Carriel PTO Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, August 19, 2026
Carriel Library

In Attendance: Kristen Carrico, Missy Polete, Liz Collazo, Kelley Goeden, Christy Martin, Dena Wolff, Dan Foehrkolb, Jenn Foster, Valerie McGarry, Julie Dietz, Mike Dietz, Katherine Fischer, Sarah Levinson, Sylwia Houlston, Megan Kruse, Tunisia Huddleston

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

Each attendee introduced themselves

II. Dr. Foehrkolb/School Administration Report

1. Dr. Foehrkolb emphasized the three key focuses of our PTO - open communication, staff appreciation, and volunteer engagement. He praised the current PTO board and members for sticking to those concepts over the last year.
2. Cougar Crawl was a success. Carriel welcomed over 50 new families to our school.
    a. One parent commented that her child felt some disorganization and frustration on the first day. This student is new to the district but is not a 6th grader and felt as though much of the first day was directionless. Dr. Foehrkolb appreciated that feedback.
3. Students are adjusting well to using Chromebooks in the classroom.
    a. Several parents expressed gratitude that Chromebooks are no longer coming home. There was a brief discussion regarding snow days and how students without adequate devices will be counted present. Dr. Foehrkolb stated that a form will be going home to parents in September inquiring about student/family device needs during eLearning.
4. A parent asked why the first day sorting ceremony had not been livestreamed like it was last year. Dr. Foehrkolb stated that it was not intentional and was really just an oversight. He agreed with suggestions that there should be a designated videographer for next year's ceremony.

III. Board Reports

1. President – Liz announced the current Vice-President vacancy on the Executive Board and informed attendees how they could submit themselves or someone else as a nominee.

2. Secretary – Christy invited attendees to review the minutes from the April 2026 meeting. A motion for approval was made by Kelley Goeden and seconded by Sylwia Houlston. All were in favor.

3. Treasurer – Kelley presented a number of documents, which included information regarding our proposed budget, income, expenses, private donor funds, and projected budget. A motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget was made by Jenn Foster and seconded by Sylwia Houlston. All were in favor.

4. Teacher Liaison – No report as Sara Cleary was unable to attend the meeting.

IV. Committee Reports

1. Spirit Wear – Kelley reported that spirit wear designs, as well as house shirts, are available on the KG Designs website. All orders placed during Cougar Crawl will be delivered to school this Friday, August 21.

2. Staff Appreciation

a. Mailbox Treats – Sylwia explained what the monthly mailbox treats are and informed the group that she has already purchased all of the treats for the entire year. She mentioned that she may ask for volunteers to help assemble some of the treats as the year progresses.

b. Lounge Refresh – Christy informed the group that there are allocated funds to stock the staff lounge with certain amenities to make Carriel feel more like home. Funds are available at the beginning of each semester and purchases for the fall refresh have already been made.

3. Glow Bingo – Chairperson Liz Collazo stated our next Glow Bingo event will be February 6, 2027. She briefly explained the silent auction that accompanies this event and asked anyone who may be interested in soliciting donations to reach out to her. She also highlighted that Dietz Farm donates a hog for a hog raffle during Glow Bingo.

4. Glow Dance – Chairperson Brandi Paul was not in attendance, but the date of the dance was stated as May 7, 2027. More details will be shared closer to the event.

V. Event/Committee Needs & Updates

1. Staff Dinner – Christy explained the basics of the staff dinner that centers around parent/teacher conferences. The fall dinner will be held October 7 at 4:00 pm. Christy noted that a SignUp Genius will be circulated for this event.

VI. New/Additional Business

1. **Bylaw Revision –** A proposal was made to combine the positions of Volunteer Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator into a new position called the Community Outreach Coordinator. This proposal will be voted on at the next PTO meeting in September.

VII. Open Floor – Questions, Comments, Concerns

1. The need for library volunteers was mentioned and Christy stated that when the SignUp Genius for volunteers is circulated, she will post it on the PTO's social media platforms.
2. Julie Dietz briefly spoke on the Carriel Food Pantry and stated that more details will be coming for that in the very near future.
3. Liz reviewed the upcoming school events that were listed on the agenda.
4. Julie informed the group that the Dietz Pumpkin Patch is growing well this year. She explained how the Pumpkin Patch operates on a donation only basis and all funds are split between Carriel and Evans elementary.

VIII. Vote to Adjourn – The August meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.