

Carmel Middle School  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2023

Attendance: Deanna Pitman, Claude Warren, Sarah Galante, Heather Garrison, Laura Roth, Jody Kent, Shanell Dominy

### Principal's Report

- We have finished up with winter sports.
- Performing Arts ISSMA contest was very successful and awesome to see.
- Prepping for iLearn testing. April 17 is the start date. Testing will be spread out over a two week window.
- Student government is working on planning socials for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Timing is the end of April/beginning of May. There will be food and games. No late bus will be provided.
- 8th grade celebration will be all day long and is being planned for the last day of school. Student government will work with Laura Roth.
- Solar eclipse in April 2024 - There are 5 cities in which to best view the eclipse and Carmel is one of them. Spring break dates were switched (do have school Friday before, but now off the Monday after for eclipse). Dr B says millions of people could come here to watch it.
  - An email went out to school PTOs about purchasing eclipse glasses. Cost is 35 cents per student. Carmel Middle will have approx 1050 students next year. Decision needs to be made today.
  - The district bought glasses for the last eclipse but not this time because we won't be in school. Viewing time will be best around elementary dismissal time.
  - Creekside is selling the glasses at back to school orientation as well as parking spots.
  - After discussion, it was agreed that we likely would not recoup the cost of the glasses and don't want to sell them at orientation.
  - Claude made a motion to approve that the PTO purchase the glasses to help provide a good educational experience for students and families. Jody seconded the motion. ***All in favor, motion approved.***
  - Deanna will respond to the email today and copy Jody.
- Deanna received an email from Randy Ragsdale from Red Apple fundraising. We used to sell wrapping paper and other items to fundraise for the PTO. He would like to come back to help with our fundraising. The executive board agreed that we do not want to return to fundraising with Red Apple.
- Deanna has final orientation dates and times for a save the date posting. July 31 from 9-2 and August 1 from 2-7. Any grade level can come. There won't be a make-up day because Thursday and Friday and teacher work days and school starts Monday.
- Will want to reach out to incoming 6th grade parents through social media and have the PTO be visible at orientation. If internet access is ok, would like to be able to have parents donate to the PTO at orientation through a QR code. They can also link their Kroger account to Carmel Middle.
- There will be a back to school email so parents can do many things online before coming to orientation. After July 4th, we will start communications about the start of the new school year with a link to the PTO website and fundraising information.

### Vice President's Report

- March 8 - staff breakfast was Chickfila, fruit and veggies

- March 23 - Thankful Thursday will be a nacho bar that will be part catered and part donations
- Carmel Education Foundation had a fundraiser with Papa Johns
- The slate of executive and committee chairs will be reviewed at the next executive board meeting. We are still looking for a chair for the 8th grade celebration next year.
- Jody asked about increasing the budget for staff meetings/breakfasts by \$300 for this year. There are 7 breakfasts on late start days and it has been hard to get food for the staff on these days. This money comes out of the hospitality budget of \$3575. Claude advised to overspend the line item so that we can see what actual spending was this year going into next year.
- Thankful Thursdays and Staff Meetings will spend all their budget.
- Chickfila expenses are not in yet from the last staff breakfast.
- Jody asked what the process was to request a budget change. This would need to be sent to Claude and Heather. It's a little bit of a moving target because our revenue is not fully known.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- National Bank of Indianapolis' website has been down. It will be another few days before Claude can send the latest reports.
- We have not received any revenue since our last meeting.
- Heather has received a few reimbursements but overall there hasn't been much action. There are pantry packs gift cards in the PTO room.
- Deanna has sent out emails to teachers regarding their team spending.

### **Secretary's Report**

- Meeting minutes from the last two meetings will be sent out for review and approval.

### **Communications Report**

- No requests recently and everything is going well.
- Shanell spoke about a Fun Run fundraiser that Smoky Row does that is quite successful in raising money for their PTO. She would like to possibly explore the idea of having a Fun Run at Carmel Middle.
  - Heather agrees it is successful at the elementary level but not sure it would be for middle school. It would be worth asking if they do this at middle schools. She is also not sure what the money would be used for since we don't typically spend all of our budgets.
  - Deanna said that the picture money budget will be changing and that money will go to the district. She also said that Clay and Creekside do races but we have made due with the money we raise from our other fundraising...but open to exploring the idea.
  - Shanell will research the idea and get more information.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Sarah Galante