



# CARMEL USD BOARD BRIEFS

SPOTLIGHTING INFORMATION FROM AND ACTIONS OF  
THE CARMEL UNIFIED BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Meeting of May 25, 2022*

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The CUSD Board of Education meeting began with a moment of silence for the victims of the horrific shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. We mourn with their families and friends and the entire community after this unspeakable tragedy.

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**Consent Items - Board unanimously approved the Consent Calendar Items (5,0)**

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## Action/Discussion/Information Items

- **The Board approved the [Universal Prekindergarten Planning & Implementation \(UPK\) Grant Plan as presented](#):** Staff presented the UPK grant plan to the Board and the Board approved. Research has shown that children who have high quality learning opportunities prior to kindergarten do better in school and life than those who do not have those opportunities. Children benefit from high quality preschool programs when starting school in terms of their social-emotional development, language and early literacy, math skills, and executive functioning. State law requires districts to create a plan articulating how they will meet the requirements of this expansion of these services. Laura Dunn, Director of Child Development Programs reviewed CUSD's plans in [the presentation](#). More information about transitional kindergarten can be found on our [webpage here](#).
- **The Board provided direction to staff to retain Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research to provide demographic services as outlined in [their proposal](#) in support of the transition to by-trustee area elections:** Board members are currently elected in at-large elections where all District voters vote for all five members of the Board. In some situations, the California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA") prohibits the use of at-large elections and requires a transition to by-trustee area elections, where voters in each of five trustee areas vote for one member of the Board, similar to legislative or congressional elections. In light of this, the Board adopted a resolution indicating that it would transition to by-trustee area elections after the 2020 census. In order to make this transition, the Board will need to develop and adopt trustee area boundary maps. This requires the assistance of a professional demographer with access to the required data and experience in creating trustee areas for school districts. Staff recommended the Board provide direction to enter into a contract with Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research given their local experience, which includes providing districting services to the Monterey County Office of Education and several other school districts in Monterey County. The contract will be brought to the Board for ratification at a future meeting. It is anticipated that the first public hearing on the [transition process](#) will take place at the June 22nd Board meeting with the process being complete by the end of the year. For reference, more information about the districting process can be found on the Monterey County Office of Education [redistricting website](#).
- **The Board received a [presentation](#) on the Special Day Class (SDC) / Learning Center:** Steve Gonzalez, Director of Special Education, presented a summary of the new Special Day Class model and plans for Special Education services for students with disabilities. CUSD's Special Education Advisory purpose, timeline, structure and results were reviewed. An expanded continuum within CUSD means we can provide services more efficiently for most students within their own community and improve alignment of specialized academic instruction to students. CUSD hopes these changes continue to foster and support a culture of acceptance and understanding for all.

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***The next Meeting of the Carmel Unified Board of Education will be held on  
Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at Carmel Middle School Library at 5 p.m.***