**January CASC Meeting**

**Synopsis**: The Calvert Association of Student Councils meeting was held on teams. The meeting took place on Monday January 11th, 2021. During the meeting, students were given information about an upcoming environmental service project for CASC. Students also discussed the climate of CASC, how to make CASC more diverse and inclusive, and how to raise CASC awareness. It was decided that the CASC executive board meetings would be changed to the name CASC Meetings because all students are welcome.

**Present**

All but one executive board member was present. There were around 39 people in attendance.

2. **Call to order**

Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:29.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

*The agenda was approved*

1. **Old Business**

American Chestnut Land Trust service project

On Saturday January 16th, 10-12pm CASC will be volunteering at the American Chestnut Land Trust.

* Everyone will meet up at the barn.
* Volunteers will be helping remove invasive vine species from the trails.
* This service project shows CASC cares about environment and wants to help the community.
* Everyone needs to wear a mask even though we're outside.
* Contact the SWCs Eden, Hailey, and Grace if you have any questions. Contact information is on the CASC website. <https://calvertasc.weebly.com/>

1. **Roundtable**

Destiny and Paige led a roundtable discussion about CASC climate, making CASC more diverse and inclusive, and increasing CASC awareness.

* They also mentioned a response to the anti-racism policy saying many people were uncomfortable with the conversation. Students were told to be open to learn about different ethnicities and have these types of conversations.

* SWCS and Andrew are doing a video about what CASC is to bring more awareness. On the next sign up form for presenting a workshop at the next GA, students can sign up to be in the video they are making.

There's been more people at the CASC meetings.

* Jordan talked about creating a CASC brochure to get incoming middle schoolers interested about CASC.

* One student, Sophia mentioned coming to her first meeting as CASC liason for her school. She said at first she was a little intimidated by CASC but when she went to her first meeting, she felt really welcomed. She felt like her opinion mattered.

* Madelynn mentioned reaching out to the 6th graders at the middle schools. She proposed working on a video over the summer so we can advertise more.

* Andrew made videos talking about CASC and MASC. He feels like it can be better utilized.

* CASC is more involved in the northern county. The kids in the southern half are feeling not as included. We should work harder to reach out to everyone.

* There is a stigma for high schoolers to be involved in CASC. Its overpowered by the middle schoolers. The High school opinion is sometimes not taken as seriously because there are less people in High school in CASC.

* Northern Middle School has a CASC announcement to keep sga members informed.

Grace made sure to add that a leadership position does not mean you have more power or that others' voices don’t matter.

Mrs. Lewis was happy with everyone for having this discussion.

* Its not always about the title its about getting things done. She pushes all her leaders no matter their position.
* The goal should be to better the CASC environment. If you are here for just a position, CASC is not the place for you.
* What you do in the community is going to push the CASC presence in the community. Utilize this platform.
* CASC used to be run by the southern part of the county. It’s a lot about the advisor. Mrs. Jackson greatly increased Northern's participation. It may switch or change again depending on advisors and the group of students.

Eden asked when the form for the video and to sign up for workshop presenting will be sent out and where people can find it. Addison said its always sent to the CASC website, social media, and the advisors.

* There is a disproportionate representation between the south and northern ends of the county. Jenna said she's been advocating for this for a long time. If we can work towards equal representation that would be great. A lot of people stop participating after middle school.

* I (Paige) talked about how important diversity and inclusion is. I said that I felt less than when I came to CASC and I was afraid to speak up because I thought others would judge me.
* I talked about the importance of being welcoming when someone new comes because that can establish their complete opinion about CASC.

* Addison talked about how when she and I (Paige) attended our first election, all the candidates where calling out our school, whms on not attending CASC meetings.
* We were upset because we had no idea those meetings were going on. No one took the time to inform us about the meetings. She shouted out Thomas for being one of the first people to come and talk to her.

* Abby suggested we rename the meetings as a "CASC meeting" instead of a "CASC Executive Board Meeting." That way everyone knows they’re welcome and the meeting isnt just for executive board members.
* Abby mentioned that Mrs. Lewis pushed her to run for a position. She learned a lot of valuable lessons from that election and she carried them to her next elections. A lot of people also found out who she was from that.

She recommended everyone come to a CASC meeting before running. If you come to one you become more confident and get to know more people.

* Sheala said thanks to the Advisors for helping the students develop. They are the ones who truly helped everyone grow and become better leaders.

* Bella talked about how she went to CASC and it was high school dominated. Its important to remember we're working towards a common goal. It doesn’t matter age, school, or if you have beef. All that matters is we advocate for students. That means getting a diverse group of schools, ages, and ideas.

* Devante agreed that CASC should change the name of their meetings. He said CASC seemed so exclusive and elite when he came. It seemed like a group that had all their stuff together and would be hard to get into.

* Zoe said that everyone made CASC seem like an elite and exclusive club. However once she got involved it was welcoming and everything worked out. It was its shell or appearance from the outside.

Keep appealing to everyone. Change the idea of what CASC is.

* Madelynn talked about a mentor program at her school and pairing them up with someone who was older and knew more about CASC to help students.

* I talked about having people who everyone can reach out to during CASC general assemblies. Just in case they're confused they can text or email them to get information.

* Devante said that if we had different peer groups and if we had different groups that stretched across schools it would be nice to bridge the gap between the southern and northern halves.

<https://calvertasc.weebly.com/>

1. **SMOB Report**

Abby asked for problem solving help to get more students to respond to her survey's. Abby said she sent a survey out for high schoolers.

* I suggested she ask administration to give it out during class so the students have it right in front of them and it doesn’t seem like extra work.

* Mrs. Lewis said to contact a local reporter to get the Calvert recorder to include information about the survey to get people to participate.
* She also said to utilize the school news for every school. Abby can create a slide and send it to the school news from each school so students will see it.

* Mr. Goldstein said he'll give the survey to the student government at Patuxent.

* Jordan said principals don’t know some of the students she's trying to reach so going through administration might be difficult.
* She recommended that schools send the survey out to parents in the weekly blast most schools do.

* David talked about making it mandatory. David said people could also do a roundtable instead and discuss the questions on the survey. Then facilitators could send her the feedback.

* Grace said use the online environment to her advantage. Ask administration to send a group of students to talk to Abby about their experience. She can meet with them virtually.

Abby said she would probably do a combination of some of the things above.

She mentioned everyone being upset about the hybrid plan being canceled. They had a definite date that students would return to school and now no one knows when students will be able to return.

Abby said the Anti racism policy was approved 4-1. There was a lot of controversy about it and a lot of discussions. The policy solidifies that the board and the administration stands behind you and will stand behind you if you have any issues.

1. **MASC Report**

Madelynn gave the MASC report because the MASC liaison Juliana had technical difficulties.

**Legislative Session-** Saturday February 20th

* Must register through your advisor.
* Registration opens this Friday the 15th and closes February 6th
* You can find the link on the MASC website <https://mdstudentcouncils.org/>
* Cost is $10 for delegates and advisors and $8 for approved workshop presenters

During Legislative Session delegates will participate in electing the final candidates for SMOB (Student Member on the State Board of Education)

Note\* *Students will also attend workshops that will inform them about what the SMOB does, as well as other important information.*

1. **Advisor Report**

Registration for legislative session opens this Friday the 15th.

* $10 for regular students. $8 for presenters.
* Your advisors must register you.
* Speak with your advisor about the event. Contact Mr. Goldstein if you don’t hear back within a week

Legislative Session is 9-2:45 February 20th.

* Expect to be there the whole day and to elect the SMOB finalists

Monday Feb 8th is the next CASC meeting

Friday February 19th will be SMOB Elections for CASC

* Applications went out before winter break.
* They are due by this Friday the 15th.
* Primary elections for schools with more than one SMOB candidate must happen before the GA and more information about the election timeline is in the packet.
* Candidates will deliver their speeches in the board room. They will receive their question there. We need to figure out a way to screen the questions before everyone says them.
* Candidates must receive half plus one of the votes.
* There will be a total of 28 votes, 4 per high school and 2 per middle school.
* If no majority is reached there will be a runoff with the top two candidates.

CASC has made significant strides since Mr. Goldstein became the advisor in 2001.

* There has been a dramatic increase in attendance at monthly meetings and general assemblies.
* General assemblies started as 60-70 people, we now have over 200.
* Executive boards were 10-15 people and that number has almost doubled
* That’s a testiment to the work we have all done. However we still need to work to be kind and inclusive.
* We currently have around 6 workshops 3 roundtables at each GA, we used to have 2 workshops and 1 roundtable

Pride ourselves on reaching out to people for CASC.

The honesty can only help. Our job is to make sure no one feels intimidated when they come to these meetings. It's not just talk.

SGA is a commitment of time at all levels. We’re all busy. We all have lots of interests. Its as good as the time we put into it. We look forward to returning to all the things we look forward to.

He's proud of the number to the people that attend MASC events. It’s a chance to network and listen to workshops that you can think about teaching at the next CASC general assembly.

You should be proud of how the organization has grown.

Madelynn is having a conference call with middle schoolers. Reach out to her if you're interested in joining.

Madelynn's Number

410-610-7008

Sheala is about to send the High school video for her inspirational project.

**VIII. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.*