

George C. Marshall PTSA Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2019

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

1. President's Report: Minutes were approved from the October meeting. The PTSA is hosting an online coffee fundraiser through November 27. We are accepting donations through Pay4SchoolStuff for those looking for end of year tax deductions. Our next meeting is January 15.
2. Financial Report: Marie Robles presented the current budget. We are very low on dues this year, down over \$4000 from last year. We earned \$197 from the SAT fundraiser and are expecting to earn more from the spring session. Our expenses have been low so far, but the majority of expenses occur later in the year.
3. Principal's Report: Mr. Litz stated that the \$50 fee for the computers went out at the end of the first quarter. There was a glitch whereby families on free and reduced lunch were assessed the fee when they should not have been. They should not pay the fee. Cracked computer screens have been the largest problem so far. Report cards are not being mailed anymore in order to save paper. Grades are available on ParentVue and StudentVue. The fall sports banquet went well the night before. Of note, participation in girls wrestling has increased significantly this year and they will be participating in two all-girls tournaments for the first time. The band will be going to Hawaii December 3-10 to march in the Pearl Harbor Day parade. The school board recognized the GCM girl's tennis team for the state championship. We are looking for host families for 20 students from China. On Nov 7th, Marshall was recognized by the VA Department of Education Standards of Accreditation as having the highest SOL pass rate in English, 5th highest in math, and 3rd in science. GCM is still working to reduce chronic absenteeism. The graduation rate last year was 96.84% with 75% of students receiving advanced diplomas.
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. International Night: International Night was a success.
5. Guest Speaker: Jennifer Manise, a GCM parent and executive director of the Longview Foundation, lead a discussion of teens and technology/social media. She highlighted information from Cal Newport's book entitled "Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World."