

George C. Marshall PTSA Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting Due to Pandemic
April 22, 2020

Members present: Carolyn Keehan (President), Sonia Lewis (VP), Maria Robles (Treasurer), Elizabeth Keegan (Secretary), Jeff Litz (Principal) -- via Zoom

1. Welcome: Carolyn Keehan welcomed everyone to the first ever virtual PTSA meeting.
2. President's Report: The minutes from the February meeting were approved. The PTSA sponsored a virtual mock SAT test on April 18, which was a large fundraising success. We had 61 students register to take the test. The PTSA was working on Teacher Wish Lists when schools were closed due to the pandemic. We have a \$5000 budget for that. These will not be fulfilled this year with the school closure, so our intent is to increase that amount for next year and do them earlier in the year. The PTSA will proceed with the 3 end of the year awards – Teacher of the Year, Staff Member of the Year and the Debbie Witherow Award. Students, teachers and parents may submit their nominations via email to Carolyn Keehan @ secretary@gcmptsa.org by May 4th. We will vote on the awards at the May 20th meeting. The award winners will receive a monetary award and a plaque/certificate that will be mailed. Please turn in all receipts for reimbursement as soon as possible as our budget year closes at the end of May. May 20th will be our final meeting of the year and we will be voting on officers.
3. Financial Report: There were few changes to the March budget. Mr. Litz asked to use his entire \$1000 discretionary budget for the Marshall Market, to help our families in need. The Market still has \$1383 available to use, as well as \$3000 in the PayPal account from fundraising. Dianne Gurdak will use the PayPal account to purchase additional grocery gift cards for Luis Sosa to distribute. Rachel Stott, chair of the Market, would like to carry some of the budget over as seed money for next year. The plant sale was canceled and all purchases were refunded by Marie Robles. Liz Margiotta said that it has not yet been determined what will happen with ANGC funds, as they still don't know yet if there will be any sort of graduation or party. One suggestion for the funds is to purchase gifts for the graduates if ANGC doesn't happen. All the ANGC auction items have already been purchased. The college tuition raffle will still happen. ANGC may ask parents, in lieu of a refund on fees, if they would like to donate that money to a charity of the students' choosing. Otherwise ANGC funds will be refunded. We do not yet know if we can proceed with the Field of Honor for Memorial Day.
4. Principal's Report: As everyone knows, Mr. Litz stated that there were significant technological difficulties getting distance learning off the ground, but it seems as they have been resolved. He expects most GCM teachers to be live on Thursday, April 23 and all of them will be by Tuesday. The 3rd quarter has been extended to May 1st but teachers will begin moving on to the 4th quarter work. A survey was sent to seniors and their parents regarding graduation options. FCPS has a central committee working on graduation. FCPS wants parity across the county in what graduation ceremonies look like. Seniors will still get their caps and gowns, cords, etc. regardless. (Delivery method is still TBD.) There should be more information about graduation

announced in the next week or two. School fees that will be refunded for the 4th quarter include parking passes and class fees. Instrument rentals will not be refunded. It is unclear yet whether senior dues will be refunded as that depends on what happens with graduation. Those funds may be needed to hire a film company if graduation is done virtually. There were two planned field trips that will be refunded. Students will still get their IB letters; the deadline for IB oral exams has been extended. Marshall was ranked the 4th high school in VA in a recent US News and World Report ranking, up from 6 last year. We were the #1 IB school in the state, and ranked 2nd in the college readiness index, just behind TJ. Mr. Litz extended a huge thank you to the GCM community for their generosity in helping our need-based families. A question was asked about how standards-based grading will work this year. Mr. Litz stated that teachers will look at each individual student's progress. Teachers will need to provide evidence to support a more than one grade distribution bump. The 4th quarter will not be graded; students will receive either a proficient, attempted, or did not attempt. Yearbooks have been ordered and will be available for pick up when FCPS and the Health Department have deemed it safe. FCPS will NOT be extending school past June 12th. There may be some enrichment courses offered over the summer. Kids may be a bit behind in the fall, particularly in math, but the teachers will work to make that up in the fall. The CDC has warned of a second wave of Covid in the fall so it is possible distance learning may continue into the next school year. No decision has been made on fall sports. Mr. Litz and Cindy Blakely gave an update on GCM's at-risk population. Cindy stated that locating students was a challenge, but they have been successful in getting MiFis to students who needed them and that many kids are able to use their phones for school. Attendance overall was very high for the first day of distance learning on April 14 and teachers were thrilled.

5. Vote on Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee, who will present the candidates for PTSA officers for next year, was approved. Jennifer Manise, Kelly Sund and Susan Skaggs have agreed to serve. Members can self-nominate for a position over the next month by contacting Jennifer Manise. This year's PTSA officers agreed to serve two-year terms but need to be re-elected next month. Members will vote on officers at next month's meeting.

Upcoming dates:

May 4 – Award Nominations due for Teacher of the Year, Staff Member of the Year
May 20 – Final PTSA meeting of the year