

Sargent PTO Meeting #9

June 10, 2021

Minutes

[Meeting recording](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/N-nUIJFFgU6zRYkV9T3MX0fnT9pzPQGxMhZkwz8fGENc0FgFs1gENj2qxq8XrNsfwLOgucxjasd3xDZB.KK2unuFVENMyBi4n?autoplay=true&startTime=1623366154000)

Quote of the month:

**I would like Sargent to have an Olympic-quality Gaga Ball team.**

– Mr. Archer

1. **Principal’s report**
* Getting letters/petitions from kids requesting air conditioning
* School improvement plan.
	+ Noah is a consultant helping with the school. Working remotely. 3 teachers plus archer and 2 parents and some kids. This week he interviewed grades 3-5 kids – reflecting diversity at Sargent, and teachers on where we need to go. Will survey the parents on the committee.
		- Going to put the results together and in late July the committee will get together to look at it and make a plan.
* Hiring a new 5th grade teacher to replace Mrs. Guillet, who is retiring. Got 425 applicants, which is actually low for us. Includes some inside candidates - teachers and assistants in the building – great people, wish we had a role for all of them.
	+ Teaching assistants don’t get compensated the way should.
	+ Demo lessons with final 2 candidates, teaching Mr. Seaman’s class. Will survey the kids in the class. Plan to finalize before vacation 1 July.
* BLT
	+ met last week, talking about finishing the year positive, where SCEP plan is going.
* Wellness committee
	+ no meeting, everyone is tired from the year.
* June 23-24 are early dismissal days – 12:10 pm – no remote Wednesday. no breakfast those days but yes lunch.
* Field days coming up – June 14 (K-1), 15 (2-3), 17 (4-5). Rain date is 18th.
	+ Remote kids can attend.
	+ Not sure if parents can attend. Security questions, parking issue, etc. if we open it up.
	+ Erin: we need 5th grade parent volunteers for the 12:45 shift on the 17th – don’t have any right now. Anna will do it, just need 1 more.
	+ Could also use a 2nd grade volunteer – Archer will ask
* Moving Up:
	+ K: 6/16 drive through
	+ 5th: 6/21 outside ceremony with 4 family members per student. No masks needed.
	+ PreK: 6/21 drive-through 1 pm
* Teachers are getting class assignments on 6/11.
* Sensory room will be back up and running – Tracy ordered a bunch of things that has been arriving
* Parent question: will preK be full time or part time next year? Will be half days at Sargent, but there may be a FT program at another building. Questions can be directed to Principal Orser at Glenham.
* Had a great trip to Sharpe – staff were so happy to have kids again – Sargent was one of the first to return.
* For next year, expect to return to a five-day schedule, with 9 am-3 pm school day, but keeping a remote option for those with a documented medical need.
1. **Announcements and Updates from PTO**
* Will have a Spirit Wear sale - last fundraiser of the year, provide options for warm-weather Sargent swag – the hat is very cool
* Parents for each grade will staff the field days, PTO is providing ice pops and drinks
* BHS Scholarship – five applications were submitted and our committee has reviewed – 2 parents, a PTO board member, 2 teachers. Hoping to inform winners tomorrow.
	+ If you would like to help fund the scholarship or even set up a scholarship in your or someone else’s name
	+ This has been a totally blind review – names, gender, removed from application. Each judge scored applications individually.
	+ Ryan, Laura, Carofano, Stickney, Alena, Faye
1. **Elections**

Parent encourages others to join: It’s a wonderful opportunity to meet people, make friends, work on great projects, encourage people to join if they are interested in running. (Erin appreciation to Anna for all her work, especially instrumental in getting sensory room going.)

* President: We nominate and second Erin Giunta
* VP: We nominate and second Maria Guido
* Secretary is open
* Treasurer – We nominate and second Alena Brown
* Fundraising chair – We nominate and second Emily Hare
* Programming/Events (family fun nights, talks for parents) – We nominate and second Ryan Biracree
1. **Open Discussion**
* 5th grade moving up:
	+ Parent group raised over $2,200 by posting the request online and families sharing it around the world. Got great decorations.
	+ Could use help setting up 8-10 am 6/21 near garden: pop-up tents for signing yearbooks, take photos, wall of stars to leave messages. Emily, Erin if needed.
	+ Ice cream after ceremony
* Next year meeting plans
	+ Parent supports continuing with virtual meetings, helps with working parents joining from different locations, helps with childcare
	+ Incorporate both? Keep meetings virtual but get together in person for other events, community building.
	+ Teachers prefer 3:30 pm
* Girls on the Run and Club Triton
	+ Parents would like to have it again in the fall. Will need coaches. We’d like to publicize it more next time and be able to have a larger group. Mr. Archer’s input is welcome.
* Wellbeing for teachers:
	+ Parent question about support for teachers (morale, trauma, etc.) What is teachers’ feedback on the year? What are their social support needs? Mr. Archer: We’re tired but morale is pretty good. Teachers are thankful to be finishing strong and getting a rest soon.
* Outdoor classrooms:
	+ Parents are happy that more classes are taking place outside, and encourage more of that.
	+ Mr. Archer: permanent structure getting installed. There are chairs, etc. and he encourages teachers to use it. This year teachers were reluctant to give up the few minutes of teaching time.
* Puberty workshop:
	+ Parent question about separating boys and girls – did they learn what happens to others too? Something to improve on next year so they learn about aspects of each other’s biological changes. PTO can arrange programming too. WE support having the kids together to avoid a sense of stigma or separation.
	+ Mr. Archer: we sent a letter home about it and families could opt out. There has been discussion about having all kids together, but this year it was decided to keep them separate.
* Supplies for classrooms:
	+ Parents and Mr. Archer agree teachers should ask office for basic supplies, and ask the PTO for bigger items (field trip ideas, programming, specialty supplies). Parent suggestion to offer visual examples to help teachers brainstorm beyond the usual classroom supplies.
	+ The library remodel might inspire some ideas for classrooms.
	+ Capital plan:
		- Hope that the lower-level bathrooms will be redone. Library another priority.
	+ Gender-neutral bathrooms:
		- We would support that so everyone feels comfortable (including non-binary, gender-questioning kids). Some kids are doing a petition to Mr. Archer on this.
	+ Appreciation to Mr. Archer for visiting every classroom every day. He says, “that’s the fun part.”