

CHAMPLAIN PTO

PTO Meeting Minutes April 1, 2021

Attendees (via Zoom): Jessica Blackman, Vanessa Berman, Tammy Charbonneau, Angela Duquette-Catlett, Erica Houskeeper, John Stanton-Geddes, Ruth Henry, Katlyn Morris, Joe Resteghini, Rebecca Grannis, Christine Weinberger, Simon Bird, Heather & Alex Chernyshov, Roger Klinger, Janet Breen, Kerrie Mathes, Carrie Roy, Abby Dery, Amanda Maley, Kirstin Boehm, Alisha Laramée, Cassie Lindsey, Shawna Shapiro, Jim Keliher, JB Ledoux, Mike Fisher & James Agnew

Updates and Q&A with Principal Joe Resteghini

Principal Joe Resteghini shared that all Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) who are 16 years old or older can now sign up to get a vaccine.

Standardized testing for 3-5 graders is scheduled for April-May.

Information will be coming from the district based on recommendations from the VT Agency of Education for guidance on bringing students back into the classrooms on Wednesdays. This would happen after April break. More information is forthcoming.

****June 15th is the last day of school****

Joe and the 5th grade teachers have been planning the transition for 5th graders to middle school, including an end of year celebration. Joe has been working with the teaching staff to plan for next year. The curriculum will be paced around social & emotional learning.

Joe is looking for ways to foster growth within the school community, including a running club, book group and virtual talent show. Jessica Blackman volunteered to assist with the virtual talent show.

Champlain is partnering with Vermont Wildway and Burlington Parks & Rec. to address the Engelsby Brook and plantings on the campus. This will include trail management, getting rid of invasive plants,

planting native plants, and a project in front of the parking lot where trees have been removed. Work will be happening this summer.

One parent asked Joe how the process of quarantining was working within the school community. Joe shared that the school nurse, Brian Kelly and Janet have spent countless hours on phone calls and completing contact tracing. Joe credits Champlain schools for taking Covid and the recommended protocols so seriously.

5th Grade update with Roger Klinger

On Wednesday April 14th, 5th graders are going to have a chance to tour Edmunds. The 5th grade classes will be walking to Edmunds for the campus tour.

Planning is in motion for a 5th grade Step-up celebration.

Roger suggested updating the painted signs currently hanging on the front pillars of the school with wooden painted signs. This would be the legacy for the class of 2021. Angela Duquette-Catlett & Rebecca Grannis volunteered to assist with wood cutting/sign prep.

The 4th and 5th graders are wrapping up a 6-week artist-in-residency program, which helped the classes write a script and create a set for a play where they imagine what the future looks like. Videoing will take place on Monday, April 5th and will be shared with the school community.

PTO updates

PTO President Jessica Blackman updated on the projects the PTO has funded thus far:

- Picnic Tables for Outdoor Learning
- New Teacher Gift Cards
- Morning Champions Program Support
- Winter Coat Swap
- Gift cards for families in need (Thanksgiving/Winter holiday)
- Teacher appreciation lunch (x2)
- Covid appreciation for custodial staff & Nurse Brian Kelly
- Charlie cart
- Resiliency meeting for Parents with Dr. Joelle Van Lent
- Grant match for 4/5th grade project
- Popsicles for Iditarod celebration
- Teacher Grant Round

The PTO has money reserved (\$8,000) for the Outdoor Classroom Build, including funding received from Spruce Mortgage & Noyes Automotive. The PTO also has \$4,500 reserved for additional Teacher Appreciation luncheons, Yearbook funding, 5th grade End of Year celebration & Ongoing community support.

Jessica asked the PTO to consider what future projects we would like to invest in. She is encouraging teachers to “Think Big”. As a general practice, the PTO will keep a \$5000 buffer in the account, but wants to spend what we have.

Future projects suggested during the meeting:

- Outdoor classroom
- Nursing station?
- Garden fence*
- Additional accessible playground options
- Die-cut machine
- Electric school sign
- Greenhouse classroom
- Equipment for school shed & recess (Balls, jump rope, sandpit, gaga pit)**

*Speaking on behalf of the Outdoor Committee, Kerrie Mathes shared that she has applied for a grant for fencing around the vegetable gardens. The fence should be installed by contractors, and she is hoping it can be completed prior to summer. The grant, if approved, would not provide financing until this fall. Kerrie has requested the PTO to fund the garden fence until the grant money arrives, and then pay back the PTO.

**Tammy plans to get input from students as to what they would like for recess, and will put together a teacher wish list.

It was recommended that we survey for dream items for the school so that it is not just PTO generating ideas. We need to get all stakeholders in the community to harness these big dreams.

PTO will be announcing 2021-2022 board nominations in April. Nominations for new positions will occur at the May meeting, and voting will occur at the June meeting.

Vanessa provided a yearbook update. Local businesses have been responsive with their support. Janet will be assisting Vanessa with student identification for yearbook photos.

Brettan Martelle and Meghan Fitzpatrick have been working on new Champlain gear (t-shirts, etc.) The new logo winner will be announced in the coming weeks.

Run Vermont has cancelled the 2021 Mini Milers program. Due to Covid restrictions, the Champlain Elementary Fun Run leaders (Angela & Heather) have cancelled the Fun Run event for 2021. Both will hopefully resume in 2022.

School Board update with Board member, Mike Fisher

A new bill to adjust education funding has passed the Senate and is not in the House for review. Burlington has been advocating for its passing.

The BHS new principal search is underway. A public forum is scheduled on Thursday, April 15th at 6pm (virtual) for the new candidates.