

Sargent PTO Meeting #2

October 15, 2020, 7pm via Zoom

Minutes

1. Bylaws update: Everyone is a member. No dues required. The updates are highlighted [here](http://www.sargentpto.org/uploads/1/0/8/6/108663143/sargent_pto_bylaws_revision_oct_2020.pdf__1_.pdf).
   1. New bylaws adopted. (Thanks Anna!)
2. Elections for PTO Board – the following were nominated and elected:
   1. President: Erin Giunta
   2. Vice President: Maria Guido
   3. Secretary: Faye Leone
   4. Treasurer: Alena Brown
   5. Grantwriter: Anna Sullivan
   6. Fundraising Chair: Emily Hare
3. Principal’s Report
   1. Fridays have been days for wearing pink for breast cancer awareness, which is very important to Sargent and staff morale.
   2. Band: 5th grade band is up and running. Using video for remote kids.
   3. Hispanic/Latin Heritage month was Sep 15-Oct 15 – wish we had known about it earlier, but Mr. Edsforth is practicing the clave with the kids (Afro-Cuban origins).
      1. Put on calendar for next year so it gets incorporated at start of year.
   4. Upstairs girls’ bathroom still being repaired from a fire that did significant damage.
   5. Safety drills: One lockdown drill conducted on a blue day; more to follow.
   6. We have started Reading Assessments, except for Kindergarten – holding off because of online challenge.
   7. Ordered 28 streaming cameras for classrooms ($40 each). Better quality for remote learning, well worth it.
   8. Morning News is back – will start visiting classrooms to involve kids.
      1. Question about sharing – yes, OK to share online
      2. Question about involving remote learning kids – good idea.
   9. Launched a Sargent Wellness Committee to support staff in a tough year, boost morale. Had first meeting this month. Starting exercise program next week.
   10. Thanksgiving luncheon – will discuss “grab and go” option with Mrs. Pagano. PTO votes to support this. (Usually $6.50 per person, totalling about $550)
       1. View from parent: “It is a long-standing Sargent tradition and this year, more than ever, I feel it should be carried on in whatever manner we can.”
       2. Suggestion: Deliver meals to seniors? Parents would volunteer.
       3. Volunteering offers: Audrey
   11. Halloween: Can’t do usual party – some sort of virtual party with remote kids at the same time. Every kid gets individual snack. Could PTO support?
4. Treasurer’s report: $10,500 currently in account.
5. Updates from PTO
   1. Fall photos:
      1. Blue group: Mon, Nov 9
      2. Gold group: Thurs, Nov 12
      3. Schedule for remote kids TBD
      4. Make-up will be in January, and won’t be included in the group photo.
   2. Wear Pink (breast cancer awareness days): Tue, Oct 20 Blue; Fri, Oct 23 Gold
   3. 5th grade tiles being installed (Thank you Lynn Costello and Patti Rinaldi!)
   4. Sargent parent Ryan Biracree offering to provide a web talk on digital literacy/citizenship and online safety for elementary kids
   5. Fundraisers – we are doing limited fundraisers this year and try to have all “give back” to all participants:
      1. Chipotle Wednesday Oct. 21, 5-9pm (Westage Plaza in Fishkill)
         1. Question about Door dash – should work w/ same code (RFFTZKF). More info [here](https://www.facebook.com/events/376759803343859/?active_tab=discussion)
      2. Spirit Wear
         1. Offering more comfy clothes for winter, different colors, face mask. 15 items total. Easy ordering process, reasonable prices and it gets shipped right to you.
         2. Waiting on proofs.
         3. Sargent makes $5 for every item (except $1 for masks).
         4. Will work w/Emily to figure out how often to run it. (Thanks Alena!)
      3. Holiday Shop
         1. Discussion of need to make it easy for people to just donate to PTO if that’s their preference/ability.
         2. When sending fundraising/catalog requests, could take the pressure off participation in a funny way e.g an “opt out” slip telling you how to just donate to PTO directly.
         3. Discussion of ways to let kids stay involved in picking out holiday gifts. Cart it around to classrooms, “sample sale” for remote kids, will look into the Holiday Shop company’s hybrid options.
         4. Mr. Archer notes kids like to touch everything.
         5. Volunteering offers: Audrey, Ryan
         6. Catalog option (e.g. [Boon Supply](https://view.publitas.com/boon-supply/fall-2020-boon-supply-catalog-preview/page/36)): do this too?
6. Follow ups from last meeting
   1. Classroom imagery diversity. PTO wants to support.
   2. Crayola crayon “Colors of the World” packs to Pre-K - 2nd grades. PTO wants to provide for every kid, at least PK-2nd. $1.77/pack
   3. Outdoor classrooms being used?
      1. Tent gets used on nice days, but best location for K, 1st grade. For the upstairs grades, takes time to get there; instructional time already so limited. Maybe tent could be moved for spring.
   4. Yearbook? Student Council?
      1. Mrs. Ferrara will do both – taking over Student Council from Ms. Gida (out on leave) – it will be happening.
   5. Library check-out option? List of Library books?
      1. Librarian is working on it.
7. Open discussion
   1. Mutual Aid Beacon focus on supporting caregivers and students. Could use input from Mr. Archer to know what is practical. Ex: Should a parent come in on Wednesdays and help my kid’s grade’s remote kids – “study hall”.
   2. Currently putting together a survey to facilitate matchmaking.
      1. Mr. Archer: Survey info would definitely help lead us. (He can send it out.)