

## Sangster PTA Meeting Minutes – Sept. 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Whitestone at 7:05 p.m. There were 32 people in attendance.

### Minutes

The minutes of the June meeting were approved on a voice vote.

### Principal's Message

Principal Chris Summers announced Sangster was opening larger than ever with 904 students (closed at 874). All students are in classrooms; R-4 and C-4 are now classrooms. Art has relocated to the trailer, renamed "the Studio". Some lower grades will have "art on a cart" visit their classrooms. We have a new part-time art teacher and a temporary 5th grade AAP teacher. Dr. Dale and Leslie Butts both visited Sangster on the first day of school. Back to School Nights are Sept. 12 for grades K-3; Sept. 20 for grades 4-6. The blacktop is currently being repaired from damage incurred during playground renovation. There have been some problems with the AC chillers; we are looking at having those replaced. Open House was a success, with buses transporting people from the Rec Center to Sangster. Information will come out about the new elementary progress reports, with new levels of 1, 2, 3 and 4 replacing O, S, G and N. We have a new math textbook that is mainly online. Hard copies were purchased for just 45% of the county. Mr. Sullivan is starting a 5th-6th grade choir, with Tuesday morning practices from 8:30-9.

### Assistant Principal's Report

Bus 6 started the year with 80+ children. We immediately started working on an alternative. We have added a temporary bus 06-2 for one stop on this route. Next week there will be a new bus with a new number, and we will divide bus 06 appropriately. We continue to review transportation as needed. There are more food allergies this year, especially in the lower grades. We have added a second nut-free table. We ask that parents send in nut-free snacks when possible to make things easier. We have 2 new cafeteria hostesses.

**Testing.** We will be doing ability testing for first and second graders and new students; October will bring the Naglieri and CogAt. A new test, the Fairfax Abilities test, will be implemented soon-- similar to the CogAt. We will also do Iowa testing for 6th graders to determine algebra placement. All SOLs will be online this year. We are reviewing the possibility of having each grade level take all their SOLs in one week. We also continue to work with the Positive Behavior Team to develop new incentives to reward positive behavior.

### Business Matters

- **PTA Web Site** -- there have been a few publishing glitches but hope to be up in a week or so.
- **Fall Fundraisers Goals** -- you can just write checks, but our fundraisers help supplement school with technology, maintenance. Our goal is to outfit each class with Elmo's, iPads, smart-response testing. Also need furniture upgrades.
- **Silent Auction And Gift Basket Raffle** -- Jan Swicord reported that the auction will be Oct. 26 from 5:30-8 with entertainment (family games and music/movement) along with the raffle and silent auction. Still looking for donations of time, goods and services. Each grade level will produce 2 gift baskets based on a theme to raffle off. A preview booklet will be distributed in advance of the event. Still looking for volunteers.
- **Sally Foster** -- this is returning, but different. All internet-based. No school pickup. 40% goes to Sangster. Free shipping for orders of \$50+. \$3.95 flat shipping for orders less than \$50. More info to come out soon.
- **Thanksgiving Lunch Takeover** -- The PTA will take over the ticket portion of this event (distribute order forms and tickets, decorate); the school will schedule the lunches. Need volunteers to help the day of event to manage lines. Contact Linda Whitestone or Denise Krug.
- **PTA Membership Renewal** -- Paper forms came out in Thursday folders; you can also sign up online.

- **Spirit Wear** – Sept. 21 is the firm deadline for orders. No more orders until after Christmas. Lora will be at Back to School Night. She raised \$1300 at Open House with Spirit Wear.
- **Yoga Club** – Ayren Pfeifer offered to start a yoga club for students before and after school (grouped K-3 and 4-6). They will be one-hour classes starting in the beginning of October and lasting 6 weeks, with no more than 15 children per class. Cost is TBD; perhaps \$70 for 6-week class. Can add more classes if there is demand. A motion was made to approve the club; the motion was approved with a voice vote.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Michelle Nocerito noted there was an audit over the summer to ensure everything was in order. A motion to approve the audit was made; the motion was approved with a voice vote. Nocerito reported a reconciled checking account balance for 7/31 of \$51,108.94 and a reconciled bank account balance for 8/31 of \$51,067.11. She also proposed the first amendment to the approved budget: a \$6,500 rollover from last-year's budget to roll over to this year. A motion was made to approve the amendment; the motion was approved with a voice vote.

### **Special Events/Committee Reports**

- **Volunteer Coordinator** – Denise Krug announced that the volunteer signup form will be online on the PTA web site. Volunteers are needed for specific and general positions.
- **Pyramid Challenge** – This will be Oct. 20 at Irving Middle School. Irving is asking participating schools to donate \$150 for custodial services, ribbons, facilities, etc.
- **Hospitality** – Robyn Chew Enderle asked for volunteers to provide treats for teachers and staff throughout the year and provide setup help.
- **Newsletter** – Julia Byrd said that newsletter articles will be due the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month, and will aim to publish the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- **Box Tops** – Alison Jankovich reported that we submit box tops in November and March. We earned \$2,700 last year. She also reminded everyone about Coca Cola, Amazon, Safeway and Giant rewards.
- **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Karen Laysler will be heading this committee and needs volunteers.
- **Reflections** – Menne Dodd is also looking for volunteers. A flyer about the program went out in today's Thursday folders.
- **Other Committees** -- There are several committees that still need chairs: Legislative, Chess Club and Foreign Language.
- **Military Spouses** – The next meeting will be held on 9/12 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Fun Fair** – Joyce Maryanopolis is chair and is always looking for volunteers.

### **Presentations**

Katherine Brewer spoke to the PTA about having Cynthia Lord, a Virginia Reader's Choice author, come to Sangster for an author's visit. She has written books for older and younger kids and will sign books (which will be sold through Bookworm). Her speaker fee is \$1,600, and Brewer asked for \$1,000 from the PTA for the event, which would be held Dec. 4. A motion was made to approve the request; the motion was approved with a voice vote. Brewer also reported the book fair would be held the week of the Thanksgiving lunch.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Silent Auction – 10/26
- Book Fair – week of Thanksgiving lunches
- Sally Foster – beginning of October
- Back to School Night – Sept. 12 and 20
- Sangster Fun Run – Oct. 21 (sponsored by the Military Spouses group and other parents). Will be less than a 5k

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.