

George C. Marshall PTSA Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2022

Board Members Present: Julie Lubbe (president), Tara Henigan (vice president), Elizabeth Keegan (secretary), Christine Neville (treasurer), Jeff Litz (principal)

President's Report:

Julie welcomed all attendees and introduced the 2022-23 PTSA board members. Christine Neville was voted in as treasurer. Julie announced open PTSA committee positions, including Special Education chair, Parliamentarian, and freshman class parents. Upcoming PTSA events include: an ice cream social for ANGC on 9/17; SAT prep classes are ongoing; Reflections art contest submissions are due by 10/31 and this year's theme is "Show Us Your Voice"; the Harlem Wizards will be at GCM on 10/7; on 10/20 there will be a wine-tasting and parent social at Vienna Vintner. PTSA meetings will be held the third Wednesday of every month. Ann Dolin will be speaking at the October meeting (10/19) on executive functioning in the high school years.

Financial Report:

Christine Neville presented the 2022-23 budget and financial report. The PTSA currently has \$90,000 cash on hand. We've raised \$23,000 so far this year and spent \$11,000. The Class of 2022 donated \$10,000 to Principal Litz to purchase 8 new picnic tables for the courtyards as a class gift and \$2200 to the Marshall Market. As is tradition, the Class of 2022 donated the balance of their ANGC funds to the Class of 2023. Attendees asked several questions about specific line items in the budget: Academic Letters are varsity letters for students with a 3.7 GPA for the year; Junior Focus Day brings guest speakers in to discuss with students life beyond high school; International Night is an event to celebrate GCM's diverse culture with foods of the world and student performances. The budget was approved. The audit of last year's budget was also approved.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Litz introduced himself and noted that this is his 16<sup>th</sup> year at GCM. There are 2104 students currently enrolled, including 555 freshmen. He stated that teachers were exhausted after last year but came back to school energized, and the year is off to an overall positive start. Homecoming is next week and there will be spirit days all week, a pep rally, football game and dance on Saturday night. Ticket sales for the dance are way down this year. The bell schedule is different this year, due to the change in Advisory period. There is now more time allotted for students to get additional support during school hours. Mr. Litz said he will discuss Advisory more in depth at the parent coffees. There has been a large increase in the number of middle schoolers attending football games, and it has become problematic for GCM staff to supervise. GCM's priority is to focus on the safety of its own students and fans. The county may be clamping down and require that all students be accompanied by a parent. Arlington has enacted strict safety measures for football games. Marshall has four new counselors this year, and eight in total. Parent coffees with Mr. Litz will be held beginning next week (freshman 9/27, sophomores and juniors 9/28, and seniors 10/6). October 12<sup>th</sup> is PSAT (all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

graders) and SAT Day; freshmen will have asynchronous work from home. Marshall did very well on IB exams last year: of 23 exams taken, 80% passed or better, we exceeded the world average on 16 exams, and had a 100% pass rate for the Math HL exam. To hear more directly from students about issues and concerns, Mr. Litz will be hosting get togethers with 30 students two times per month, beginning in October. Students will be able to sign up for these sessions. Graduation is tentatively scheduled for June 7, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

#### Committee Reports:

The sophomore class needs a few more parent representatives. Academic Letters is looking for an individual to shadow committee chairs and take over next year. The Marshall Market, which serves food insecure families, is currently assisting around 30 families. A bag is sent home with non-perishable foods every other week; toiletries and feminine products are also available. The Market has also collected GCM spirit wear to make available to students. Special baskets go out before Thanksgiving and the holiday breaks. The Youth Military Liaison Organization sponsors the Field of Honor for both Veteran's and Memorial Days. GCM is the only school in the county to do this. The YMLO is hosting a tailgate party for the Homecoming game, and all are invited.

The next PTSA meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.