

CHAMPLAIN PTO

PTO Meeting Minutes September 3, 2020

Attendees (via Zoom): Jessica Blackman, Tammy Charbonneau, Roger Klinger, Angela Duquette-Catlett, Janet Breen, Michelle Scott, Elisa Freeman, William Flender, Vanessa Berman, JB Ledoux, Katlyn Morris, Joe Resteghini, Cassie Lindsey, Ruth Henry, John Stanton-Geddes, Amanda Maley, Karlie Gunderson, Erica Houskeeper, Rebecca Grannis, Mia Hockett, Sarah Legault, Alisha Laramee, Christine Weinberger

Q&A with Principal Joe Resteghini – Start of the School Year

Principal Joe Resteghini shared the outline of the school day for students. School will begin at 8am. Breakfast / snack will be available to all students. Students will meet in their designated classroom drop off / pickup location for temperature checks and health screening questions. Temperature checks and health screening questions can be completed at home prior to 7:30am. Health screening questions will be available for parents through PowerSchool. More information regarding drop off / pickup locations, including a map, will be mailed to parents.

Joe pointed out that the school instruction will begin with a 90/10 model, with 90% of focus on student's social and emotional well-being and 10% educational. Teachers want to build routines, create procedures and present expectations. Restorative practices will be in place. Joe shared that there will be a school theme for the year (to be announced at a later date).

Outdoor classroom spaces have been created for each classroom. Much thanks to Kaitlyn Schmitt, Eli Bissonette and Aziza Malik for taking on this endeavor!! Students will still have Unified Arts (physical education/art/music). Lunches will be eaten within classrooms. Champlain Elementary is being vetted for free lunches for all. Home lunches are allowed. Allergies will be recognized, and if applicable, information will be shared by teachers. Recess will be within classroom pods. The play structure will not be available for recess activities.

Chromebooks will be distributed to remote learning students this week. Students in the hybrid learning model will start using Chromebooks at school during the first few weeks. Teachers will teach digital citizenship with students prior to Chromebooks going home. The first week of school will not be technology focused to ensure that all students have access.

Parents attending the meeting asked Joe to describe what Wednesdays will look like for students. Joe said that the schedules are being refined, but will include office hours, morning meeting and live instruction to be completed before 10am. Curriculum in the hybrid model will be the same for both A and B days.

Parents at the meeting raised questions about masks and appropriate outdoor gear for all students. The district has provided cloth masks for all staff. Each classroom will have 10 KN95 masks for use (if deemed necessary). Joe shared that a gear swap will be organized again, and will take place outside. Each student will have a plastic bin with lid for storage of their backpack/lunch/outdoor gear outside of their classroom.

Dismissal for students will take place at their designated classroom drop off / pickup location. A new sign will be installed on September 14th designated the vehicle “Drop-off Zone.” Parking will still be an issue. There are opportunities for community members to volunteer as “traffic police.”

Joe mentioned the following resources that Champlain is utilizing to facilitate reopening this fall:
A Strong & Healthy Start – Vermont Agency of Education
Operational Considerations for Schools – CDC
BSD Reopening Guidelines – Burlington School District

Parents asked about air flow within the school building. Joe shared that filter changes and HVAC upgrades took place earlier this summer. The school will also use fans for more air flow.

Prepping PTO for the start of school

Sarah Legault and Aziza Malik assisted in gathering teacher Wish Lists:

- Picnic table/lunch/break area for teachers
- Revamp/replace old picnic tables on our grounds for students (5 tables)
- Revamp/replace old benches in the Fresh Garden for students
- Brita water tap filters for refiling water bottles
- Individual play equipment for recess – yoyo’s, jump rope, chalk, etc.
- Treats, coffee and lunches
- Accessible Port-o-Potty rental (with combination lock) for use at Oakledge Park

Joe mentioned that the school could use help in the mornings getting kids to their designated classroom drop off / pickup location. It was suggested that this may be facilitated through classroom liaisons.

There are opportunities for community members to volunteer as “traffic police”.

PTO would like to recruit more parents to attend. Teachers can ask parents if they would like to be added to the PTO newsletter mailing list. PTO president, Jessica Blackman suggested recording PTO Zoom meetings to allow for future access to parents who could not attend.

The following Fall events have been cancelled: Harvest Fest, School Play and the Book Fair. PTO Treasurer, Rebecca Grannis will look into a virtual book fair option through Scholastic. With the loss of these PTO fundraising opportunities, PTO will request donations through PayPal and Venmo.