



Sargent PTO Meeting #5  
Dec. 08, 2021, 3:30pm

## Agenda

1. Meeting preview (8.5 minutes):
  - a. PTO reviews agenda
  - b. Principal's report
  - c. Some updates from us
  - d. Open discussions/follow ups
  
2. Principal's Report

1. Miss O'Neill, working with the teacher's union to get an MOA started, so that within a week or so we will have a posting for advisors for **neurodiverse gaming club** and the **art club**.

2. This week we started our 2nd benchmarking for **iReady math and reading**. We were supposed to have **personal safety workshops** this week for kids, but we do not have enough staff. Workshops will move to **Feb 11 for grades K-2**, and **Feb 18 for grades 3-5**.

3. Meeting with third grade teachers across the district regarding the **Calico Ball** was today. The two countries chosen were **Japan (Carpenter's class)** and **Peru (Belloch)**. Performances likely on **June 9th** outdoors.

### Q. What is Calico Ball?

A. Calico ball is a 3rd grade program annually. Each class works with performers/artists/musicians representing the country their class is assigned. Each class gets assigned a different country and the kids dress up in traditional outfits and perform to that country's music. They also present what they learned. The entire class performs to an audience. It is 50 years going. Performance details and logistics are still in progress.

4. Two committees met over the last two weeks.

a. **Safety committee** met with outside agency to review lockdown procedures. Talked about the Michigan shootings and how that school did well to mitigate the potential for greater damage.

b. **Wellness committee** met today and talked about implementing a daily mindful moment. Looking to putting out a newsletter in the future.

5. **Colonial day** - no follow up.

6. Status on **broken playground equipment**?



a. Per Archer, the update is that there will be a meeting to get information on how/when to replace it. **“Unfortunately, it’s a slow process.”**

b. **Gaga ball** - Once the weather starts warming up there will be a **contract on how to be appropriate during recess at Gaga ball.**

c. Lesly Canossi - the **armpit slide** etc, do we have timeline on allowing kids on it again? Funding for the slide? **Archer:** Will check into the parallel armpit bars - was not aware. Will follow up on the broken slide.

7. **What IS Colonial Day?** (Parent opinion “In the past, the hard parts of history regarding Colonial times were erased.”)

**Archer** - Colonial Day will be **updated** to represent different perspectives, POVs, different cultures. Possible field trip to Philips Manor where there were slaves but will focus on more authentic experiences.

8. **Holiday Concert** - no update on rescheduling. Will revisit.

9. Regarding virtual assembly? Is there time or desire or capability to have assemblies go virtual? What can be done?

a. Archer - Flexible and doable. **Yes**, we have the capability and desire to do so if necessary.

b. Cervone - The novelty of virtual learning is back since they are in-person now. **Legoland virtual program is a go!** Currently doing a mystery reader program for the kids now. Would like to know if there are other programs like that.

10. Ryan is speaking to **members of city council to take questions from the kids** virtually.

#### 11. **Winter Fundraising**

a. Holiday Shoppe **sold out**, numbers to come. Great success.

b. **Winterfest** - Needed to reconfigure that night due to the sold out shoppe. Lots of books came in, nice supply of books if teachers need any. Card making station was a joyous success. Will/Can have another book swap in the spring possible. Next year will plan for more capacity in holiday shop.

c. Hopefully will have another shoppe event in the spring. Live band **karaoke** for parents and bingo.

#### 12. RYAN

a. Talking to the city council to chat with the kids.

b. Looking to do a two part mindfulness presentation on dealing/processing the last two years of the pandemic. Stress management and worry. More info to come.



### 13. MARIA

- a. **Amazon wishlists for teachers!** Requests have been filled by parents regularly.
- b. Another Hudson valley seed fundraiser - **February. Emily will have more info.**
- c. **National reading month in March.** The event will be based on “blind date with a book” - details still in progress.
- d. Lots of birthday books!
- e. CERVONE - **We have a reading committee. Please reach out and we can collaborate.**

### PARENT QUESTIONS

**Q. What kind of pain points are you seeing that might signal potential closures. What can be helpful, what about omicron complications?**

A. Archer: Student/Staff peaked last Tuesday covid numbers. Numbers this week were half of last week. Biggest issues were staff being out, hard to cover lunch and recess.

**Q. How are the kids doing? What can we do to support the kids?**

A. The kids are happy and glad to be in school. Per NPR via Archer, it seems like schools are the safest places for kids and staff. Kids aren't getting covid in school, but elsewhere.

**Q. What are the kids saying about their experiences at home? (CERVONE)**

Parent Answers via Chat and Video:

a. Elise Derevjanik “My kid told me today its been making him scared that there have been so many people out and having it, I think the vibe was felt by the kids these past two weeks. Maybe it would be great to have a parent /caregiver component an event we hold.”

b. Jessica Shay “From our house: I think the most difficult part of everyone being back in school in person is the social re-integration. There is an exhaustion that comes along with re-learning how to be together again.”

c. Janiqua Infante/Gillman “My daughter was kept home last week because of the spike, but she has mentioned that she is afraid of being in school because of Covid. We're trying to express to her the safety but it's hard for an 8yr old.”

d. Ryan Biracree “It manifests as worry or fixation on little things they want to have control over.”



- e. Audrey - (paraphrase) "I cannot speak more highly of the social workers at Sargent, they do wonders. The kids love them. From someone who is probably more involved in COVID life than most, what we are missing is the time(sharing?) between "people are dying" to "everything is fine" and "now we're back in COVID life again!" When we hit "everything is fine" these kids are internalizing the death counts and hospitalizations and never seeing family members, so it is important that conversations are had regarding those issues and making sure they understand that yes, it's COVID but viruses change and evolve into less severe strains. I tell my kids yes, COVID is still here but wash your hands and wear masks still so that you don't have to miss school."
- f. Lesly - I acknowledge the empty seats instead of ignoring them and it seems to help.

**ARCHER** Every day something is different so we organize, take a breath and do the announcements/start the day.

**BIG THANKS** to Miss Meg for volunteering at every single one of the clinics we have had.