evaluated this school year by the VDOE. Each evaluation occurs in six-year cycles, and CGS will be evaluated in the spring. Traditionally, the PTO helps put together an evening event for our evaluators, parent committee, student committee, Governing Board, and central office staff/superintendents. If the evaluation occurs in person, will the CGS PTO be willing to support this event again this year? The evaluation dates are April 12-14, 2021, and the event will occur on the night of April 13.

### **Old Business:**

- None

### **New Business:**

- None

### **Committee and/or VP Reports:**

- None

### **Kudos & Good News:**

- Marisha Lecea offered a shoutout to Mr. Letellier (History teacher at Riverbend) for working with her daughter for an hour reviewing.
- Diane O'Hara offered a shoutout to all of the teachers at the Spotsy site for helping her autistic son.
- Lynda Francis offered a shoutout to the teachers at the Stafford site for doing a great job with conferences.



- The Commonwealth Governor's School
- Commonwealth Governor's School PTO

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56.

Next PTO meeting – January 11, 2021 at 7 p.m. – via Zoom.

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