



## **10/12/17- October PTO Meeting @ Max's on Main**

Attendance: Anna Bergin (Secretary), Kim Stegall (Interim President), Lori Merhige (Interim President), Anna Sullivan-Youatt, John Giunta, J. Dewey (Events Coordinator), Maureen Neary, Catherine Mowen, Sandy Griffan, Nicole Meyer, Jaime DiTata, Brian Archer (Principal), Annemarie Moleano, Adria Devereaux, Alena Brown (Treasurer), Dana O'Malley

### **Principal's Report:**

- 5th Grade Field Trip to Mt. Beacon tomorrow.
- Picture day was successful. Fun seeing all the kids dressed up.
- PBIS focus for the month of Oct. is hallway and bathroom expectations. This will be to reinforce good behavior in the halls and bathrooms. 99.9% get to wear costume on Tues. 31st as a PBIS reward, and they hope to march the K through central office. PTO will supply the snack for this day.
- Mr. Archer would like to let the PTO know that central has teaching staff focusing on guided reading. This is one of the main focuses coming from central structurally. The teachers will be supplied with different ways of teaching students how to think about what they have read after they are done reading it. This is Mr. Wright's (Director of Curriculum and Instruction) area of expertise (they had a good meeting on this).
- We've got a new club up and running called Girls on the Run, Ms. Wokanick, Ms. Ziegleman, and Ms. Butler will be leading.
- Adria is on the school improvement committee for the LAP plan. Based on testing data we Sargent had to come up with improvement plan. This is mostly because of ELA scores, and they've narrowed the achievement gap for Math, but we didn't make the cut because not enough kids were taking the test. He's not saying this is necessarily negative because we do get funds to spend on improvement when we become this LAP school. Final meeting was this past Wednesday. This is a revision of the plan put in place last year. Areas that need to be addressed by the district to help Sargent like smaller class sizes.

### **Officer Reports:**

Lori and Mr. Archer had a meeting with Mr. D'Amato with building and grounds the discussed many things: Gaga Ball, Awning, Street Sign that was damaged, Mulch (the mulch they use for playgrounds is very expensive "playground grade) but buildings and grounds would be more than willing to work with PTO to supply mulch for garden, Fruit trees, Recycling roadblocks. In regards to recycling he seems to be really helpful and gets it that we need staff buy-in and protocol coming from the top. He also needs to review the relationship with royal carting. He's going to do more research to find out what we pay for, what the dumpsters are for etc. Adria notes that the kids knew about recycling from last year and were curious as to what happened to recycling! It really needs to be from the top down.

Alena Brown- Treasury Report: Xerox did not do the paperwork correctly. So, she has called once again so that it will be picked up and we can stop paying the monthly bill. The PTO will begin to use the district copiers like every other school.

Other things on the report are water (for the nurse's office still being addressed), Drop Box ( this is labeled 'synergy in kind' PTO makes about \$90-120 month on drop box), Certificate of Liability to BCSD is our

insurance to the district covers family fun nights etc. We have a good profit from the book fair. Question: Can we add things like scholastic bucks and barnes and noble bucks to the treasury?

Kim Stegall: Today we put a "getting to know you" into the staff boxes and we will feature three staff members each month on our PTO bulletin board. We will also have the info on what teachers like for gifts and their birthdays. If parents have questions about their teacher they can contact the PTO. Question: how will parents know we have this info? - We could put this option in the newsletter and send a note out via facebook. Maybe a featured teacher with a short bio on the website? We will be sure to be careful about privacy.

Mr. Archer: the super has put out a questionnaire and a curriculum proposal for the Clearwater. Lori has met with Clearwater and with two parents from South Ave and gotten the details for the district on this. This will be Clearwater curriculum for every grade not just 4th! Dr. Landahl is also positive about this and has taken it to the principals. District funded. 4th graders at Sargent have been going but it would be good to be across the grades and the entire district doing more. CoSer? Super needs to wait from a commitment from each school.

### **Open Forum:**

Anna S. explains the CoSer to new parents. Programs that are geared to the Arts can be run through a program the district signs up for through BOCES. NY State will supply about 50% of the fees back to promote and encourage Arts programming to grow in the schools. We need to make sure we are using the money that is coming back or we will lose it!

Jaime DiTata: Have we looked into Donors Choose? It's a way to do goal oriented fundraising. She has successfully used it in the district she works for. It's really nice people to know what they are giving to.

Adria: The 5th graders read Dark Water Rising: (about the Galveston hurricane in 1912). She has learned that Glenham has a STEM program that comes in that builds models with the kids that may have been hurricane proof. Can we look into how this teacher does it? His name is Tom Hoyle. Archer knows and will ask Mr. Hoyle.

She was also hoping that we could look into assemblies that focus on Math. Possibly a performance or show maybe for the upper grades. (PTO will look into this). We would need to team with another district to run it from the CoSer unless it's a STEAM program!

PTO Collaborative meeting last night. Lori and Anna B. attended and hope to meet every few months. We talked about bringing in a tutor for Common Core Math for parents. Also we thought that bringing in the arm of the sea theatre into the HS for one night show that all the ptos would contribute to because it's expensive per school otherwise.

### **Old Business**

Spirit of Beacon Day- Great community builder and we had a great time!

Discount Card- local businesses have signed up for discounts. We have 13 people have signed up we are going to pick up 2 more forms hopefully. We tried to touch on multiple price points. Mr. Archer will have to sign off on it. We will be selling them for \$10 and if every family sells a few we'll make a nice profit. We want to launch it on FFN. One for \$10 two for \$18.

Picture Day- Prices have been lowered to be more in line with the other providers. We need to know if we want to renew the contract. We need to address the issue of the spring photos just coming home without parents ordering them. We have good security with this company. And we get the missing children cards. It is also a local company.

Barnes and Noble Makers Faire: November 11 we need to show the coupon. We need volunteer help on the especially later in the day and early evening. We will be doing gift wrapping donation box. Orientation was Monday and they will let us host our own table at the maker's faire. Something like lego building this model and the parent donates a dollar to make the building. Help advertise and share. The online code is on the voucher. You type it in when you see "Is this part of a bookfair" enter the code. Vouchers will go home in the folders.

October FFN- Trunk or Treat decorate your car make it fun games or candy. Kids will vote on their favorite trunk. The PTO will help to supply candy. We will post links to ideas on the Facebook page.

Hiring Childcare for our afternoon meetings vote: Vote Yes

Trivia Night: Community event. J, Erin, and Lori met today. Will be in the winter. Sponsors. Still figuring out how to make money. The Haldane Foundation does ticket price and they make over \$5,000! We would be happy with half of that.

Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon: Ms. King runs this where 100 senior citizens come for the Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon. 5th graders serve the meals. 6-7 parent volunteers needed. PTO donates many of the supplies. We will check closet for what we have already.

Food pantry: Amazon wish-list will be shared for the food pantry and maybe for other stuff the school needs. All in favor to stock the food pantry for \$250: Vote Yes

Next Meeting November 9th we will vote on the president position open to anyone in the PTO.

Volunteer Committees. We will be reviving the committees and send out sign up sheets soon.

Adjourned- new ideas and socializing followed.