



PTO Meeting Minutes January 9, 2020

Attendees: Jessica Blackman, Rebecca Grannis, Katlyn Morris, Vanessa Berman, Kerrie Mathes, Angela Duquette-Catlett, Alex Chernyshov, Heather Chernyshov, Erica Houskeeper, Joe Resteghini, Mike Fisher, Tammy Charbonneau, Alisha Laramee, Paul Shephard, Roger Klinger, Aziza Malik, Terri Lessard, Kate Mattina, Holidae Rochman.

Principal Check-In

Principal Joe Resteghini said a Run, Hide, Fight training for Champlain staff was held before the holidays. The training involved watching videos, and Joe and the Champlain team would like the next training to talk through scenarios that are more specific/real-world.

A building assessment is being done by Margolis Healy to look at building security. The consultants will look at access points, camera placements, egresses, etc. A grant proposal to the Agency of Education will request funding to help pay for upgrades.

Superintendent Search

School board member Mike Fisher updated the group about the superintendent search. A hiring decision will be made by May 21 so the new superintendent can start July 1. The board is leaving the possibility open for an interim superintendent but the goal is for permanent placement.

The district will host meetings for community input on Jan. 23 at Integrated Arts Academy from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Jan. 29 at Champlain Elementary from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The district is looking for community members to answer the following questions:

1. What makes your community a good place to live?
2. What makes this a good school district—for students and staff?
3. What are the issues that a new superintendent needs to know about as they come into the district?
4. What skills, qualities, and characteristics will the new superintendent need in order to be successful?

Those who cannot attend the meeting are encouraged to take a few minutes to submit answers to these questions via email. Answers can be sent to superintendentsearch@bsdvt.org.

School Budget

Mike Fisher reported that the proposed school budget that will go before voters in March will be higher than previous years, based on a number of factors. The equalized pupil count is down, and Burlington's common level of appraisal (CLA) is 74 percent, which is below the legal threshold of 80 percent. What that means is if the district offers the same services with the same number of people, the budget will increase \$3.5 million and the tax impact will be an estimated 8.52 percent. A city-wide re-appraisal will be done in time for 2022 budget. Fisher explained that as the CLA drops, the burden shifts to the school budget. After CLA is updated through a re-appraisal, the burden will shift away from the school.

Other Business

-The current PTO budget is about \$18,000

-A Champlain teacher/staff grant round will be in January. The budget for the January grant round is \$3,000

-The PTO voted to pay \$90 for armbands an ongoing sport resource. The bands will include helpful information such as a student's name and emergency contact info. The armbands can be used at Cochran's after school program, Fun Run, etc.

Important Dates

- Jan. 20 - Early Release at 11:30 a.m.
- Jan 23 - Superintendent Search Community Input Meeting at IAA 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Jan. 28 - Strings concert in the Champlain Library, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 29 - Superintendent Search Community Input Meeting at Champlain 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- January 29 - All-school field trip to Patrick Gym to watch the Lady Catamounts play basketball in the Catamount Classic, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Feb 3 and Feb. 6 – Talent Show Auditions
- Feb. 13 – PTO Meeting at 6:15 p.m.
- March 19 - Trivia Night at Arts Riot
- April 10 – Talent Show