

Sargent PTO Meeting #8

May 13, 2021 3:30 pm

MINUTES

1. **Principal and teacher updates**

Mr. Archer’s report

* Thank you to PTO for Teacher Appreciation Week, especially the ice cream truck.
* Budget vote is Tuesday May 18 – please get the word out.
* Recent professional development: Reading Plus program.
* 5th graders from Sargent and JVF visited the Middle School for a tour and lunch in the cafeteria.
	+ Parent says it was a great experience.
* School improvement survey went out this week. The company sent the wrong link for the kids’ one, but the teachers are going to work on it with the kids in school. Purpose of the survey is to compare results from the fall to look for improvements in the data, see what gaps are to be filled. Next planning session will be in late May/early June, with the Sargent team plus a consultant.
	+ Parent asks how the survey links to the initial problem identified about low test scores for kids from specific racial groups. Mr. Archer responds: I have had issues with the survey all along. Relayed some concerns to the company. The survey isn’t his initiative, but parents can direct concerns to him and he will tell Dr. Rolon.
* State testing: 6 kids took math, 5 took ELA. Next is science, but without lab portion.
* Presenter from GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) on how to work with kids who are transitioning gender. Very good presentation, very productive. New area for me and most staff. Previously thoughts this age was too young to have those questions, but it is common and we have to be a safe, calm space & have conversations with parents on what’s best for each kid.
* Field Day! Different days for each age group:
	+ 6/14: K and 1
	+ 6/15: 2 and 3
	+ 6/16: 4 and 5
	+ 6/16: remote (but other days are open to remote kids too)
* Capital committee – next meeting is 5/13 at 4 pm, to prioritize our ideas. Probably moving the library upstairs.
	+ Parent question: Does library have sensory room equipment and functional space, which might be lost in a move?
	+ Mr. Archer: We have a separate sensory room but can’t use due to Covid.
* 5th grade will go to Sharpe on 5/26 rain or shine. BBQ lunch. Paid for by district.

Mrs. Guillet

* This is her last year before retirement. She’s giving her classroom equipment away to other teachers.
* The day of the ice cream truck everyone regressed into childhood, no complaints about rain, clapping when it pulled up. They will remember that. Exciting to have something different each day.
* She has sweet memories of her time at Sargent – sitting in the dunk tank at the June carnival in past years.
* It was a bittersweet year for her “swan song,” showing up to an empty classroom each day at the beginning of the year. She will be back as a sub.
1. **PTO updates**
* 5th grade moving-up ceremony – updates from parents:
	+ Graduation will be 6/21, rain date 6/22. 10 am.
	+ Shady area across from the upper parking lot. Ice cream truck.
	+ Discussion with Mr. Archer about how many family members can attend: ideally 2 but don’t want to turn people away. Mr. Archer says they do not need to ask for proof of vaccination after all; wear masks and stay outside.
	+ Parents will take care of ice cream truck, decorations
	+ School is putting together a photo show
	+ Mr. Edsforth has been asked about the sound system
* PreK and K will have drive-throughs for their moving up ceremonies.
	+ K – 6/16 10 am
	+ Pre-K – 6/21 at 12 pm (lower lot because of graduation the same day)
* Spring Pictures?
	+ PTO President notes that other elementaries are doing them. Some people want the option of sibling pics. Should be easier to schedule now that most kids are back in person. Fundraiser for PTO.
		- Mr. Archer: OK – how about June 9 Wed for remote, sibling pics on Tues or Thurs.
		- He will work on a location.
* Other spring fundraisers: Sargent spirit wear, now with items for warm weather. June 1-15.
* PTO scholarship for BHS seniors graduating in 2021:
	+ A committee will review the applications, which will not have names on them, and then score them and announce the 2 recipients. ($750 each)
	+ Committee = teachers (Silverman, Stickney, Carofano), parents (Ryan and Laura), and PTO members (TBD). Still open to others who want to be involved.
* BCSD budget vote May 18. PTO encourages voting yes.
* Recent activities:
	+ Teacher Appreciation week and Wish Wednesdays (for teachers’ classrooms) – thank you for all the donations that made this possible! Lots of love from the teachers.
	+ Earth Day clean-up – Thank you Sargent parents Lori Merhige and Toby Dunne for the great idea and spearheading/leading the crew, and to district for hauling away the TONS of stuff.
	+ Hudson Valley Seed Co. sale – popular, great arrangement going between PTO and HV Seed Co, easy online store at the PTO website.
* 9K + in PTO treasury
* There will be open spots on board, all are encouraged to participate – more positions will be created as needed.
	+ Parent suggestion to do a flyer about the election for kids’ folders – last PTO meeting of the year, board election, we would like to increase racial diversity on the board. All are welcome to attend, participate, and volunteer for a seat.
1. **Open discussion**

Parents expresses appreciation for the antiracism books and letter, which said what no schools have said so far about racial justice. Another parent says, “I feel safer.”

1. **Next meeting:** Thursday,June 10 at 7 pm. Elections for PTO board for 2021-2022 school year.