

Minutes for the General Board Meeting of Carmel River School PTO September 14, 2023.
Transcribed by Anthony Carnazzo, PTO Secretary.

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Lauren Cunningham, PTO President at 3:20pm.

2. Roll Call

Lauren Cunningham, President

Anthony Carnazzo, Secretary

Monica Tavakoli, Vice President

Adrienne Mitchell, Treasurer

Sean Edwards, Communications Officer

Principal Alberto Ramirez (in the capacity as Advisor/Liaison)

3. Minutes introduced by AC approved by unanimous consent

4. Finance Report

- a. Adrienne gives a brief update on the TUF campaign. Brief financial report. Currently about \$47,500 in our bank account. Checks have been written for multiple field trips, the Readathon, State of California and IRS registration fees, and a few teacher stipends. To be in compliance with the new CUSD policy we have changed our insurance carrier which is effective as of last week.

5. Lauren notes that the River School Fall Festival is on October 20th. 2pm for Kindergarteners and 3pm for the rest of the students. Please look for a SignUp Genius in your email inbox within the next few days. A very huge thank you to Alex Sanchez, our committee chair.

6. Lauren introduces Father Daughter Dance as an agenda item. Reminds the audience that our PTO goal is to provide fun and joy for the children. Offers counsel that all discussion be kept civil with respect for opposing points of view and that we should model good behavior to the students. This is a chance for your Board to hear your thoughts, as your representatives. There will be no action and no vote taken today. This is a listening opportunity for the Board. Members of the membership are given three minutes to speak their mind. They include the following individuals:

1. Alexandra Edwards
2. Morgan Smith
3. Jessica Croudo
4. Christina Bell
5. Bahar Iranmanesh
6. Tatiana Scher
7. Nora Ward

8. Richard Spencer
9. Chris Thomas
10. Drew Lander
11. Robbie Newman
12. Erinn Barca-Hall (on behalf of Veronica Craft)
13. Kim Benson
14. Paige Parisi

Sean Edwards to read comments submitted online by the following members:

1. Andrea Smith
2. Alex Sanchez
3. Sally Kirkwood
4. Kristie Khal
5. Molly Sans
6. Maggie Watkins
7. Kristin Camelo
8. Golden and Melissa Anderson

Arguments Against

Gendered events are not inclusive. Different families have different makeups. Multiple events are financially wasteful. Age span is too large. Already a family dance, so just make it reflective of that. Tularcitos has seen great success with their one-event program. Don't hold on to needless tradition. Discriminatory against non-straight people. Some families do not have a father, via death or other circumstances. Family dynamics have changed in recent years. Concern about children feeling excluded. Kids should not feel like they are not welcome.

Arguments In Favor

Encouragement for those opposing events to volunteer and really understand the nature of the event. Keep the events just make sure to keep it inclusive. Parents are responsible for managing any stress that might come from school/life. Different energy between events. No one is being excluded. Good nudge to get out there with your daughter. Too often fathers miss the opportunity to spend time with their daughters. Add a new event called the Family Line Dance. Empathy for different family makeups but in favor of a wonderful opportunity for everyone to attend. These events have already been litigated so why open it up again?

7. Principal's Update

Brief words of appreciation by Alberto for this very special school community and his joy in getting to be here. Comments on the wonderful progress of academics and appreciation for teacher and parent involvement. Enjoys getting to see the children advance in their learning.

Meeting is adjourned by Lauren at 4:14pm.