

The Commonwealth Governor's School

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CGS Governing Board Meeting Agenda- Minutes

Spotsylvania County School Board Office
8020 River Stone Drive, Fredericksburg, VA – Conference Room I
Minutes: September 21, 2023, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Attendance:

- Caroline – Dr. Autumn Nabors (superintendent designee), Mr. John Copeland (board primary representative)
- King George – Dr. Jesse Boyd (superintendent), Mr. Matthew Roles (board primary representative)
- Spotsylvania – Ms. April Gillespie @ 4:05pm (primary board representative), Mr. Mark Taylor @ 4:05pm (superintendent), Ms. Tatiana Kooistra (fiscal agent finance representative)
- Stafford – Dr. Sarah Chase (primary board representative), Dr. Thomas Taylor (superintendent)
- Regional Office – Mrs. Jennifer Grigsby (regional director), Mrs. Heidi Robison (program manager & clerk of the board)
- Guest – Mr. Kevin Ramsey (retired CGS Network Engineer), Mr. James Conlee (CGS Mathematics Teacher)

Call to Order (4:00pm)

Roll Call (sign in sheet)

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of September 21, 2023 Agenda

Mr. Copeland made a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Roles seconded the motion.
Motion carried 3-0.

Citizen Comments - none

Board Members' Comments

- Dr. Chase talked to a CFHS parent that was pleased with how the teachers handled the content and communication of the books students are reading in CGS English class.

Superintendents' Comments

- Dr. Taylor
 - Intro of Dr. Autumn Nabors standing in for Dr. Calveric – Caroline County Public Schools
 - Dr. Taylor and Mrs. Grigsby have had productive monthly meetings over the summer.

- Dr. Boyd
 - He is excited for another great year with CGS.
- Dr. Nabors
 - Students are happy with CGS, and she has heard great things.

Program Counselor's Report

- 2022-2023 Snapshot
- 2022-2023 Exit Data- 38 students exited out of 598
 - Questions:
 - Dr. Chase – Curious how many students exited by county. What are the take a ways for this data, plans to focus for next year? Mrs. Grigsby – Retention strategies are working, there is more buy-in from families. We did a better job of supporting students with social and emotional issues. Drop in exits 9% last year (2021-2022) and 6% (2022-2023).
 - Mr. Roles – Asked about Courtland HS exits and the why.
 - Mrs. Gillespie – We don't know why people are moving. Do we have any more data? Maybe military families. Mrs. Grigsby shared that exit data is collected for each student with specifics, but that only the summary information is shared with the board. Mr. Conlee – students that leave the program tend to be traveling students. Two of the schools travel to Spotsy HS. Travel isn't a concern for Stafford County any more due to change in model where CGS students transfer to CGS site HS.
 - Mr. Taylor – Stated he would have expected Chancellor HS to be higher than Courtland due to having a new principal.

Director's Report

- CGS New Student Orientation at Stafford HS – July 26, 2023 - positive feedback on surveys
- CGS PTO Picnic – August 6, 2023 - 600 people attended – extra food donated to fire department and homeless shelter
- CGS PTO Fall social – Belvedere - October 22, 2023 - \$30
- Field experiences – Completed, upcoming, and new trips (Philadelphia) - interdisciplinary Chemistry and AP US History. Mr. Roles questioned Colonial Williamsburg's experience, a city during the age of enlightenment. Students go around and collect evidence to support or refute argument that Williamsburg was or was not a City of Enlightenment.
- Back to School update – all sites running, no instructional openings, searching for IT Engineer. Counselor position posted.
- Observations in August which will continue throughout the school year.
- During the transition of IT Engineer we had a Cyber vulnerable situation – Dr. Taylor asked if we could come up with pros and cons of having CGS Network Engineer vs. using the counties' technology staff.
- CGS Application process – Director met with entire region (and separately with Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties since they have new liaisons) and those involved in the process to ensure everyone was doing the process the same way. All counties use the same process, but may use different tests (OLSAT vs. COGAT, MAP vs. Iowa, etc.)

during implementation. We are seeing more diverse student applying which better represents the participating counties.

- Dr. Chase asked for the next directors' report if the board could see the CGS program strategic goals and plan for the next meeting. Director will electronically send her personal SMART goal to the board.
- After orally reading Mrs. Grigsby's personal SMART goal, Dr. Nabors wanted to know how the teachers will measure the impact of their strategies? What other assessments will be used? Mrs. Grigsby responded that currently the units are monthly, so they take unit assessments when completed which mimic the AP exam format and questioning.

Approval of Consent Agenda- Mr. Copeland made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Roles seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

- Mrs. Gillespie questioned from May minutes about the handling of the explicit content. After the May meeting, teachers were asked to mark all the books and send the list out again. Dr. Chase referenced her comments from the Board members comments section of the meeting about CFHS parents being happy about the way CGS handles notification of content of books. All books are listed in the syllabus and they are marked with explicit/implicit sexual content. Additionally, an email goes to parents explaining ALL the themes including sexually explicit content before each unit starts. Parents are informed to notify CGS via email or in writing if they are concerned about any of the sexually explicit content, and CGS will provide an alternate text.
- Informational Items
 - 2022-2023 SOL Testing & AP Testing Results presented by Mr. James Conlee, CGS Riverbend HS Site Mathematics Teacher
 - Dr. Chase questioned why only one student would need to take the VA & US History SOL. Director stated that the student may have moved into VA and needed the credit to graduate.
 - Mr. Roles – Asked how well the SOL test corresponds to AP exams. They are not correlated.
 - 71.29% pass rate on AP exams. Total test taken (1247), most tests ever taken by CGS students
 - Dr. Nabors – With the 59% pass rate for European History, does it make CGS question the program of studies? Every 3-5 years it gets revisited. College course that CGS 9th graders are taking.
 - AP Physics scores - 2023 pass rate 32%.
 - Questioned why it was so low. Director explained that by the time seniors are taking Physics, many have already taken enough AP exams to receive all the credit most colleges will allow. Thus, many students choose not to take the AP Exam.
 - At the gifted conference, the Director talked with the principal at TJGS and their scores dropped too.
 - Spotsylvania HS vs. RHS – why different class sizes are different. Physics teachers are looking at ways to improve student scores. Sample sizes affect scores.

- Mrs. Gillespie questioned whether students had to take the AP test to receive AP credit. They are not required to take the exam, but they must take and pass the exam to receive college credit.
 - Mr. Roles questioned whether students had to take a final exam if they did not take the AP exam. No divisions require final exams.
 - Everyone was reminded that KGHS AP exams for the first week were lost by the College Board during the 2022-2023 school year when reviewing historic data.
 - Dr. Chase recommends that there may be some sort of professional development for the Physics teachers to help the student scores. Director requested to look into it.
- o Final FY23 Actual Spending & Per Pupil Spending Breakdown by Site
- Questions:
 - Dr. Taylor recommends bringing this document back when looking at next year's budget.
 - Mrs. Gillespie questioned the price of the Surface book laptops. Director – Chrome books for students, Surface books for teachers.
 - Dr. Chase science expense, culminating and all subjects' expenses. Director – students are responsible for culminating, sometimes sites purchase supplies to help students. History, new supplemental texts, math calculators, and Science Vernier order. Science teachers are excited about Vernier's new equipment. Dr. Chase, can we get a demonstration of Vernier equipment?
 - Mrs. Gillespie – Field trips are double of any instructional spending. Director: Field trips are field experiences that allow them to practice the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. For example, Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and Chincoteague Field Research Station experiences allow them to do labs and collect data in the field that scientists actually use and become part of the permanent data records.
 - Mrs. Gillespie – Since students don't have to take a final exam or AP exam, we are putting a lot of funds into things they may not use such as science skills like water quality testing. Trips to DC or Richmond would be more helpful. Director: CGS students travel to DC and Richmond often. For example, 10th grade students do Mock Congress field experience in Richmond where they enact legislature passing bills in the General Assembly.
 - Dr. Chase asked if CGS can put some extra funds into Physics Professional Development (PD).
- o Final FY24 Budget Based on September 30, 2023 Enrollment – **DRAFT**
- Questions:
 - Increase in funding due to increase in students (615) \$1,389,173.53. Budget was approved for 611 students. Include technology grant \$26,000.
 - Dr. Taylor - we can add the revenue section to the budget.
 - Mrs. Gillespie – questions about the car. Dr. Chase - Board needs to approve the funds that will be applied toward the car. Dr. Taylor, good time to look at the final budget and what do you need to do

with extra funds (assets). Director recommended...then board action attached to it.

- Mrs. Gillespie – Questioned the car agreement put into place years ago. Mr. Ramsey noted that CGS was reimbursing him \$900-\$1,000 a month in travel prior to the car. It was a position allocated car. Spotsy CPS wanted \$40,000 of funds for CGS to get a new car for regional office use. Dr. Chase the board could make a decision to purchase a car, but that would mean we would not be spending funds for other things. Fiscal agent would have to purchase the car for CGS.
- Dr. Taylor - How do we use salary lapse for counselors and IT engineers?

Action Items

- CGS Constitution – vote on amendments - Mr. Copeland made a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Roles seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- CGS By-Laws – vote on amendments - Mr. Copeland made a motion to approve the agenda, Mrs. Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- CGS Joint Agreement – vote on amendments - Mr. Copeland made a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Roles seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Ramsey asked to address the board:

- Mr. Ramsey had a 4 year plan to transition security to the individual schools and counties. He recommended a Tech team get together and discuss.
- The phones have been moved into the cloud via Zoom.
- Canceled several Verizon services.
- Working to get all of CGS out on the cloud, but that process is mid-cycle and will take several more years.
- Dr. Chase asked the Superintendents to meet and discuss if the cybersecurity could transition to the counties.
- Mrs. Gillespie - When do we discuss the fiscal agent? Answer: January
- Mr. Roles - Where did funds go prior to the counseling position? Instructional materials, field experiences, etc.
- Mr. Roles, how do we subsidize students? We do not. Students are responsible for their own AP/DE fees. (AP exams 1247 at \$97 each = \$120,959)

Adjournment (6:31pm)

Next Meeting Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 4:00 pm
Stafford SBO Executive Session Conference Room
31 Stafford Avenue, Stafford, VA 22554