

George C. Marshall PTSA Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2019

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

1. President's Report: Board introductions were made. Information was provided on how to join the PTSA and receive the PTSA Blast. (Both can be found on the website www.gcmptsa.org). New this year in the Blast is Statesmen Shout Out to recognize people doing extraordinary things for the school. The PTSA-sponsored SAT Boot Camp will be held 9/28 & 9/29. The board still has open positions for the SAT Fundraiser Chair and the Communications Chair, who helps maintain the website, Constant Contact and Pay4SchoolStuff.

The PTSA will be sponsoring Red Ribbon Week in late October, to educate students on the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. There will be various activities at the school, and the PTSA will have a speaker at the October meeting to discuss vaping.

Carolyn Keehan corrected the dates for the class parent coffees: Sophomore/juniors is 9/24 and the seniors is 10/1.

PTSA meetings will be the 3rd Wednesday of each month, except for February. Meeting dates are 10/16, 11/20, 1/15, 2/12, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20.

2. Audit: Marie Robles presented the audit of last year's budget. All the records were found to be in good order. The audit was approved.
3. Budget for 2019-20: Carolyn Keehan presented this year's budget. Of note, All Night Grad Committee (ANGC) gave the PTSA \$5000 for the Marshall Market and \$5000 for the outdoor classrooms. The budget was approved and is attached.
4. Principal's Report: Mr. Litz said the year is off to a good start. Enrollment is down a bit at 2125 students. The integration of the laptops is going well – the school views it as a 3-5 year process to develop the blended learning. Students are encouraged to bring their fully charged laptops every day. Families will be charged \$50 for the computers at the end of the first quarter. Computers will be \$25 for students on reduced lunch, no charge for students on free lunch. SOL exams will be taken on the computers, IB exams will continue to be written. There is a \$30 charge for replacement charging cords. The county will replace the computers every 4 years.

The students had a lockdown drill during lunch today. While things went well, lines to get out of the cafeteria were long given how few doors there are, and the school learned there are no speakers in the senior courtyard to alert students to the lockdown. Mr. Litz believes the drills are necessary and the school will continue to work to improve safety measures.

Attendance will be more of a focus this year, as absenteeism counts as part of the school's state and federal accreditation, regardless of whether or not the absence is an excused one. The absence rate needs to be below 15%, though 10% is ideal. GCM was at 13% last year, up from 11% the year before. Principal Litz believes some of that was due to late graduation last year, and senior absences the last two weeks of school.

Homecoming is Saturday, 10/19 from 8:00-11:30 pm. There is no school on Columbus Day, Monday, 10/14. The PSATs will be on Wednesday 10/16 for sophomores and juniors. There is a two-hour early release that day, 10/16.

There is a new web-based system for Learn this year, and each teacher has a QR code that the student must scan to check in. While the system has had a few glitches early on, it will provide live data as to where students are during Learn time.

Mr. Litz says vaping is epidemic. THC cartridges and homemade Juuls are incredibly dangerous. The PTSA will have a speaker address this problem at the 10/16 meeting.

Graduation is June 1st at 7 pm at the DAR.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. International Night: the date has been set for 11/14. It's an opportunity for GCM to celebrate its cultural diversity. We have 90 countries and 72 languages represented at GCM. There will be cultural displays, entertainment and food. Volunteers are needed.
- b. Reflections Art Contest: The annual art contest, sponsored by state PTAs, accepts all mediums – art, film, music, dance. Submissions are due by 10/18.
- c. Choir: Marshall has five different choirs – 3 are audition only, 2 are open choirs. The first choir concert is 10/16.
- d. Hospitality: Volunteers are needed for the Sign Up Genius emails, to donate food and money for hospitality events for the teachers.