

AGENDA FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Carmel School Council September 8, 2026

Attendees: K. Mummert, K. Jyothsna, Kate Henriques, Kate Marsh, Josh Malcom, Sammy Maples and Tammy Maples

1. Call to Order @ 7:35

2. Review School Council Training Documents-

Overview of School Council including purpose and opening the floor to any questions.

3. Proposed EDUCATION-SPLOST project at Carmel

Ed-SPLOST (Educational Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) began in 1997 and is a one-cent sales tax used to fund capital improvement projects for schools. Because the general operating budget cannot fully support facility needs, Ed-SPLOST funding is essential for maintaining and improving school buildings and infrastructure.

The next Ed-SPLOST vote is scheduled for **November 3** and will be a renewal of the existing tax. The district team will present data and recommendations to the School Board regarding projects across the county. These projects range from campus improvements and maintenance needs to major renovations and complete rebuilds.

Following the superintendent's recommendation, the district has developed a five-year communication plan to keep the community informed about Ed-SPLOST projects and funding priorities.

At Carmel Elementary, proposed improvements include:

- Ceiling upgrades
- Intercom system improvements
- Fire alarm upgrades
- New cabinetry
- Technology enhancements
- Improvements to specials areas
- Updated lighting
- Parking lot improvements
- New furniture
- Roofing upgrades
- HVAC improvements

Mr. Malcom emphasized that all schools will receive improvements through the next Ed-SPLOST cycle. Carmel's projects are projected to be completed during the 2031-2032 school year.

Regarding transportation, the district plans to replace 25 school buses annually for five consecutive years.

Mr. Malcom shared that Ed-SPLOST funds are not intended for growth projects or building new schools. Instead, the funding is used to repair, replace, and update existing facilities and equipment. Current projections show that student enrollment in Cherokee County is expected to remain fairly stable over the next 10 years. Because of this, the focus of the next Ed-SPLOST will be on refurbishing and improving existing schools rather than expanding growth.

A question was raised about school security. It was confirmed that Ed-SPLOST funds will be used to upgrade security cameras, access control systems, and other safety measures.

4. Leadership Qualities of a Principal

The 8 qualities of Carmel's principal were reviewed and approved.

5. Elevating Excellence:

Several information documents were handed out and discussed that were created by CCSD.

1. Five New Things to Know About: Student Academic Ownership, Stronger Expectations for Student Behavior, Technology, Safety and Security, Communication Tools and Avenues.

a. School Improvement

Schoolwide Plan was updated with revised action steps

Reading intervention plans will be established this school year to meet the needs for a focus of literacy.

Questions were asked by parents about Milestones. It was confirmed that Milestones will take place in May, which is later than normal, and the school team is working through the logistics of what that means for end of the year events.

Collective Commitments- Carmel's collective commitments were explained to parents which state non-negotiables for Carmel and the expectations around instruction.

Milestones - Questions were asked by parents about Milestones. It was confirmed that Milestones will take place in May, which is later than normal, and the school team is working through the logistics of what that means for end of the year's events.

Board Policy IHA

Board Policy IHE

Grading Systems (Board Policy IHA)-board policy created by the school board to create equity among all schools in the county.

Placement, Promotion and Retention (Board Policy IHE)- board policy created by the school board to create equity among all schools in the county.

Title Information-

No questions regarding the documents presented from the first Title I Parent Engagement event.

6. **School Safety** -Carmel has updated cameras for security. No further questions were asked about safety and security.
7. **Attendance** -CARES team was explained. A panel, made up of educators in the building, is required by law to have a meeting with parents when students reach 8 or more unexcused absences. It was clarified that parents are able to write an excuse note; it does not have to be a doctor's note. The excuse notes may be sent through Parent Square.
8. **Questions/Comments-** It was recommended by Mr. and Mrs. Naples for there to be a map for new parents to Carmel, items included- directions for dropoff and pickup, and parking for people with mobility issues during our Title Nights.