

CHAMPLAIN PTO

PTO Meeting Minutes December 15, 2020

Attendees (via Zoom): Jessica Blackman, Tammy Charbonneau, Angela Duquette-Catlett, Sarah Legault, Erica Houskeeper, Ranjit Buddy Singh, John Stanton-Geddes, Marie Frieze, Brettan Martelle, Ruth Henry, Vanessa Berman, JB Ledoux, Katlyn Morris, Joe Resteghini, Christine Hagan, Roger Klinger, Rebecca Grannis, Christine Weinberger, Chelsea Tedder, Sarah Heath, Janet Breen, Alisha Laramee, Simon Bird, Kirsten Boehm, Laura Rabinovitz & Heather Chernyshov

Updates and Q&A with Principal Joe Resteghini

Principal Joe Resteghini expressed his thanks to the PTO for helping support 25 families at Thanksgiving. He also expressed his utmost thanks to the teachers and staff for being awesome professionals and always putting kids first. The benchmark to keep students in school until Thanksgiving without any Covid cases was achieved. Joe also expressed his thanks and appreciation to Nurse Kelly for all of his help, information and coordination surrounding Covid (on top of his normal daily duties).

This week is Spirit Week! Ideas were generated from 5th grade students for the daily themes:

Monday – Sports day

Tuesday – Fancy day

Wednesday – Wild hair / crazy hat day

Thursday – Important person from history day

Friday – Cozy day

After holiday break, Joe, teachers and staff are planning an Olympic-style event that 5th graders will help organize. A virtual talent show is also being considered.

Social-emotional learning is still priority one at Champlain. A Climate Survey was completed by students with questions re: social emotional needs being met at school. Teacher's will be participating in this survey tomorrow to provide another data point for students. The goal is to make sure that no student is left behind.

The latest Champ News is available for viewing on the Champlain Elementary Facebook page. Kristie Callahan is the spearhead behind this project. A parent asked about the process for

creating each Champ News. 5th graders were given the opportunity to generate stories and ideas to share. The goal is to have every 5th grader present a story/idea and to have every 1st grader participate as a weather forecaster. The Champ News is an opportunity for parents to see what is going on within the school. Ms. Charbonneau shared that the Champ News really shows the positive climate within the school.

Joe did not know when the next round of Covid testing for teachers and staff will take place.

PTO updates

PTO has recently pushed fundraising to support families during the holidays:

PTO Treasurer Rebecca Grannis shared that the PTO met their fundraising goal was achieved. Thanks to a generous donor, contributions made to the PTO will be doubled up to \$1,000. The PTO currently has approximately \$19,000 in funds available.

The care team at Champlain (Joe, Jim Kelliher, the school counselor and Corey Carmichael, the school social worker) identified 35 families to support this holiday season. Gift cards of equal amounts will be distributed to each family. The PTO board will be voting on this Wednesday 12/16.

PTO President Jessica Blackman proposed a grant round for teachers after holiday break. Tammy Charbonneau & Sarah Legault are on a committee that is looking for ways to support local business that can also support us. They are going to look into Pizza 44 and their offering of pizza kits. It was suggested that we could support local businesses through a Champlain Elementary night. The PTO will help generate a list of businesses, including previous yearbook sponsors. Vice President (and the amazing yearbook producer) Vanessa Berman shared that the PTO needs to find a way to balance asking businesses to support the yearbook with supporting these local businesses. We want to ensure that every student gets a yearbook regardless of their ability to pay.

Champlain Elementary t-shirts are still available for purchase at \$15. Contact Vanessa Berman or the PTO to purchase. The PTO is trying to get more merchandise. We are prioritizing items with the mural image before considering a new school logo.

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.