

# Champlain PTO Meeting - March 10, 2010

## Present:

Principal: Leslie Colomb

Staff/Teachers and Parents: Colleen Cowell, Deb Lefebvre, Elizabeth Fahy, William Fahy, Georgine Gregory, Amy Werbel, Jessica Nordhaus, Jenny Breckenridge, Karen Hunt, Deb Lichtenfeld, Mary Riley, Patrick Halladay Juliet Halladay, Ursula Fischer, Silvia Jope, Gwen Causer, Dawn Moskowitz, Roxanne Scully, Bridget Thomas, Jim Devoe-Talluto

## Proceedings:

**Introductions were given and the agenda was reviewed.**

## Announcements:

Jessica reported on the joint parent & faculty meeting. Teachers, staff, and parents met to review the ideas collected from parents and to collaborate on ways to implement the ideas they would like to see implemented. All documents will go to the climate committee, which will take this information and move forward with it. Ms. Cowell reported that the first Climate Committee meeting will be held in the near future. When they meet, they will prioritize the items and put forth a vision for moving forward. Any questions should be directed to her.

Discipline Committee: Karen Prouty chairs this committee and Laura Barbieri is the parent representative on this committee which is adopting the P.B.I.S. system, or Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports system, which focuses on positive recognition. There will be a 3 day meeting off site in Lake Morree, which will be partially attended on site and partially viewed here at Champlain thanks to technology which will enable the staff to tend to matters on the home front as well. Details can be found on the web at [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org).

Kindergarten/Magnet School Registration: Kindergarten registration is open through 3/16. This year, Champlain can only accommodate 2 kindergarten classes due to size constrictions. The outgoing 5th grade class is unusually small and therefore the exiting population will not decrease materially so CES cannot accommodate more than 2 incoming classes. Students who can not be accommodated at Champlain will likely be accommodated at Edmunds Elementary School.

CES has 4 teachers retiring: Connie Storer, Laurel Tanguay, Brent Sclafani, and Anne Felber. They will be missed! The search process for their replacements is beginning and parent input will be available through a survey monkey.

The 4/5 grades for 2010-2011 will be very large, and thus the structure of the 4/5 grades is being reviewed to be able to best accommodate students in all subjects. Possibilities include all 4/5's or two 4/5's and a single 4th and a single 5th grade. A question was posed as to how to best accommodate the current math curriculum, and could Champlain find funding to help with this? Amy Werbel will follow up on the possibility of a UVM Vista worker.\*

Amy also reported that the school board approved 2 additional holidays to be added to the Burlington School District school calendar. They are Yom Kippur and Eid al-Fitr. Currently a large number of students does not attend school on these days in observance of these holidays so this addition to the calendar will accommodate this. This change does not change the number of days per school year.

On March 17, the Parent Workshop, "Why Love Matters" will be held at CES.

Silvia reported that the conference "Leadership and "Parentship" for 21st Century Schools" will be April 13 at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier. If interested, contact her as several are attending.

Karen gave the Treasurer's Report. Mini-grant applications are due Friday, 3/12. The committee will meet to review them on Tuesday, March 23. Funds for summer camps through the Nancy Zahnizer Scholarship were voted on and approved, pending confirmation that all attendees were from CES. If not, the item will be revisited.

Roxanne reported on the status of various fundraising endeavors. Roxanne will host a CES fundraising night at the "Spot" where 10% of proceeds will go to CES (April 1st was a tentative date set). Patrick and Jenny will meet to organize

"Trivia Night". Note card orders are due by March 12. Roxanne will organize another "Fun Run". This will be 5/16 at 9 a.m. and will kick-off an exciting week at CES. (See below for other exciting events this week.)

Sustainable Schools: Lunch 4 Dinner was a success. A school garden is in the works (this is separate from the current "community garden"). Further advocacy opportunities: The Federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act and Vermont Farm2School Funding are excellent ways for funding nutrition and education. There is currently no funding left in the legislature; can we create preprinted postcards to send to the legislature in support? Dawn will follow up on this worthwhile matter. \*

There will be a meeting on March 15 at Champlain Elementary School regarding the status of the Southern Connector. A second meeting will be 3/16 at the Soda Plant regarding local business concerns over the Southern Connector.

The March Assembly, sponsored by the 4/5 classes of Mrs Roesch and Mrs Felber, will be held 3/25. At meeting time, the performance topic has yet to be determined.

Safe Routes to School/Way to Go Week will be the week of May 17. Leslyn has many exciting and creative events planned for this week. Volunteers are needed. See Leslyn.

Schoolyard Habitat Workday-will be coordinated by Gwen to coincide with the green-up day on 5/19. See Gwen if interested.

Spring Book Fair will be 5/18-5/20. There will be extended hours the evening on 5/19 to coincide with a Pizza Sale. See Mary if interested in volunteering.

The Multicultural Dinner will tentatively be held 5/6. Jessica will check with Chris Allen.

Bridget Thomas will take over responsibilities for the Pizza Fundraisers.

The Step-Up date for 5th graders is to be determined.

PTO Executive Board for 2010-2011: Elections will be held at the May meeting. Nominations will be made in April. Offices which will be open: 2 Presidents, 1 Vice President (Russell Beste will no longer be Vice President), Treasurer (Jim Devoe-Talludo has expressed interest in being Karen's successor). Jessica and Jenny are willing to stay on as Vice Presidents. Please recruit new officers.\*

Addendum to February Minutes: "The First Steps in Music" program is looking for a new coordinator. Please see Gwen or Jessica in interested.

\*Action Item to be followed up on.