

Sargent PTO Meeting #3

November 7, 2019

**Minutes**

Principal’s Report

* Mr. Archer initiates discussion on Sargent’s sensory room, which was set up this year and is really needed. (It’s rare that it’s not in use. 12-15 kids per day.)
  + Teachers note that:
    - All students can make use of it. Would be even more useful if better set up.
    - It provides a safe place to get out energy, emotions from home, avoid things that trigger their fears.
    - Currently stocked with supplies from teachers’ classrooms, but needs some TLC. Padded flooring – tiles? Crash pad (Yogibo), sanitary, non-toxic, therapeutic and cozy items.
  + Parents ask for the teachers’ “wish list” for the room, will look for a grant and do a call for other donations.
  + Committee to include: Ms. Gida, Ms. Cortina, Ms. Ansar, Ms. Stufano, Ms. Sandison, Anna Sullivan Youatt (PTO grantwriter) for grantwriting support, and a parent rep not on the PTO.
* Mr. Archer will present at the Board of Education meeting on November 12.
* Parent-teacher conferences on November 14-15.
* Forming “Building Leadership Team” for Sargent.
* This year PBIS focuses on character traits, trying to illustrate what “caring,” “character” mean – each month there is a trait. For November, the trait is respect.
  + Contest to fill buckets with pompoms for kids that show respect, talk about it at grade-level meetings.
  + Suggestion from a teacher to use the morning news show to present a skit on what each trait looks like.
  + PBIS Committee members include Ms. King, Ms. Lisewski, and Ms. Stufano. No parent rep currently.
* Senior Luncheon promotes culture of care. Best event of the year.
* Mural design – faculty will decide on words to add, will send to PTO.
* Having official APPR observations in classrooms (this is related to teachers’ NY State performance reviews)
* On the professional development day on Tuesday, November 6, had “SERT” (Sargent Emergency Response Training) with Alteris. The emergency plan is confidential, but resulted in starting K-2 dismissal outside the cafeteria (as 3-5 does from the gym) to ensure a single point of entry for adults at the front of the building.
* Field trips so far:
  + 5th grade: Mount Beacon, Common Ground Farm
  + 4th grade: Folk concert at the high school (BAM funded it in honor of Pete Seeger’s 100th birthday, related to Newport Folk Festival)
  + 2nd grade: Walkway over the Hudson
  + Kindergarten: Bardavon
* Upcoming field trips:
  + 5th grade: Met Life Stadium tour – Mr. Carofano organizing. Culminating event for football unit. $12/kid. Make sure Mr. C knows PTO will cover anyone who can’t afford it. He can contact parent is their child’s slip doesn’t come back.
* Fire safety assembly – very interesting and exciting
  + Discussion of scary content reported by kids to parents, suggestion to ask firefighters to temper graphic descriptions and stories.
* Recycling assembly from Dutchess County Solid Waste – very informative.
* A cafeteria tray got thrown away. All kids heard about the importance of not doing that.
* Energize Guyz assembly – better for younger kids.
* Arm of the Sea show – masks, animals beautiful but a little scary for the younger ones. The show started late which threw whole day off for building off – lunchtime backed up.
  + Discussion that timing is really important, and AOTS may be better for older kids. (While younger ones are more interested in Energize Guyz).

Staff Reports

* Ms. King – Senior Citizen luncheon will be Thursday, November 21 from 11 am-1 pm. Volunteers 10:30-1:30. 100 guests. Up to 7 volunteers needed.
  + It’s been about 35 years.
  + Decorations for the tables – all the art classes with the teachers.
  + Music: Mr. Volaski is thinking K and 3rd – will confirm. Oliver Edsperth – entertainment
  + Servers: 5th grade students – 5-6 from each class. They learn serving etiquette and serve the meal. All the kids want to do it – selected at random.
  + Meal is prepared by Food Services, with desserts donated by teachers (mail room sign-up list). Ms. King shops for any leftover needs.
  + Eileen (PTO VP) is coordinating the PTO donations/purchases. 130-135 people. Set up the day before.
* Ms. Asch – Field trips – Boscobel visit is the biggest expense. How to fund?
  + CoSer – Susan Urban is our coordinator for that. Anna (PTO grantwriter) will send the description from past years.
* Ms. Cortina - Food pantry
  + Discussion of how to stock the food pantry – letter to parents? Some teachers ask for snacks on supply list.
  + PTO will look for a volunteer to coordinate the food pantry; that person will coordinate with Ms. Cortina.
  + Ms. Cortina also working on a backpack program to send food home with kids from food-insecure families each Friday. Must be sensitive to confidentiality concerns.

Open Forum

* Discussion of upcoming “parent education night” for parents of kids with IEPs on November 13 at BHS.
  + Parents were surveyed about topics of interest; staff will provide presentations on those.
  + PTO will provide donation (gift card?) for snacks for students who are at the childcare.
  + Comments on need for more general outreach night – how to know if your child might need support

Other Assemblies

* Gwen Laster/New Muse4tet
  + Date: ideally Feb. 2020 – we need to book it soon.
  + How to cover the cost: Find out if district wants to do it – all four schools, district pays. Mr. Archer will ask Erik to put on Principals’ meeting agenda. Otherwise BAEF, PTO Collab, or Sargent PTO.

Fundraisers and Drives

* Project Pink: Sargent raised $3,335!
* Penny Wars raising $1000 for Sargent “legacy tree”. Runs till end of November. PTO posting totals raised by each grade, adjusted for number of kids in the grade.
* Believe Kids Holiday Catalog coming soon: Lori will stuff mailboxes

Event Planning

* Holiday Shop, early December – parents help during school hours
* Picture re-takes – November 20

Committee Overviews and Updates

* Beautification and Artist Collaborations
  + Hallway is next project to tackle – Joe Pimentel is coming back in February
  + Sensory room could be next on the list – paint over winter break
* Sustainability/Green School Initiatives
  + Question about Building Leadership Team taking this on. Comment that if School Board’s Facilities Committee provides guidance/mandates, will be easier to sustain.
* Gardens and Wildlife (sensory garden, bluebirds, monarchs. Wildflower meadow on hold.)
  + Comment that according to presentation by JVF’s principal, their 4th graders are doing pollinators; Sargent 4th grade doing it with Common Ground Farm – “bee curriculum” and visit to the beekeeper. Suggestion of dovetailing with wildflower meadow later on.
  + JVF has a wheelchair accessible walkway to garden.
* 5th Grade Parent Group
  + A few parent volunteers including Debbie Brennan. Want to survey 5th grade parents – school will send out a survey to 5th grade parents.

Other Matters, Follow-ups, Announcements

* Advocates for Beacon Children with Disabilities (ABCD) is holding 1st parent support group tonight, 7:45-9 pm, with childcare.
* Question from staff member about BrainPop and BrainPop Junior. Mr. Archer has followed up with district office, Lori and Ms. King will try again.

Next PTO meeting: Thursday, December 12, 7 pm (Location TBD)