

CHAMPLAIN PTO

PTO Meeting Minutes October 27, 2020

Attendees (via Zoom): Jessica Blackman, Tammy Charbonneau, Angela Duquette-Catlett, Erica Houskeeper, Megan & Jordan Buntain, Ranjit Buddy Singh, Chris Leff, Christine & Sam Bealls, Katie Mobley, Marie & Seth Frieze, Brettan Martelle, Farten Abdi, Devin Coleman, Ruth Henry, Sarah Legault, Stacy Francese, Tara Chasnoff, Elisa Freeman, Vanessa Berman, JB Ledoux, Katlyn Morris, Joe Resteghini, Cassie Lindsey, Mike Fisher, Kathleen Bray, Rebecca Grannis, Kerrie Mathes, Meghan Fitzpatrick, John Stanton-Geddes, Amanda Maley, Chelsea Tedder, Sarah Heath, Ahado Adan, Kristin Allosso, Abby Dery, Mia Hockett, Jessica Strolin-Goltzman, Fartun Abdi, Jason Buss, Alisha Laramée, Christine Weinberger, Erik Eskilsen & Lucia Campriello

Updates and Q&A with Principal Joe Resteghini

Principal Joe Resteghini expressed his sincere thanks to teachers and staff for all of their hard work and resilience and praise to Vera, Sam & Tammy for all of their cleaning efforts. He shared that students are doing a great job of wearing masks. The unveiling of the mural “Kelis the Afronaut” has been the highlight of the school year.

Joe provided an update on state guidelines going to effect on 11/16: 3 feet social distance requirements always (plexiglass does not constitute the 3 foot distance rule), play structures will be open full time, and toys & library books will be available for use (if appropriately cleaned). With colder weather arriving, students will meet at their designated classroom drop off / pickup location outside and temperature checks will be completed inside before entering the classroom.

Information regarding parent / teacher conferences will be coming out soon. These meetings will take place over Zoom.

Raising of the Black Lives Matter flag will take place on either 11/13 or 11/20. This will coincide with the unveiling of social justice statements created by the 5th grade students. These social justice statements will be added to the family handbook.

Parents at the meeting raised questions about Covid and the holiday season, including whether Champlain Elementary plans to go fully remote for the time period after Thanksgiving break and prior to December break. Joe said that remote sessions are currently not planned. Parents suggested the creation of a non-binding family pledge.

Parents also asked about the plan for outdoor classrooms as the weather is changing. Joe shared that the large tent is coming down this week. Teachers are trying to get students outside as much as possible, encouraging students come to school with appropriate outdoor gear. Families in need of outdoor gear who could not attend the coat swap should contact Joe or Nurse Kelly.

PTO updates

PTO has currently supported / funded the following:

- Purchased 5 new picnic tables
- Welcomed 7 new teachers with \$50 gift cards
- Provided \$500 to the Morning Champion program
- Contributed \$100 to the winter coat swap

The best way to support teachers is to check out Teachers' Wishlists: <https://www.teacherlists.com/schools/65979-champlain-elementary-school>
Items can be shipped directly to the school. Please designate the teacher and / or classroom.

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

PTO is focused on "Friend-raising" instead of fundraising. We are encouraging more people to attend the monthly meetings to learn what is happening in our school community. Fundraising will happen closer to the holidays, with donations accepted through PayPal.