

George C. Marshall PTSA Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2020

Members Present: Carolyn Keehan (President), Althea Benjamin (VP), Maria Robles (Treasurer), Elizabeth Keegan (Secretary), Jeff Litz (Principal) -- via Zoom

1. President's Report: Carolyn welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the board members. She encouraged everyone to join the PTSA this year, either using the paper form on the website (gcmptsa.org) or Pay4SchoolStuff. Pay4SchoolStuff is used for PTA related expenses while MySchoolBucks is used to pay for school-related items. PTSA membership is down so far this year. She explained the weekly email blast which updates the GCM community on PTSA and school events. We will be offering both mock SAT/ACT tests and boot camp test preparation again this year through our partner, Novastar Prep. The Reflections art contest will be taking place this year and we are in urgent need of a chairman to coordinate the program. We would like everyone to complete a survey to see what topics are of interest for future PTSA meetings. In October we have a speaker coming from "The Study Pro" who will speak about making distance learning work for your child.
2. Audit Report: The PTSA budget year ended in June. Karen Degido was on the committee who recently conducted the audit. She reported that everything was well documented and in order. The audit report was approved and will be sent to the Virginia PTA.
3. Budget: Marie explained the challenges in creating a PTSA budget this year, given the uncertainties of the pandemic and whether previous events/activities will occur. We moved more money to the Marshall Market, and last year's ANGC donated \$2000 to the market as well, anticipating a greater need this year. We have @ \$15,000 in receipts right now and @ \$38,000 in anticipated expenses, with cash on hand from last year. ANGC has not provided their budget yet, so Marie will wait to provide a final budget for approval until October.
4. Principal's Report: Mr. Litz stated that @ 300 seniors took the SAT test in school this week and things went "flawlessly." The kids were clearly happy to see each other and the staff was happy to see them. Juniors will take the PSAT in school on October 29. The PSAT will not be given to freshmen and sophomores this year. Back to School Night went well on September 16 and attendance was higher than normal. Textbooks were distributed to 1000 students this week. Kids who missed picking their books up can attend the makeup date on September 29; they will receive an email notification. Demand for the Marshall Market (our food distribution service for families in need) has increased this year from 30 families to 50. The counselors conducted a survey this summer and a larger number of families reported either a loss or reduction in income, lost jobs, or having to move because of the pandemic. Weekly progress reports will be sent beginning October 5. First quarter ends on October 30 and November 2-3 are student holidays. Mr. Litz believes the two-hour early releases currently on the school calendar will stand. There has been an outpouring of support from the Marshall community for Jett Han, a senior who died unexpectedly this week. The staff is working with the family to determine how best to recognize him. A foundation has been started in his honor. Marshall had virtual and in-

person counseling available to the kids this week which was well attended. On Friday, Mr. Litz will be emailing parents a list of mental health resources. Teachers and staff know that distance learning is difficult on students, and they will be watching closely for signs of distress. There was recently an episode of social media ugliness and unacceptable things being said. Mr. Litz stressed the importance of parents talking to their kids about these issues. No formal decision has been made on snow days this year, given virtual learning. We do not yet know what IB testing will look like this year. Starting in October, about 3.5% of students will begin coming into the school on a limited basis. These include special needs students and some Academy classes, followed next by special education and ESOL students. Dr. Braband's metrics must be met before bringing students into the school. Teachers are doing smaller, more frequent quizzes and tests in class.

5. Committee Reports: There were no reports.

6. Upcoming dates:
 - 10/3 - ACT Mock Test
 - 10/10 - SAT Mock Test
 - 10/17-18 - SAT Bootcamp
 - 10/21 - PTSA Mtg., 7:00 p.m. - The Study Pro

PTSA Meeting Dates: Oct 21, Nov 18, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17, April 21, May 19