

Champlain PTO Meeting - April 14, 2010

Present:

Principal: Leslie Colomb

Staff/Teachers, Parents, and Community Members: Victor Prussack, Judy Klima, Jessica Nordhaus, Jenny Breckenridge, Karen Hunt, Mary Riley, Patrick Halladay, Juliet Halladay, Ursula Fischer, Silvia Jope, Roxanne Scully, Jim Devoe-Talluto, Michael Wood-Lewis, Diane Officer, Paul Hochanadel, Alan Dworshak, Lisa Lillibridge, Claude Lehman, Hans Manske, Jill Sikora-Cain, Betsy Patrick, Leslie MacKenzie

Proceedings:

Special Thanks were given to Roxanne and Russ Scully and the staff of "The Spot" restaurant for hosting the recent Champlain Elementary School Fundraiser.

Introductions were given and the agenda was reviewed.

Announcements:

Executive Board Nominations: Elections for the 2010-2011 officers of the PTO are next month. Please nominate candidates - forms are in an envelope on the bulletin board.

Leadership & Parenting Conference: This conference, given on 4/13 in Montpelier, was attended by Leslie, Silvia, Jessica and Dawn and focused on providing tools for "meaningful family and community engagement."

Mni-Grant Update: Mary reported that a total of \$3,000 in mini grants were awarded by the mini-grant committee. This was the first time for this program, and the committee received many worthwhile requests, totaling over \$4,800. They plan to award mini-grants next fall and spring. The committee will post the awards on the website.

Citizens Comm. on Champlain Parkway- Two 5th grade students will be on this committee. Additionally, middle schoolers will be more than welcome.

Kindergarden Enrollment/Integrated Arts Academy Presentation: Leslie reported that currently, there are 58 kindergarden student registered for the fall. This is more than CES can accommodate. CES can accommodate 40 students (2 classrooms). In the past, the additional students could have been accommodated at Edmunds Elementary School, the sister school to CES. But, enrollment is high there too and they don't have the space to accommodate a new class all the way up through 5th grade. So, Jeanne Collins has sent a letter home to families of K students (except siblings) who have registered for CES asking them to voluntarily send their child to IIA (Wheeler). Victor Prussack, Coordinator of Magnet Schools and Judy Klima, Arts Integration Coach, attended this meeting to discuss the situation and the program at IIA. Victor reported that the district will not be able to provide busing to IIA and that only city busing will exist for transportation. In response to a question that siblings did not receive a copy of the letter from Jeanne notifying parents of the possibility of transferring to IIA, Victor said that a copy could be sent to siblings as well, although they are guaranteed a spot at CES. He also reported that among the criteria for choosing who is chosen to attend CES and who is not chosen are socioeconomic criteria, as they are looking to achieve socioeconomic balance. These criteria should be on the district website.

Paul Hochanadel, who is a parent of a child who will be in kindergarten in the fall and is hoping to attend CES asked parents to consider an interesting solution. EES is able to accommodate an additional class of 5th graders next fall. Would parents consider sending their 5th graders to Edmunds one year early? This would free up space to allow all K students who registered to attend Champlain. Parents of current 4th graders were intrigued by this idea but no commitments were made.

Judy Klima spoke about the transformation which has occurred at IIA and how they are making the school brilliant through music, movement, and drama and incorporating art through expression. If interested, please contact Judy.

Due to the uncertainty, the kindergarten treasure hunt is not going to be held as scheduled. Instead, there will be a meeting for K families in the same time slot to meet at CES with members of CES and IIA. The current deadline imposed upon families will be lifted to allow for more information to be known.

Staffing for 4/5 classes next year. Leslie reported that there will be 3 single 5th grade classes and 2 single 4th grade classes. The 4/5 teachers report that the math curriculum is difficult to teach under the 4/5 setup. Also, the hiring of a new teacher is awaiting final approval, which will likely be given.

Climate Committee: Hans reported that this committee is taking the information generated by parents and is working on the following:

Parent Volunteer Handbook- Silvia is coordinating this.

Resource Directory Software-This helps coordinate volunteer opportunities and inform parents when opportunities are available. This purchase would have to be approved by the PTO.

School Garden: Betsy reported on the upcoming school garden. There will be 12 family plots and groundbreaking will be April 22 after school at the site of this new garden.

Multi-Cultural Dinner: Al Dvorjak is coordinating this.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch/Retirement Gifts: The teacher appreciation luncheon will be May 7. Lisa Lillibridge is coordinating this. In addition to the 4 teachers retiring, Barbara Leopold is retiring. Gifts will be purchased for their retirement.

Fun Run: Roxanne is coordinating this.

Way 2 Go Week: Leslyn will have a different theme each day.

Book Fair: Mary and Leslyn are coordinating.

Action Items: Silvia is working on the parent Volunteer Handbook.

Al is coordinating Multi-Cultural Dinner.

Nominate new officers for next months election.

(Carried forward: Check on zoning for sign- Jenny).