

Carmel Middle School
General Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2021

Attendance: Deanna Pitman, Laura Roth, Claude Warren, Sarah Galante, Jessica Barrett, Heather Garrison, Bhavna Thapar

Principal's Report

- Deanna provided a welcome intro
 - This is the first general board meeting this year
 - Trying Zoom format
 - Everyone will remain muted and can ask questions in the chat room
- It's been a great school year so far. Everyone is adjusting to coming back full time and wearing masks.
- NWEA results - parents can reach out to teachers or social services with questions. There is a data point missing from last year.
- Clubs are student generated with a teacher sponsor. The PTO pays for the teachers to stay to facilitate the club. Club information is on the announcements so listen for updates. There is no late bus.
- Food Drive is starting on Monday to benefit Pantry Packs and the Hamilton County food pantry

Officer Broadnax Presentation

- He has been a police officer for 15 years (14 years with Carmel)
- This is his 7th year as a SRO at Carmel Middle School.
- A school resource officer is not just a student resource but also a resource for parents. They are properly trained and carefully selected. Their role is mentor/informal counselor/teacher/law enforcement.
- Safety is all about relationships. He is fortunate to develop relationships with the kids so they are comfortable coming to him.
- It is unlikely something bad will happen at school, in part due to parent and school support.
 - Social Media Discussion
 - Problems arise with phones and social media and more phone use is irresponsible v. responsible.
 - A digital footprint never goes away and can lead to drama and misunderstandings.
 - Some kids don't have social media but have phones, and they can do the same type of things through texting.
 - You can check if apps have been installed on a device. "Get" means they have never had it, a cloud with a down arrow means they have had it but deleted it.
 - A good website to use is www.safesmartsocial.com - it gives information about what an app is, the intended age of users and how it could be mis-used.
 - SnapChat is the main social media site and is popular because messages disappear after they are read.
 - Kids are more likely to say something online thinking that they are anonymous.
 - Some interesting statistics:
 - 59% of teens agree that social media often distracts them when they should be doing homework or studying

- 54% agree that social media distracts them when they should be paying attention to people they are with
 - 29% of teens are woken up by their cell phone during the night
- Kids use google docs to write messages without any record, they use AirDrop to send notes and photos, sometimes use real estate apps to throw parties in empty houses. Some calculator apps are actually photo vaults.
- Deanna said that the school does have access to google docs while at school connected to wifi. Messages are filtered if certain words are looked up on wifi. The school gets an automatic email for the word "suicide".
- The StopIt app has been used to save lives. Kids will report each other.
- Vape Pens / Juuls are making a comeback in schools. He has taken more of them so far this year than in all of last year.
- He has also been dealing with students who have mental issues related to coming back to school
- The high school has an awesome culture and so many clubs and opportunities for students to get involved. There are a lot of drugs.
- Email is the best way to contact Officer Broadnax.

Vice President's Report

- Bylaws vote - Bhavna proposed that the following changes to the bylaws be approved:
 - Article III, Section 2 - membership committee chairperson role to be filled by VP
 - Article V, Section 1 - change to 2 general board meetings
 - Article VII, Section 3 - Executive Board can vote to allow a person to fill the office for a 3rd year....suspend bylaws to vote person in, then reinstate after...this is a good rule but can be worked around depending on who volunteers
 - Article VIII, Section 1g - job descriptions - question came up as to where these are located. Confirmed they do exist in binders. Need to update binders so they can be passed on. Laura has a box of records from 2015/2016.
 - Article VIII, Section 7 - board at large position usually filled by past president...will keep.
 - Article IX - Revise section numbers as section 4 is missing.
 - Article IX, Section 1 - Student enrichment opportunities refers to school clubs. Will keep.
 - Amendment I, Financials, Section 6 - strike sales tax wording so there is no undue burden on volunteers. Try to use vendors with sales tax exemption when possible.
- Claude motioned to approve the bylaws with proposed changes and Jess seconded. **Bylaws with proposed changes were approved.**

Communications Report

- Upcoming dine out nights on 11/11 at Panda Express and 12/8 at Old Spaghetti Factory
- Pantry Packs is requesting \$25 Kroger gift cards to include in Thanksgiving packs. They can be dropped off to the main office.
- There is a link on the website to donate to the PTO and/or Pantry Packs.
- The next newsletter will include information on the giving tree, including a form for parents in need to fill out and ways to donate.

Wrap Up

- There were no questions so Deanna thanked everyone for attending the Zoom meeting.
- The next general board meeting will be sometime during the winter

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Sarah Galante