

## **9/14 PTO Meeting Minutes**

3:45 Auditorium

In attendance: Meghan Burns, Kim Stegall, Lori Merhige, J. Dewey, Anna Bergin, Elisa Santiago, Maurelyn Arias, Erin Giunta, John Giunta, Jessica Tomlin, Randi Speedling, Trish Ann Silverman, Carmela Walden, Anna Sullivan-Youatt, Melissa Hayat, Jaime Ditata, Eileen Sheppard, Renee Ferrara, Dana O'Malley

Introductions of PTO members

### **Principal Report:**

- Smooth Opening
- 324 total students
- Added a 1st grade section
- Started a twitter @Sargentstars
- Benchmarking exams for ELA and Math have begun. Grades 3-5 are doing the tests on chromebooks
- New Technology:
  - Promethean boards similar to smart boards have been added to the school
  - Every classroom and support room have either promethean or smart boards
  - Added 4 math carts with 40 chromebooks in each for a total of 8
- We have a new Phys Ed teacher: Mr. Carofano
- There will be no football or tag at recess because it leads to way too many injuries and incidents. He knows the kids really want to play both so he asked them to write up an agreement that they would have to sign. He will wait to see if the kids come up with one.
- We had the PBIS kickoff opening
- Dismissal: Younger kids will be dismissed by 3:05 (pk-2nd in the cafeteria) and 3:05 to 3:10 for 3rd-5th in gym. Hopefully this will alleviate some of the parking lot congestion.
- There have been a lot of questions regarding the awning coming back? Mr. Damato is responsive and is looking into it. To see how much it costs. There will be follow-up
- Water fountain is not working by the 2nd Grade will be following up

### **Staff Reports:**

Mrs. Silverman:

Good start, thanks to the PTO and principal.

Mrs. Walden:

Water cooler in the nurse's office started about 15 years ago. She won't use the water coming out of the sink because it comes out of the sink brown. She was bringing it from home until the PTA long ago got the water cooler for her office.

Question: Has the water in the nurse's office been tested? Archer: Everything has been tested and anything questioned has been replaced. Walden: Nothing was replaced in nurse's office.

The water is for the kids. Merhige: District should pay for it especially if the water isn't drinkable. Or get a filter? Question: how much is the PTO paying: \$100 a month and we are currently low

on funding that is why we are looking closely at where the money is going. Discussion: this pricing seems high for what Mrs. Walden is actually purchasing. PTO needs to look into it further with Dowser. -watercooler will stay until it's all figured out.

### **Officer Reports:**

President/ Meghan Burns:

#### *Discount Card:*

Mainstreet businesses are signing on to participate in a card that PTO will be selling for \$10 card. It will get you discount at different businesses around town. Fundraiser will last all year. Question: Is there a cap on how many are sold? None of the business have asked for that but there is an expiration until August.

### **Open Forum:**

Anna Y. : This meeting format doesn't work well because she can't hear anything. (kids) NHS students are not reliable. And the meetings are too loud. (We will look into possibly hiring babysitting if we can't depend on NHS students).

She would like to see a budget set for projects that will last all year prior to a project beginning.

Meghan: We need to do a better job to look for donations for things. Anna: we have gotten donations for most of the plantings but she spent 60+ on mulch because the PTO couldn't afford to pay. Lori/Archer: Why can't we use the district mulch for the plantings at the front? Follow up: Try to ask again because we have a new facilities man in charge. We could be working together better with the district.

Parent (Erin): Facilities question. Maintenance of the playground equipment? What happened to tether ball? The pole is tilted. Archer: maintenance is district. If we want new equipment that would fall to PTO. Parent: As a first time parent the swingsets look sad and need a fresh coat of paint. Beautification Committee can paint swings. Archer: Let's make a list and meet with Damato (facilities)

Buddy Bench: Question: will the buddy bench be reminded to students again this year? Archer: Yes, it was part of the lessons at the beginning of the year with PBIS. It has begun to be re-introduced.

Question: What are the boundaries on the playground? Why can certain ages not go on everything on the playground? It is bought for all age groups. Archer: there are overlaps of age groups so we like to give younger students first dibs on the swings etc. Meghan: re-clarifying question: some structures can not be used by younger kids. Parent: they aren't allowed to play basketball. They are only allowed to use a certain area of the playground. Silverman: the dome we don't like kindergarteners go onto it because there are too many accidents at the beginning of the year. As the year progresses they are allowed. Kindergarteners don't go to the back swings because it's too close to the road. Parent: thank you for adding outside time. Archer: some teachers are adding 10 minutes to recess. Met with Landahl and explained that he

wanted to add recess. Dr. Landahl wanted to make sure it did not affect the day. Teachers start the 10 minutes and aides take over so the teachers can have lunch. Landahl then asked to put a hold on it because it didn't seem like it was going to work in all the buildings. Several teachers still said they'd do it as a possible reward because it works with their schedule. So, it depends on the teacher. Question: Do all students get recess and gym? Yes, kids are exhausted but they will get used to it in a few weeks.

-End Open Forum-

**Book Fair Report:** (copy from Raquel's email)

The book fair is going well for it being our fall fair. We've made over \$2,300 so far for Scholastic and will get 25% as our profit. We also earned \$407.63 in Scholastic Dollars by doing multiple fairs, having our fair on a big event night, principal involvement, online promoting, etc.. This money can only be spent with Scholastic. We often use it for books for the Sargent Library (Renee shops for books from the book fair or online) or for other items in their catalog. Last year we purchased carpeting tiles, bins and other items for the library. Items can also be purchased to benefit the PTO, classrooms, etc. How would the PTO like to spend the money this year? Please let us know as the Scholastic Dollars will expire on 10/21. Renee will come in to shop the fair tomorrow. Do we want to give her any money for books this year?

We also earned a free box of books I left on top of the PTO mail cabinet as well as a dozen or more posters we'll leave in the PTO closet to be used for prizes or whatnot.

We worked extra hard to make sure kids didn't go over (tax), but had to send some away. The All4Books covered small shorts. We've always had a struggle with parents not sending in money for tax because scholastic has flyers in the classrooms where tax is not collected. It seems to get a little bit better each year. We tend to be short around \$30-\$40 including helping a few kids who can come in with only a dollar or two. The All 4 One box usually covers about half of that. This year we should be even.

**Barnes and Noble Fundraiser:**

Anna Y.: It's called a book fair but it's a bit different than scholastic. It's held at the B&N in Poughkeepsie. If they use our flyer throughout the day it will get added to our total. It coincides with the B&N Maker's Faire. Which is a really fun event for the kids to attend and test out new technology and toys. This year it's going to be a general fundraiser for supplies. And we can order these supplies through their massive store account for a discounted price. November 11th is the live event at B&N. In addition for the whole following week you can buy online using the code. This year we'll be happy about planning ahead. Sargent performances?: recite poetry or sing songs/dance... Is there anything we can organize for that day? Gift wrapping station. For in store purchases it has to be in Poughkeepsie but online can be anyone/anywhere with the code. Please sign up to volunteer.

**Event ideas:** Haldane in Cold Spring did a skating event at Ice Time/ or maybe Roller Skating? PTO can be hands off so it's a really easy event. Lori is going to check in with the Haldane Foundation to see if this was their event and get info.

Trivia Night? Erin Guinta runs a trivia night in town. This would be adult only. Maybe set a fundraising goal. We could make it competitive and fun. Maybe the winning team could play winning teams from other schools with one big event for the PTO collaborative at the end.

Question: What is the status of the lightbulb lab? Can we do anything to assist? Since there is an increase in library Ms. Ferrara will put more supplies out for the kids to use. Anna: did we use all the money? Ms. Ferrara: A little bit left but most has been purchased.

**Family Fun Night:** Halloween October 27th

This year we are doing trunk or treat or an outdoor event.

Holiday Shop: change of goods 10,000 villages.

**Spirit of Beacon Day Workdays:**

9/15 from 3:30-7

9/16 from 4-7

9/17 from 12-4

9/23 from 11-5

**Recycling:**

We need a recycling booster to remind staff and kids about recycling. We don't think that kids should be pulled out of class. Initial idea was for a green team. Breakdown in the cafeteria because it's a little extra work. The facilities director says he's on board to make it a requirement. Let's try and make better signage and get it going again. There was some frustration here.

-End-