

CHAMPLAIN PTO

PTO Meeting Minutes November 19, 2020

Attendees (via Zoom): Jessica Blackman, Tammy Charbonneau, Angela Duquette-Catlett, Erica Houskeeper, Ranjit Buddy Singh, Brettan Martelle, Ruth Henry, Jen Coleman, Tara Chasnoff, Vanessa Berman, JB Ledoux, Katlyn Morris, Joe Resteghini, Christine Hagan, Roger Klinger, Kathleen Bray, Rebecca Grannis, Christine & Stan Weinberger, Meghan Fitzpatrick, Sarah Guth, Amanda Maley, Chelsea Tedder, Sarah Heath, Tom Flanagan, Janet Breen, Abby Dery, Alisha Laramée, Jim Kelliher, Stacy Francese, Heather Pearson & Heather Chernyshov

Updates and Q&A with Superintendent Tom Flangan & Principal Joe Resteghini

Superintendent Tom Flanagan has made it a priority to be in our schools. He has enjoyed his time at Champlain and sees lots of joy. He identified his priorities within his 100 day plan: Equity, Engagement & Deep Learning. He plans to work with schools and the community to create a strategic plan to build and develop real goals. Communication needs to engage everyone, and the school district needs to build new systems.

Parents at the meeting raised questions about Covid. Tom shared that our schools are safe and faculty are supported. The district needs to be prepared, but there is no plan to go remote. Tom provided that there is no strict positivity rate in place to close Burlington schools. He will weigh school safety, community and staff levels when making a decision to go remote. He is in communication with other superintendents throughout the state and also looks to direction from our Governor. Covid testing for teachers and staff will be starting on November 20, 2020. Testing is voluntary and available to ¼ of the district teachers and staff every two weeks.

Another question was raised about statewide assessment tests, and where they will be conducted. Tom shared that Secretary French from the Agency of Education says we will be continuing standardized testing in the spring, but it will not affect school ratings.

Superintendent Flanagan is available for questions and can be reached at tflanagan@bsdvt.org

Principal Joe Resteghini expressed his thanks to the PTO for the provided staff lunch; it was much appreciated. Work is continuing within classrooms with a focus on social justice. Kids are learning and it is a joyful place.

A Climate Survey will be coming out in the next two weeks for students. There will be 5-6 questions re: social emotional needs being met at school. These questions are normally completed with parents and discussed during parent / teacher conferences. The data from the survey helps determine social emotional learning needs within the school, which is a high priority for Joe.

Raising of the Black Lives Matter flag will take place on 11/20. The celebration will include students drumming & dancing and a performance with A2VT. Media Factory will be videoing the celebration.

Parent / teacher conferences will be taking place starting Monday 11/23. These meetings will take place over Zoom. Joe is hoping for 100% participation. If the times listed do not work for a parent / guardian, please reach out.

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
- Provided an appreciation lunch for all teachers and staff
- Scholastic Book Fair

PTO President Jessica Blackman shared an upcoming fund raising opportunity. Thanks to a generous donor, contributions made to the PTO will be doubled up to \$1,000. More information will be announced soon.

There is an opportunity for the PTO to provide gift cards for families in need. Gift cards can be provided for food or holiday needs. Jim Kelliher, the school counselor and Corey Carmichael, the school social worker will be assisting with this process. A BSD survey will be going out to all families asking if you have a need or can you donate. All data will remain confidential, and only available to Jim & Corey.

Warm winter coats and boots are still available. Reach out to Joe, Janet or Nurse Kelley.

Jessica also proposed some new ideas for the PTO to fundraise. The PTO is looking for someone interested in setting up an online auction with donated items that PTO already has on hand. The PTO will provide support for this individual with the process. There was discussion about potential mural swag which would raise money for the school and give back to the artists. Some ideas were t-shirts with the mural image, or a beautiful poster of the mural. Joe / Jessica will check with the artists for their thoughts. Thank you, Kathleen Bray for the idea! There is also an opportunity for new logo

merchandise. Joe will check in with Sonny to see if she would like to conduct a new logo contest this year or use last year's finalist.

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.