

#WeAreCarmelUnified

From the Office of the Superintendent Barb Dill-Varga, Ed.D.

Updated Publication December, 2019

** Corrected Dates Below!

Wishing you and yours a relaxing time spent with friends and family during this Holiday Season!

Our schools will be closed for students from December 23 through January 6. We will welcome them back on Tuesday, January 7, 2020!

[Note: The District Office will be open with limited staff on January 2-3, 2020, and January 6th is a Staff Development Day (staff only).]



First Cup of Coffee with the Superintendent

Next Dates and Locations for Friday First Cup of Coffee meet-ups — 7:30am - 8:30 am

Tomorrow, December 13 - Coffee Bank at 26135 Carmel Rancho Blvd.

Tentative Second Semester Dates:

- **January 10** - Coffee Bank at 26135 Carmel Rancho Blvd.
- **February 7** - Coffee Bank at 26135 Carmel Rancho Blvd.
- **March 20** - Big Sur Bakery, Big Sur
- **April 10** - Carmel Valley Roasting Company at the MidValley Shopping Center - "tentative"

I have had three "Cups of Coffee with the Superintendent" meet-ups with a total of 25 parents/community members thus far. It is a great informal way for me to listen to concerns, gather great ideas, and share back current updates on district initiatives! Please consider joining me at the next one on December 13 or after that on January 10.

Note: we had been planning on holding another Mid-Valley meet-up but learned recently of the flooding at Carmel Valley Roasting Co. in that shopping area, so for the time being we will be back at Coffee Bank.

California Dashboard Now Released on December 12, 2019

The California Department of Education (CDE) did not release the latest California Dashboard until Thursday, December 12, 2019. We had hoped to have a presentation related to the data at the December 11, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting, but now that will have to be rescheduled for January's meeting, due to CDE's late release.

We do want you to know of the ways in which we will disseminate information to our parents and community about the dashboard.

We will present the Dashboard data at a series of meetings for the community, staff, and stakeholders as part of our LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) process. Site staff presentations are scheduled for January and February. Several community meetings as well as site parent group meetings will take place during that time frame as well.

Here is the *tentative* schedule:

- Captain Cooper/Staff/SSC/ELAC/DELAC/ Big Sur Community Meeting - January 9th at 3:15 pm
- Carmel Community Meeting at CHS - January 16th at 6:00 pm
- Cachagua Community Meeting - TBD
- Carmel Middle PTO/Parents - February 5th at 8:30 am
- River School Parent Group - TBD
- Tularcitos Parent Group - TBD

Facilities Master Plan update

Our Board of Trustees have been working hard with our administrative team on next steps to take for our Facilities Master Plan (FMP). This ten-year plan is the culmination of two years of visioning work, a comprehensive needs assessment, and engagement with various stakeholder groups in the District and community. Thanks to many of you who have been involved along the way!

Most recently, a three-hour special Board Meeting was held on November 15 to look at project needs at all sites. The meeting agenda was framed to explore a variety of questions as follows:

General Obligation Bond Election

Does the Board want us to plan for a General Obligation (GO) Bond Election for 2020 or 2022?

1. What projects do we want to plan that will be potentially funded by a bond?
2. What is the largest investment the District should request from the community?
3. May we proceed with hiring more team members (an architect, a survey firm, a consultant for additional public outreach, etc.)?

Use of One-Time Available Dollars to Fund Facility Improvements

1. Do we want to use one-time available dollars to hire architect(s) for additional FMP planning and design work?
2. And/or do we want to use one-time available dollars to make improvements to facilities?
3. If we want to use one-time available dollars for improvement to facilities, which projects will be top priorities, and how much will we commit?

Though the meeting was three hours in length, we have only begun to answer some of these questions. What the Board did decide was:

1) To authorize the administration to implement a process that would bring forward a recommendation for hiring a firm to help us survey voters in our community on many of these topics. The results of this work should give the Board direction about moving forward with a GO Bond, whether it should be for 2020 or 2022, how much to consider asking the local taxpayers for, and what projects are most important to voters.

2) To authorize the administration to implement a process that would bring forward a recommendation for hiring an architect firm to help us with a second phase of Facility Master Planning.

3) To authorize the administration to identify projects to be funded with one-time available dollars and to engage in a process to secure a recommendation for an architect to guide the work on top priority projects to be paid for with one-time available facilities funding.

Internally, we are also working to make sure that the site needs are refined to reflect true and essential needs, addressing both safety issues and 21st Century instructional goals. More information will be shared at upcoming board meetings as it becomes available!

Community Advisory Committee - December 16

During my first year, I realized as Superintendent, I needed a group of community members (including some who are parents and some who are not) to be a

communication group able to share thoughts with me and to accurately disseminate information to their networks. Early on, I shared this article written by Doug Reeves with the group that describes the value of having hubs and nodes in a network of communicators. ([Of Hubs, Bridges, and Networks](#)) From the beginning, this committee has provided valuable affirmation of our need to secure a School Resource Officer (SRO) and has validated our need to look at improving our safety protocols with our emergency responder partners. Last year, this group served a specific function in the Master Facilities Planning Process.

Our next meeting of this group will be on **Monday, December 16, 2019 - 5:30 - 8:00 pm in the Carmel Middle School library**. We always start with a light supper and the meeting agenda begins at 6:00pm. Our agenda at this meeting will include some key updates on progress made on student safety, next steps and challenges to solve related to the state's late start mandate, Facilities Master Plan next steps, and communication strategies. We will be build in time to solicit ideas from the group on these and other topics. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact asap my assistant Tricia Zarevich at 831-624-1546 or at tzarevich@carmelunified.org.

RAPTOR - New Site Visitor Check-In Management System

Last year at Carmel Middle School, we successfully piloted a new system for screening and keeping track of visitors to the school. Based on this pilot we are beginning to roll this out at all school sites.

What is Raptor?

The Raptor® Visitor Management school security system has the most reliable and up-to-date U.S. sex offender database check available. Every visitor is instantly screened against registered sex offender databases in all 50 states.

What happens when you come to a school site?

You will check in at the main office and give the office receptionist your drivers license or state ID. She will quickly scan it into the system which checks your information and then issues you a "sticky badge" you can wear during your visit. The badge has your picture on it and indicates who you are visiting and the date/time of your visit. This will help campus supervisors identify you and help you to find your destination, too! The very first time you use the system, it will take a few minutes, but the next time you are on campus, you can use the kiosk station and very quickly obtain your badge and be on your way.

Why are we moving to Raptor?

In the past, we have utilized a much more expensive criminal background checking system to identify individuals who cannot by law be on our campuses with children. We do that to make sure that vendors/visitors/field trip chaperones meet state standards. Raptor is a more efficient and cost effective way to handle that process at least for the majority of our visitors, though for overnight chaperones, we likely will have a more rigorous process still to follow.

But more importantly, this is a step we are taking to enhance the safety of our somewhat open campuses. We want our staff to be able to know who should and should not be on campus and how we can help direct them to where their appointments are. Some of our future master facilities plans will include some structural changes to ensure that individuals have to enter through a centralized administrative entrance. Raptor will be located in those areas. We certainly don't want our parents or community to feel unwelcome, but we do know that in today's world, our practices do need to start changing, and this is a small step we can take to start reworking our practices. Thank you for understanding and being patient as we make this transition!

Meet Our Board of Trustees

In recent *#WeAreCarmelUnified* newsletters, I introduced you to our newest Board Member Todd Weaver, then veteran board member Annette Yee Steck and newer board member Tess Arthur. In this newsletter, please meet **Sara Hinds**, our Board Clerk!



Board Member, Sara Hinds

Each Board member has provided the text they wish to share with you. So, in her third person voice, Sara writes:

"Sara Hinds is a proud Carmel native and a product of Carmel schools. She is honored to be able to give back and support this incredible community and school district that has given her and her family so much.

Sara was elected to the CUSD Board of Trustees in November of 2018, and although she is in her first term

as a governing board member, she has been contributing her time and energy in one way or another to CUSD for many years. Whether as PTA President, two-term member of the School Site Council, or now as a trustee, Sara has spent countless hours volunteering and working with students and staff to make CUSD the best district it can be.

Sara is enthusiastic and passionate about this very important role and believes the single best part of being a board member is the ability to support each and every student, employee and family in CUSD. She leads by example through her student-first philosophy, grit, integrity, and above all else, believes that serving the district in this capacity is a labor of love.

Sara is married and her twin boys currently attend CMS. She also has a two-year-old at home and looks forward to having a very close connection to CUSD for many years to come."

Next up in a future newsletter: a Focus on Board President, Karl Pallastrini.

Annual Board Reorganization

Every December, the Board of Trustees is required to publicly reorganize and vote for members to assume certain leadership roles and to assume committee appointments. These decisions that were made at the meeting:

President of the Board: Karl Pallastrini

Clerk of the Board: Sara Hinds

Executive Secretary to Board: Supt. Barb Dill-Varga
Committee Appointments:

Education: Karl Pallastrini, Sara Hinds

Policy: Annette Yee Steck, Tess Arthur

Finance : Annette Yee Steck, Todd Weaver

Facilities: Karl Pallastrini, Tess Arthur

Wellness: Todd Weaver, Sara Hinds

Community Human Services: Annette Yee Steck, Todd Weaver (alt.)

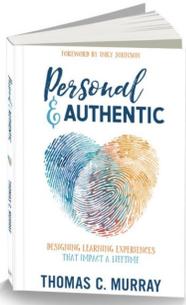
Mission Trails Regional Occupation Executive Board: Karl Pallastrini, Sara Hinds (alt.)

Monterey County School Boards Association Exec Council/Legislative Representative Liaison: Tess Arthur, Sara Hinds (alt.)

All Board of Trustees information—including last night's approved calendar of meetings—can be found on the Board website at carmelunified.org.

What are we reading now?

From the Superintendent:



I have about two dozen teachers who meet with me in a **Teacher Advisory Council**. We are reading this book together this year. Tom Murray is a charismatic presenter and many of his talks can be found on Youtube. He is also a wonderful writer who speaks of the importance of connecting “personally and

authentically” with our children through carefully designed learning experiences.

Mark your calendar for these two events!

We have a special partnership with the Carmel Public Library Foundation. This year we are cohosting with them two different events, both of which occur in Carmel High’s *Center for the Performing Arts*(CPA), starting at 6:30 pm.

On February 10 at 6:30 pm - CHS CPA

Title: *Wired for Reward: How Teenage Brains are vulnerable to addiction and simple strategies to promote health.*

A panel facilitated by Dr. Susan Swick, MD, MPH, Physician in Chief Ohana Center for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health

On March 16, at 6:30 pm - CHS CPA

Title: *Stanford’s Challenge Success, A Well-Balanced Perspective on College Fit. What is “fit” and why does it matter?*

Presenter: Jennifer Cote, Program Director Stanford University’s School of Education CHALLENGE SUCCESS

How to Find Out What’s Going On

- Before every board committee and regular board meeting, we send you an Invitation and Preview of Board Agenda Topics.
- Following every regular board meeting, we send you [#Board Connections](#), a 1-2 page summary of the board meeting, with links to Agenda Online documents.
- [#WeAreCarmelUnified](#) is our regular newsletter with updates on issues and work going on within our district.
- Your site principal’s weekly email newsletter has important information on upcoming events and reminders.
- [Here is a link to our District Goals](#) and [This is a link to our LCAP plan](#).
- Lastly, if you wish to share information anonymously with us about events being planned that we may be able to short circuit, we do have an anonymous tip line 1-(800-78-CRIME) that you can access. Our entire goal is to keep our children safe. Thank you in advance for taking this seriously!

Important Upcoming Dates

- [First Cup of Coffee with Supt!](#) - December 13, 2019 and January 10, 2020.
- Next Board Meeting - January 22, 2020
- Supt’s Community Advisory Council (CAC) - Dec. 16, 2019 and Jan.16, 2020
- BOE Wellness Committee Meeting - January 13, 2020