

# 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 Laramée, 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 is 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

## **Updates and Q&A with Principal Joe Resteghini**

Principal Joe Resteghini thanked the PTO for sponsoring lunch for all teachers and staff for Principal and Teacher Appreciation days.

Champlain has been working with Vermont Wildway, UVM's 206 and Burlington Parks & Rec. to address the Engelsby Brook and plantings on the campus. A wildlife corridor has been planted in the back of the campus, including indigenous plantings. Another outdoor classroom will be created near the Engelsby Brook. UVM will be working on the second outdoor classroom this summer with plans for it to be available for use this fall. This partnership is a multi-year project that includes planting partner trees in front of the campus to support the ash trees and smog-eating barrier plantings between Pine Street and the school parking lot. Classrooms have been involved with the planting process.

Last week Champlain celebrated the land with a ceremony honoring the Abenaki, with assistance from Bryan Blanchette. Fourth graders led the ceremony. A posted sign can be found in the front of the school. Check out Champ News #15 to see highlights of the ceremony!

Grades 3-5 will begin SBAC testing next week, and on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> graders will complete the science portion of testing.

The outdoor classroom pavilion project has been put on hold until this fall, as school architects are currently focusing on the BHS campus. Joe encourages everyone to attend to the June meeting to learn more about an exciting project taking place on the Champlain campus.

A Champlain Elementary family with three kids is currently looking for housing in Burlington. Please contact Joe if you have any leads.

Joe and staff have been planning an end of year celebration for the students. In the past, this has been a "grill out", but this year will be a BBQ style picnic for all students. Parents may be able to join. More information to come...

June 10<sup>th</sup> will be the Celebration of Learning for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. A step-up day for kindergarteners will take place on either June 11<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> during the school day. June 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day of school.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade update with Roger Klinger**

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Celebration of Learning will take place on Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm (rain date June 11<sup>th</sup>). This event is for immediate family only. 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be performing and presenting on the front steps of the school

Other year-end celebration includes: End of year class event at Petra Cliffs on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes going to Oakledge Park for games and a picnic on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **News from Janet Breen**

Ms. Mattina gave birth to a baby girl. Congratulations!!

### **News from Tammy Charbonneau**

After 33 years of teaching at Champlain Elementary, Tammy will be retiring at the end of this school year. Congratulations, Tammy! We appreciate you and you will be missed! More information to come regarding a celebration for Tammy.

### **PTO updates**

PTO President Jessica Blackman updated on spring spending and budgeting. The PTO account balance as of 05/03/2021 was \$21,630. The PTO has reserved \$8,000 for the Outdoor Classroom Pavilion Build. Additional planned spending between now and the end of the school year includes: 5<sup>th</sup> grade celebration (\$300), Outdoor committee fence (\$3,000), Teacher Appreciation (\$4,700), Teacher grants (\$1,500), T-shirt investment (3,500) and end of year celebrations (\$1,000). The expected available balance at the end of school year/beginning of 2021-2022 school year is \$3,630. Jessica is planning an end of year fundraiser to increase the balance, thinking ahead to the start of the next school year and Harvest Fest budgeting.

The annual yearbook is heading to the printers for production. Vanessa will be sending out a letter for yearbook donations. Janet will assist with donation collections.

All teacher grants from the last grant round have been approved.

The budget for t-shirt production has been approved by the board.

Kerrie is looking for volunteers for the Harvest Fest committee and Outdoor/Garden committee.

**\*\*The PTO is looking for nominations for both President and Secretary for the 2021-2022 school year\*\***

### **Additional Updates and Important Dates**

Submissions for Champlain's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Virtual Talent Show are being accepted between now and May 21<sup>st</sup>.

- Please keep videos to between 30-60 seconds
- Please send videos to [cestalentshow@gmail.com](mailto:cestalentshow@gmail.com)
- Please include the names and grades of all students involved
- If you are using a separate audio track (like if you are dancing to a song), please include the artist name, song title, and ideally a separate audio file of the song itself.
- Be sure to bow at the end of the video, or include a video of you bowing. Including bloopers is also fun and welcome (if they are short!).
- Need technical assistance, please connect with Ms. Callahan, who will be available at school to help! Questions? Connect with Jessica Blackman or email [cestalentshow@gmail.com](mailto:cestalentshow@gmail.com)

May 10, 11, 13 & 14 – SBAC testing for Grades 3-5.

May 17 – Science assessment for Grade 5

June 11 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade Celebration of Learning

June 15 – Last day of school