

Carmel Middle School  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2021

Attendance: Deanna Pitman, Jason Rose, Claude Warren, Ann Bernard, Sarah Galante, Laura Roth, Jessica Barrett

**Principal's Report**

- iLearn is wrapping up today for virtual students (all but 3 came in for testing). In person students finished last week. We expect to receive the results soon.
- First open house was last Wednesday for 6th and 7th graders coming from Clay to CaMS. We had about 1/3 of those students attend.
- 5/12 is 5th grade night - first part of alphabet at 5:30, second part at 6:45
- End of Year Celebrations
  - 5/20 for 8th grade (permission slips due tomorrow). Will also have Chick Fil A lunch last 2 days of school
  - Other grades are planning to have popsicles and yearbook signing but still working out logistics based on distancing.
  - Virtual students are invited to attend
- Lesley Karpiuk received the award for Teacher of the Year for our district. She will represent Carmel for the state. She is the AVID/technology teacher and very deserving of this honor. The school had fun doing live Zoom with all the classes to announce her as the winner.
- We are finishing up this school year but also planning for next year.
  - Gathering ideas for back to school
  - Want to create a big hoopla for back to school events
  - City of Carmel is behind this and plans to community involvement with the parks department, Carmel Cares and other nonprofit companies and restaurants offering discounts
- CaMS is planning for about 1130 students next year and working on staffing plans
- Back to School days are typically the week before school starts on Tuesday for 6th grade and Thursday for 7th/8th grades. Deanna will confirm dates for August.
- 8th grade DC trip - students do need a COVID test within 72 hours of the trip. Many kids are getting the rapid results testing so they do not have to wait at home while results are pending.
- COVID vaccine for 12-15 year olds - at this point we do not have information on what requirements are for schools. States can decide so we will move forward once we know more.
- School Board Meeting
  - The school board will vote at their next meeting on 5/17 to change the start day of the upcoming school year to Thursday instead of Tuesday. The two snow days currently in the schedule would become teacher work days. We will no longer have snow days now that we have e-learning. If the start date change is approved, CaMS plans to use the first two days for team building and get to know you activities.
  - DEI discussion - Deanna can confirm that no critical race theory is being taught. The staff at CaMS has been learning about Cultural Responsive Teaching (CRT) which sometimes can be confused since letters are the same. This helps students become aware of different backgrounds and be responsive to them, as well as identify safe classrooms.

The new DEI officer, Terri Roberts-Leonard is very good and Deanna encourages participation in any community session that she might offer in the future.

- A big thank you to the PTO for everything you have done during this unusual school year!

### **President's Report**

- Jason and Laura will attend Forest Dale's PTO meeting on 5/19
- Fat Dan's dine out day raised \$300! We were pleased with the turn out for this event.
- Jason was asked to pick up Chick Fil A sandwiches for the 8th grade event.
- Jason has received many thank you notes from staff throughout the year and feels that the PTO has provided support and had meaning for the staff this year. Laura will be wonderful for the school in the President role for next year.
- Communication is very important as well as getting feedback. Facebook sites have provided a way to push information out to the school community.

### **Vice President's Report**

- Passed out updated flyers at the open house last week. The flyer has the QR code for donations to the PTO.
- Ann and Laura will pick up snacks for the 5th grade event
- Let Laura know if any help is needed with the 8th grade event and Chickfila pickup.
- Teacher Appreciation lunch was Panera sandwiches and fruit/drinks from Starbucks. Deanna said that the staff really enjoyed the Panera sandwiches.
- Staff Appreciation - last week the Nurse received flowers and a Starbucks gift card and this week Officer Broadnax received a Chickfila gift card. Laura was happy to hear that this is one of his favorite places.
- Thankful Thursdays - April was butterfly little debbie cakes. Looking for suggestions for May. Jessica suggested black and white cookies for a race theme.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- \$18k was raised this year which was really great since we had no back to school events for fundraising. We also didn't have clubs for spending. We still have cash flow which is truly a success during this pandemic.
- Most fundraising money comes in online and closely follows Deanna's emails. We do have a Square reader in a box in the PTO closet.
- We do have money in savings if needed. Money will be spent in the last few weeks of school.
- Question on \$3k budget for study hall - it is used to pay for the teachers who tutor. This year we received funding from the district which was used to pay IAs to help kids before school for tutoring and missing assignments. Deanna says they will be re-evaluating study hall to determine if before or after school would work better. The late bus status also needs to be confirmed.
- The school will also receive money from the United Way which will need to be used.
- Last summer we donated to the Carmel Youth Assistance Program that provides food, resources and mentors to kids and families. Jason said this is a highlight for the PTO.
- Money is still available in Pantry Packs budget. Vesper does have receipts to turn in.

### **Communication Director's Report**

- Posts to thank various staff as well as teacher of the year post have been popular
- Seeing a trend of thankfulness this year and hopes this continues into next year
- Hopes we can work on fundraising throughout the summer and at beginning of year

**Secretary Report**

- April meeting minutes were approved and can be posted to the website
- Will get the May minutes submitted prior to summer break

**Follow Up**

- Executive Board meetings will start up again in August. Deanna said meetings can be in person or on Zoom and Laura is willing to do whatever works best for the group. More info to come.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Sarah Galante