

FDE PTO All Parent Meeting

September 9, 2025

Present: 44 attendees (including PTO Exec Board members present); Principal Megan Welch; Superintendent Dr. Thomas Oestreich

I. Approvals

- A. May '25 All Parent Meeting minutes

II. Guest Speaker - CCS Superintendent Dr. Thomas Oestreich

- A. Welcome to Principal Welch
- B. Growth of iRead results from previous academic year
- C. Strategic Plan for 2025-2028 - recently approved, available on website
 - 1. Survey conducted early December 2024 (4,500 responses)
 - 2. 32 different strategic focus groups developed with in-person participation of over 500 individuals to listen
 - 3. Met with Mayor, CDCs, City Council leaders, two wide-open groups, parents, teachers, etc.
 - 4. Discussion of which provisions changed and which did not (no changes to vision, mission, guiding principles)
 - 5. Dr. O to deliver regular updates at School Board meetings, along with others.
 - 6. Principals to be invited to provide updates on positive work at schools.
 - 7. Two new pillars added for 2025 - 2028 Strategic Plan:
 - a) Effective Communication and Community Engagement (emphasis on reaching those in community who are not already engaged)
 - b) Future-Ready Technology and Digital Safety (emphasis on AI, responsible and creative use, etc.)
 - 8. Additional Discussion Points:
 - a) Academic Achievement - accelerate student achievement and eliminate achievement gaps
 - b) Consistent high quality instruction across all classes
 - c) Systems of support
 - d) Students seeking real world learning experiences, interested in *why* they are learning *what* they are learning
 - e) Teacher clarity - best method to increase performance based on current educational research
 - f) High School Level - enhance work-based learning program
 - g) New high school graduation standards in Indiana
 - h) Desire to strengthen support for middle-level learning
 - i) Review support for special education as well as foreign language learners
 - j) Vision of Early Learning Center(s) for Carmel to offer preschool services

- k) Measuring Success - high school graduation rates (99.7% for 2024-2025 academic year), test results, teacher observation data (law changed removing numerical teacher scores)
- l) Mental Health - how are we ensuring regulation of children, caring for mental health. CHS has Culture of Care. Students with middle and high school success - join an activity or group.
- m) Skills for Success - used State employability skills as basis for Carmel Skills for Success.
- n) Referendum - November 2026, Safety Referendum to be proposed
- o) Employee engagement, investing in and recognizing staff, improving staff systems, collaborating with CTA
- p) Operations and Resource Management - importance of transparency, including budgetary transparency and stewardship of taxpayer dollars; safe, modern, and accessible learning environments; continual review of bus transportation (note: 95% of education fund is spent on teacher benefits and salary)
- q) Student-based feedback:
 - (1) High School - top concern is parking, reviewing alternative options
 - (2) Elementary School - lunch options, would like more "globally inspired meals"
- r) Single Communication Platform - goal in next 3 years due to difficulty managing so many forms of communication/platforms
- s) Technology - high quality technology, safe and responsible use. Content keeper manages all searches child runs on computer and reports back to administration.

D. Open Questions:

1. Senate Bill 1 (SEA 1) - \$2.96 mil loss each year starting in 2026 as result of tax credit; net assessed value increasing and taxable assessment decreasing; in contact with Mayor and State Legislators
2. Parent permission to eat in cafeteria with children - issues pre-COVID detracted from focus on core issues, welcome to check children out but no parent dining in cafeteria
3. Open to email questions

III. Principal's Report

A. Enrollment numbers

1. 622 students
2. 2 EC Classrooms (half day programs)
3. 5 Kindergarten classrooms
4. Activities and field trips starting soon

B. Priorities and updates

1. PTO funding increasingly significant in light of SEA 1

2. Skills for Success - 2 skills for teachers (connections, regulation), information forthcoming
3. Developed School Improvement Goals - reading goal based on Acadience data, grade-specific goal and school-wide mid-year goal
4. Acadience
 - a) Still uses NWEA results for placement in high ability, as well as to determine appropriate level of instruction for incoming students
 - b) Assessed beginning, middle, and end of academic year; also allows for progress monitoring
 - c) High ability placement - test in 1st grade for 2nd grade, if student demonstrates excellence in certain areas may also use small group to enhance even without high ability designation through Carmel pathway

IV. Presidents' Report

- A. Boosterthon - Begins 9/10, significant source of funding
- B. Special Project - WFDE, main goal for 2-25-2026 Boosterthon

V. Miscellaneous Updates

- A. Parent involvement - see Board member or email FDE PTO if assistance needed getting engaged