

CHAMPLAIN PTO

PTO Meeting Minutes Oct. 11, 2018

Meeting attendees: Kerrie Mathes, Jessica Blackman, Erica Houskeeper, Vanessa Berman, Kathleen Laramée, Rebecca Grannis, Katlyn Morris, Tammy Carbonneau, Betsy Patrick, Heather Chernyshov, Sarah Legault, Kayla Gokey, Angela Duquette-Catlett, George Sliter, Laura-Rose Shepherd

Harvest Fest Recap and Musical Cakes

Parents have raised concerns about Harvest Fest's Musical Cakes. The activity was referred to some children as a "cake walk," a term that has racial origins. While the event is an important tradition to Champlain families and parents, the PTO has heard similar concerns about the name over the years and has made effort to address the issue.

The PTO agreed that Musical Cakes could be renamed to "Musical Sweets" so the word "cakes" it taken out of the equation. At the 2019 Harvest Fest, the PTO can display posters to address the activity's tradition at Champlain, as well as the racial history of cake walks in Burlington. Perhaps UVM could assist with resources and provide more historical information.

Shortages and Classroom Parents

- Classroom Parents are a way for a Champlain parent to serve as a liaison between a teacher and other parents for things like celebrations, field trips, etc. If a system were to be set up, it would need to be equitable to all teachers across the school so every classroom has one. A group of PTO members and teachers will explore the idea.
- The lunchroom is short staffed and needs volunteers as there are not enough adults in the room to supervise. The Champlain lunch room monitor is out for medical reasons, so lunchtime is even more short-staffed than usual.
- The district is also experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers.

African Drumming

- Paraeducator George Sliter is interested in once again hosting an African Drumming afterschool activity this year for students in grades 2-5. He would like to keep the enrollment to 8 students per session for eight weeks. If he has more volunteers to assist him, he could possibly enroll more students. He is applying for a PTO grant.

BHS Bond

- School board member Mike Fischer provided an overview of the BHS bond, which asks for \$70 million to renovate Burlington High school. The plan is to complete the project by end of FY22.
- The PTO approved a motion to spend \$50-\$100 to support printing and postage costs to help get the word out to residents about supporting the bond.

Grants

- The deadline for the upcoming round of grants is Oct. 12. This grant round will award \$2,500.