

Sargent PTO Meeting #2

October 10, 2019

Max’s on Main

**Order of Business**

Call to Order (Lori)

Principal’s Report (Mr. Archer)

Recent activities:

* Spirit of Beacon Day - thanks for the float; Good turn out, enjoyable parade
* Walk to School on Oct 2 (initiative of PE dept)
* Picture day

Currently happening at school:

* Teachers in all grades are holding morning meetings aimed at making all kids feel connected to the group
* Morning announcements are up and running, videos started this week. Ms. Ferrara runs them.
  + Mr. Archer will tweet it out; PTO can put it on the website
* Student Council is holding a coat drive.
* Garden classes are underway. Congrats to Ms. Megan on her wedding!

[Staff Reports: No teachers in attendance]

Officer Reports

Treasurer (Alena)

* We have about $8,000 in the account, not including:
  + Several expenditures pending, including banner, t-shirts, gaga-ball pit, landscaping
  + GoFundMe owes us 2650 for playground fundraiser
* Bookfair over $800 in profit 🡪 $400 in books, STEM supplies for Ms. Ferrara, Ms. McGahn
* T-shirts: Spent $1500, sold $1200 so far; 117 shirts left. Will be selling at upcoming FFNs.

Grantwriting (Anna)

* Sustainability-related initiatives:
  + Holding off on Green Ribbon Schools application
  + A couple of parents met with staff (Mr. Archer, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Belloch) to share how they use related ideas in their curricula; as “sustainability” is now a School Board goal, we will document this.
    - Next step: find out how PTO can support them – possible grants, like composting initiatives for 3rd grade (once HV seed class ends); more nature-based field trips (including to cover busing for zoos, etc.)
  + According to a recent analysis of energy use at each school, Sargent’s has gone down over last 5 years, for a new score of 68 (out of 100). If we get to 75, eligible for “Energy Star” recognition.
    - The Sargent utility meters also serve district building, so if the readings can be separated, Sargent score will further improve.
    - Anna is letting the district know, so they can ask central Hudson to separate them.

Open Forum: No issues raised.

Old Business (follow-up to previous discussions)

* Keeping track of playground gear
  + A parent has purchased new equipment and a cart to wheel it in and out of the building at recess. Ideas for keeping track of it:
    - Label each item (Sharpie)
    - Toy master (student job) – maybe 4th graders, the last ones out at recess?
    - Replace equipment as needed, so the monitors can focus on their job of watching the kids, keeping them safe
    - Discussion around need to change culture towards responsibility for kids. If you want things to play with, you have to bring them back.
    - Eye-catching, laminated signs to hang up around playground/play areas
    - Mr. Archer could mention it during morning announcements – please bring the balls and other equipment back to the red cart at the end of recess.
* Recycling/sorting in cafeteria
  + Mr. Archer indicates preference for aides focusing on watching the kids.
* Yoga for classrooms
  + Mrs. Lisewski applied for this – she takes a training class (professional development) to learn how to do it, is then eligible for the tools (e.g. yoga mats) to incorporate into her classroom. $120 for the first stage.
  + We’ll see how she likes it, maybe she’ll recommend it for other teachers/classes
* Copy card – Only district employees can have one, but PTO can use any staff member’s card.
* Math Club, Snapology: Mr. Archer will check with Beacon Rec about making it an afterschool offering. If it’s a regular school club (like chess club, intramurals) Central has to post it for all 4 elementaries and provide a stipend for the teacher.

Assemblies (Running Item)

* Recycling
  + Dutchess County Solid Waste will come to Sargent, October 23
  + Will bring bins to kick off Dutchess Recycling Challenge – involves kids in data collection.
* National Theater for Children – educational performance about energy efficiency
  + Lori will follow up on dates
* Gwen Laster/4tet – same rate as last year, $800 for 2 performances, one each for upper and lower elementary. The group includes a Sargent dad.
  + Erin will set up dates for the new year. Jan if possible.
* Arm of the Sea Theater – November 7 = dual performance with South –Sargent kids will bus to South to see it in their auditorium. 9:30 and 11 am performances (lower – k-2, then upper). They send a teaching guide ahead of time to let kids know about the subject matter. Ecology/conservation theme. Mr. Archer will distribute it to the teachers.

New Business

* Planning for upcoming events:
  + October Family Fun Night – Trunk or Treat, Friday October 25, 6:30-9 pm
    - Need people to sign up to decorate their trunks
    - Food: a parent has offered to coordinate purchase, prep and presentation of food, including pricing and signage, in coordination with BCSD food services. Hot dogs, casseroles (meat & veg) and the kale-apple salad they serve in the cafeteria so parents can taste what the kids get.
    - Need volunteers to work the food tables.
    - Comments about great cafeteria staff including new manager Millicent, new server, new cashier.
  + Senior Citizen Luncheon, November 21 (Ms. King organizes, kids are waitstaff and singers)
* Fundraisers
  + Breast cancer fundraiser running till October 22.
  + Believe Kids Holiday Catalog fundraiser
    - Erin has requested the catalogs
    - Parents order giftwrap, PTO inputs the orders and pays, they ship to PTO and we distribute.
    - Will need volunteer help (sort by classrooms)
  + Penny War to plant a tree in the lower traffic circle at Sargent
    - Each class gets a bucket; each grade competes – can make a lot of money
    - It’s a lot of work – volunteers to lug buckets to the bank every week, keep track of classroom/grade level amounts.
    - Tree will be dedicated to future Sargent students. Would like to plant a fairly large tree; district will help dig a hole.
    - What can we get for about $1000 (fundraising goal) including delivery, planting, etc.?)
    - Brian (from One Nature and a Sargent parent) offers advice to call 811, see what is under the traffic circle. Suggests beech (holds leaves into winter), oak or maple.
    - One Nature could donate half day of labor, equipment. Will get tree from Hardscrabble and put a tree bag on it for watering.
    - Mr. Archer will check if anybody is planning another fundraiser in November.
  + Suggestion to create a “process document” / cheat-sheets for each standard annual fundraiser. What kind of volunteer help is needed for each, etc. Possible format: shared google calendar.
  + Discussion of how to avoid scheduling overlapping fundraisers, so parents are only being asked to participate in one at a time.
    - Ask teachers/staff what fundraisers they are planning (PTO teacher form?)
    - Mr. Archer to inform PTO of any teacher-led fundraisers
    - PTO to check with Mr. Archer about timing before launching fundraiser
    - Make fundraisers a standing agenda item so we remember to let each other know of plans.
* Committee Overviews and Updates
  + Vegetable and Sensory Gardens, bluebirds and monarchs
    - Need help in sensory garden
    - Discussion of possible wildflower meadow (including pollinators) in the back corner of the Sargent lawn that gets flooded; would also cut down on mowing. Could mow a path between bluebird houses to make a trail.
      * Anthony D’Amato has given permission for the meadow.
      * Will need to mark off area not to be mower – rope marker.
      * Update October 11: Mr. Archer requests holding off on meadow until library, hall and cafeteria projects are complete.
    - Monarch attractors – “way station” – classes can use it to collect tracking info, send it in, be part of a larger effort.
    - Nature playground also being considered.
  + Sustainability/Green School Initiatives
    - Highlights from curriculum conversations with teachers
    - School Board has adopted an official sustainability goal
  + Beautification and Artist Collaborations
    - Update on Joe Pimentel hallway mural: Lori will meet with him to plan the rest of the design, aiming to complete it in March 2020.
    - Paint grant from Brett’s Hardware (30 gallons) – will begin with hallway opposite the mural, once construction is complete. Enough paint to do all three hallways. Aim to have downstairs – cafeteria through gym – done by the end of this school year, and to begin painting the library. Paula King is our interior designer (Rexhill Studio and a Sargent parent).
    - Paint can also be used for outside entrance/drop off area.
    - Cafeteria – repairs will be needed from construction work – once it is complete, district can do a walk-through and request repairs.
  + 5th Grade Parent Group
    - This is time-sensitive to raise money for the big field trip to the Bronx Zoo. Ideally fourth and fifth-grade parents work together.
    - Suggestion of holding a dance.
    - Mr. Archer will try to get ideas for parent leaders at upcoming meeting with 5th grade teachers.
* Other questions/matters:
  + At lunch, can kids buy parts of the meal and not the whole – e.g. just the veggie side to go with their homemade lunch?
  + How to encourage volunteers – use Sign-up Genius and set up very specific, time-bound tasks (e.g. 1 hour).

Next PTO meeting: Thursday, November 7, 4 pm @ Sargent auditorium