

George C. Marshall PTSA Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2020

Members present: Carolyn Keehan (President), Maria Robles (Treasurer), Elizabeth Keegan (Secretary), Jeff Litz (Principal)

1. Presentation by GCM Marching Band members Evan Hellersund, John Glasscock and Jalil Ahmed-Litz: The band was invited to represent the state of Virginia at the 75th Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Parade in early December. 50 students attended (approximately 40% of the band). Through fundraising they reduced the cost of the trip for each student by \$400. They toured battleships and performed in front of the USS Missouri. In addition to educational tours, they were able to sightsee and spend time at the beach. Way to represent, Marching Statesmen!
2. President's Report: Minutes were approved from the November meeting. Student Maria Marks, who won the GCM Reflections Art Contest in the category of "Visual Arts," has also won at the county level and advances to the districts. Congratulations, Maria! The PTSA is sponsoring an SAT prep course over 4 weekends in February and March. The cost is \$600.
3. Financial Report: Marie Robles presented the current budget. We are \$3500 under budget this year, primarily due to low PTSA memberships. We are always accepting memberships and donations. So far, expenses have not been impacted.
4. Principal's Report:
 - January 24 is the end of the second quarter and semester. Semester grades are most important for seniors, as those are sent to their colleges.
 - On February 4 there will be a course kick-off, where students will get to hear an overview of 3 electives they are interested in. This year, for the first time, students will preliminarily register for classes on StudentVue. Teachers will also be meeting individually with students to recommend future courses, then the students will meet with their counselors. Counselors at this point will have both the teacher recommendation and the students' choices. In May, students' course selections will be available on ParentVue. Mr. Litz's primary message to kids is to have BALANCE in their lives. He stated that if kids are doing homework all weekend, they are doing too much or their course load may be too hard. GCM will be working with students to reduce their stress and find the appropriate course load.
 - February 5 is the rising freshmen orientation, beginning at 4:30 or 5 pm.
 - On March 18, the Marshall pyramid is hosting a Digital Citizenship Night at Kilmer Middle School for students and their families. There will be guest speakers to talk about internet safety, social media, etc.
 - 14 Korean exchange students arrived today. They were suited up with Marshall gear and are excited to attend the boys' basketball game on Friday night. On Tuesday, 16 students arrive from China.
5. Committee Reports: None

6. Next PTSA meeting is Thursday, February 6th, where guest speaker Rachel Bailey will be discussing kids and self-esteem.