

Champlain PTO Meeting - September 9, 2009

Present:

Principal: Leslie Colomb

Staff/Teachers: Laurel Tanguay, Georgine Gregory, Anne Felber

Parents: Jessica Nordhaus, Jenny Breckenridge, Mary Riley, Patrick Halladay, Beth Griffin, Dawn Bates, Roxanne Scully, Karen Spack, Leslyn Hall, Kristin Devoe-Talludo, Lisa Lillibridge, Rachael Stampul, Cathy Rahill, Leslie Noble, Melissa McConnell, Silvia Jope, Gwen Causer, Sarah Page, Bridget Thomas, Dawn Moskowitz

Proceedings:

After introductions were given, Jessica thanked everyone who contributed to the Welcome Breakfast.

Silvia Jope, as Parent Involvement Coordinator, gave an overview of the position and what she hopes to accomplish this year. This position will be a liaison between parents and teachers. She will help to organize social events and help recruit drivers for field trips. She will be giving questionnaires to teachers to help determine what is currently in place and what is needed to help her fulfill her role. Additionally, the position of class parent will be expanded to help team up with her to work together toward grade-specific events.

Art Hop. Leslie reported on the status of preparations for the Art Hop. A flier went home to parents and students detailing specifics of when to drop off and pick up the art work. She also met with Jenny Peck and decided that the project will be forest nature crafts to complement Jenny's year-long theme.

Applefest will be from 5:30-7 PM on October 2.

A coordinator is needed for the festival. Sandie Marchessault can help coordinate beforehand but is not available on the actual date. Roxanne Scully will be the coordinator for the Silent Auction, and Ali Marchildon will assist her. Roxanne has already begun soliciting donations and has started hanging up the sheets detailing the donations thus far. Parents, students and local businesses are all sources for donations. This year the PTO will focus on putting the "apple" back in "Applefest". Shelburne Orchards can provide cider donuts to sell. Gwen has access to donated apples. Caramel apples were ruled out due to the cost. The PTO pays for most food at this event. Bridget may be able to donate a popcorn machine; she will confirm this.

Kindergarden Open house will be 9/22, 5:30-6:30 PM.

Curriculum Night for grades 1-5 will be 9/29, 5:30-6:15 and 6:15-7 PM.

A dilemma for parents of more than one child has been splitting the evening between 2 or more classrooms and missing part of each presentation. As a solution, this year the presentations will be offered 2 separate times. Teachers will send home notes to determine which session time the parents will attend.

Picture Day is Wednesday, 9/23.

Two parents have volunteered to assist for the day.

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) and Walk to School Day, October 7.

Leslyn secured a grant for Champlain to help provide funds for this program. She also presented results of a survey detailing obstacles which prevent children from walking to school. Safety concerns were a big reason cited. Additionally, over half of the children come to school in a vehicle. SR2S and Walk to School Day will help publicize the safe routes and provide additional information regarding the bus routes available. Volunteers will be needed to help organize groups in each neighborhood. Police officers will also be provided to assist with the additional pedestrian traffic. She will also ask Tammy for assistance. Finally, contact her for a lawn sign saying "slow down" if interested. In the future, she may be able to apply for an infrastructure grant, which will provide money for a stoplight or sidewalk. She will have information for parents at a table at the Curriculum Nights.

Calendar.

Jessica spoke of the need for one calendar detailing the events of the PTO and school activities. One will be made combining the google calendar and PTO calendars.

Volunteer Directory.

Gwen has started compiling this. This directory will list parents who are chairs or participants in PTO events, as well as parents who can volunteer for specific jobs.

Fundraising.

Goodsearch is a search engine that will donate 1 cent for every search made through this engine.

Kathy Rahill will coordinate a "Champlain Elementary School" t-shirt.

Fundraising for items costing sums which would be prohibitive to many Champlain families was discussed with the decision being that if the majority of parents is not able to afford the item, then that item is not in the best interests of all Champlain families and the PTO.

Budget Update.

Karen will present next month.

Directory.

Patrick will coordinate.

Website.

Russell is working on.

Chairs/Vacancies.

A PTO Council Rep. is needed. This person will attend meetings with representatives from all of the Burlington PTO representatives.

Parent Workshops.

Melissa will present next month.

Class Parents/Grade Chairs.

Will be discussed further next month.

Ramp Project.

This may be happening even without the PTO. More information will be known next month.

Summary:

Applefest: a Festival Coordinator is needed.

Safe Routes to School/Walk to School Day: Leslyn needs help/volunteers.

Continuation of the items not fully discussed at this meeting: Parent Workshops, Class Parents/Grade Chairs, Ramp Project, School Lunch

Add to next month's agenda:

Funding of t-shirts for those who can't afford them.