



Sargent PTO Meeting #2
October 12, 2022

Minutes

Presiding:

Principal Biordi; Ryan Biracree, PTO President; Emily Hare, PTO VP; Alena Brown, PTO Treasurer

Minutes:

Laina Mason, PTO Secretary

1. Meeting preview (2 minutes):
 - a. Introductions re first “in-person” meeting since pre-COVID19
 - b. Principal’s report
 - c. PTO Updates
 - d. Open discussions

2. Principal’s Report
 - a. Thanks for the participation in Spirit of Beacon Day Parade
 - b. Review of recent/upcoming grade-level field trips
 - i. 5th Grade to Long Dock
 - ii. 2nd Grade on Walkway over the Hudson
 - iii. 2nd Grade going Apple Picking soon, Lego Land
 - iv. 1st and 3rd graders going to Common Ground Farm by end of month
 - v. 3rd Grade going to Boduin Park for orienteering
 - vi. 4th Grade going to NYS Museum
 - c. Mr. Coval planning all grades up to the pool at Beacon HS in November
 - d. Ms. Biordi met yesterday with Student Leadership Team yesterday for first meeting
 - i. Will meet monthly to get ideas and hear voices from students on improvement / feedback
 - ii. Garner student help at events
 - iii. Students requested an “idea box” outside the main office, already installed
 - iv. Ideas for some new clubs and a school dance
 - v. They will be doing student reports at PTO meetings as well
 - e. Started a new student recognition program, Star of the Week
 - i. Every week teachers can nominate students based off of different criteria
 - ii. Goal to recognize as many kids as possible during the year
 - f. Social-Emotional Learning teacher, Ms Maro
 - i. Lunch groups with students around conflict resolution
 - ii. Yoga for teachers
 - iii. Pushing into classes to help with Responsive Classroom model



- g. Fire Prevention Day
 - i. CoB FD doing assemblies with different grades to learn about fire safety and have exposure to fire fighters, see the trucks etc.
 - h. Spirit Week re Unity/Bullying Prevention second half of month
 - i. BMX Anti-Bullying group also doing a program at Rombout that Sargent Students grades 3-5 will be able to attend
 - j. Pre-K-2, Biordi read-aloud re everyone can be a hero when showing kindness
 - k. Halloween Parade on Halloween, letters sent home with information, particularly about kids not coming dressed in costume already
 - i. Did request no parents this year
 - ii. Biordi was able to purchase some extra costumes in case some kids don't have any on the day
 - l. Turkey Trot:
 - i. Continuing kids fun run and including an adult 5k
 - ii. Tentative date Nov 19th, potential conflict but more information to come
 - m. Parent Teacher Conferences coming up, hybrid model
 - i. Report Cards not out, will be more about student progress
 - n. New Club updates
 - i. School Newspaper club
 - ii. Lego League
 - iii. Pickleball Club
 - iv. Enhancing Environmental Club with 2nd adviser
 - v. Intramurals for K-2
 - o. Clothing Donation Bins removed
 - i. Difficulty getting information from Synergy, the previous company
 - ii. Dr. Landahl was concerned around profit allocation and clarity/transparency
 - iii. Going with "Use Again" as a new company for this type of collection
 - 1. Anything sellable to thrift stores
 - 2. Everything else recyclable
 - 3. Money back to the school for donations plus tree planting donation
 - 4. They sponsor contests for the kids which can be run through the environmental club
 - 5. Bins will be in a new location, TBD
 - p. NYS Testing
 - i. This year will be computer based
 - ii. Will be a transition for elementary school students, there will be some practice / simulation testing
 - iii. Practice program, Questar, some homework will be assigned through this as extra practice
3. Questions for Principal/ in response to Principal's Report



- a. Anything for Breast Cancer Awareness Month?
 - i. None planned as of yet
 - ii. Ideas presented as school-wide Pink on Fridays
- b. Sign for memorial bench needs to be re-attached
- c. Monthly spirit weeks will be each month related to book / curriculum and working with equity team on this planning
 - i. Any parent concerns can be directed Ms. Biordi
 - ii. Request for more notice on what the spirit week content will be
- d. Parents may need more information about the updates to the website re updates, calendar, newsletters, and morning news viewing
 - i. PTO can Facebook post to let people to check out the website
- e. Lead
 - i. Some remediation already in the kitchen sinks, when Dir. of Facilities returns there will be more remediation plans put into place

1. Teachers Report

- a. Ms. King, trying to get local author of Nick the Fire Dog to come in
- b. Ms. King: Thanksgiving Luncheon, Nov 10, time TBD
 - i. List of donations for PTO/teachers and staff needed
 - ii. Approx. 50 senior participants to invite, kids will entertain and serve
 - iii. Once we have RSVP's will know how much is needed
 - iv. Reaching out to local senior groups to include
 - v. Will need volunteers from the PTO to help serve (5-6 ppl)
 - vi. Any leftover food will go to the foodbank
- c. Ms. Asch
 - i. Thanks for helping 2nd grade with field trips
 - ii. Discussion to push back Lego trip to December
- d. Ms. Black
 - i. Run Club started today, about 50 kids joined!
 - ii. Kids can join at any time, contact Ms. Black for more information
 - iii. 1x a month, water bottle and comfy clothing
- e. Ms. Cervone
 - i. Many thanks to PTO/parents for support to school and staff
 - ii. Great start to the school year, excited to have Ms. Biordi

1. PTO Updates

- a. Thanks to teachers for attending and support to PTO
- b. Treasurer Report: \$9,900 in ledger, with \$2,800 from Scholastic Bookfair
 - i. Working with classes around how to allocate re trips and activities
 - ii. Venmo very useful for dues and donations
- c. Garden Clean up Saturday Oct 15th, 10am
 - i. Sargent Stars garden needs tending!
 - ii. Mint takeover, needs attention, clean up and weeding



- iii. Led by Devon Burns, head of greens and grounds committee
 - iv. Please bring your own tools
- d. Idea to repaint USA in spring - TBD
- e. Trunk or Treat - October 28th, 6-7:30pm
 - i. Last year there were 25 trunks, hoping to have similar numbers this year
 - ii. Graveyard dance party with fog machine, can use inflatables
 - iii. Can re-use gravestones from last year
 - iv. Will have a photo booth for kids and families to take pictures
 - v. Working on getting a new food truck vendor
 - vi. Candy donations needed (teachers can help with this) including allergen friendly items
 - vii. Need to advertise on social media / same day as flier is going home
 - viii. Oct 29th as a "torrential rain date"
 - ix. Completely outside event as of now, can always move dance party inside if needed
 - x. Need volunteers from 5pm to help set up / tear down, 7pm
 - xi. Contact PTO / PTO website and fill out form if doing a trunk / theme
 - xii. Community org had wanted to come and do a trunk to hand out community resources - decision to stick it to families
- f. Ms Cervone offering to put membership dues forms in teacher mail boxes
- g. Next big Family Fun Night - Winterfest in Dec, dance with hot chocolate, and karaoke
 - i. Pie in the face snowman?
 - ii. Winter themed, s'mores cart, book swap
- h. November Parents Night Out
 - i. Need help with booking, need a chair for that event
 - ii. Prelim talks with District Social as venue
 - iii. NHS babysitting possibility at the school? Ms. Biordi will look into that*
- i. Membership Drive
 - i. Want to promote this further even if parents can't make the meetings and help fill committees
 - ii. Month of November, try to push this with forms in backpacks / social media etc.
 - iii. Book Fair / Open House can be a good night to talk to parents
 - iv. Parent Teacher Conferences as another opportunity
 - v. Visuals around the school can help to prompt kids to talk to parents
 - vi. Include QR code for Venmo on the bulletin boards outside where parents are waiting for kids at pick up
 - vii. Utilize Trunk or Treat
- j. Chipotle Fundraiser next week, fliers going home
- k. Transition PTO to PTSO to formalize student involvement



- i. Will need to be voted on at some point soon

Open Discussion

1. Halloween - No makeup clarification for costume prep
 - a. Fine for a little prep make up, within parameters
2. Mini picnic table, donate to Sargent Garden, from Erin Guinta - will coordinate with Ms. Biordi
3. Taste Tests in cafeteria - Ms. Biordi waiting till staff are trained in November with Common Ground farm
4. School Calendar - Parent Teacher Conference Days are ½ days, dismissed at
 - a. X out days are no school days, even if not grayed out
5. PE student of the month will continue, waiting for a new spirit company re t-shirts
6. Moon Trees - seeds that went to the moon and came back, were planted
 - a. There are propagated trees that were from seeds that were on the moon
 - b. Could be a cool project for Environmental Club
7. Will work on little free library for the garden

Meeting Adjourned