

Carpinteria Unified School District

TO: District Parent Advisory Committee

FROM: Diana F. Rigby, Superintendent

RE: October 9, 2025 Agenda

5:30-6:30, District Office Conference Room

You are invited to participate in the District Parent Advisory Meeting to collaborate with the Superintendent to promote excellence in our schools and increase parent involvement. We will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss current district issues, share activities and events, and make recommendations for district improvements. Thanks for your volunteer participation.

Agenda:

1. Welcome/Introductions/New CUSD Board Member
 - Jeanette Alcaarez replacing Sally Green as appointee to School Board to fill vacancy upon retirement
2. Board Policy and Regs 1230 School-Connected Organizations
 - A few parent groups still need to turn in - thank you PFS for turning in again this year on time
3. 25-26 Enrollment; Class Size: see attachments
 - Enrollment down again this year. Diana largely attributes to Carpinteria residents ages 25-50 (average age of parents of school children) being main age group leaving town and moving away, many out of state. Also fair number of students each year leave public school for homeschooling programs
 - 30 students that were enrolled last year were identified during an audit over the summer as having false home address verification documents and were removed from enrollment. CUSD board policy is very strict about address verification due to CUSD being a basic aid district, aka community funded. The money for CUSD schools comes from property taxes, not state funding. This means that funds for school are not based on enrollment numbers and the State does not fund our district programs such as TK. CUSD has existed as a basic aid district for approx 20 years. This also means that technically there is more money per student if the enrollment numbers are lower.
 - Regarding Basic aid districts and TK classes: the state mandate that TK be universal is stated to be unfunded and therefore not mandated for basic aid districts such as CUSD. Unfortunately, CUSD can only afford to staff two TK classes, and therefore many were turned away when seeking TK enrollment this school year.
4. Staffing 25-26
 - Many classes without instructional assistants this year due to class sizes small (on average roughly 20-22 per class). DLI with slightly larger class sizes (~ 24) do have IAs.
5. 25-26 Adopted Budget- June 2025: see attachments
 - School board wants 10% reserve balance, and is well below that this year. Diana is happy with the numbers considering how strapped the district has been and how much budget tightening the staff members have all accomplished over the last school year.
 - The reserve projections for the next three years do not reflect salary increases, so are significantly higher than they will actually be, but the goal is that each year the reserve increases.
 - Reserve Balance % average for most Unified School Districts is roughly 25-26%, and it was noted how far below this average CUSD is.
 - Most significant staff salary cuts were accomplished through attrition rather than layoffs last year.
6. District Goals :
 - **Promote safe school environments for students/staff:** Senate and assembly bills and laws limit presence of any persons including immigration officials on campus. Diana and CUSD staff cannot effect any perimeters around campus, they are by law only allowed to limit what happens within school gates
 - **Increase student achievement:** emphasize phonics and reading competency at elementary grade levels; emphasize how to ethically implement and teach AI at middle and high school levels
 - **Facilitate student well-being and mental health**

- **Provide opportunities for each and every student to succeed:** Diana expressed excitement over Dual Enrollment and Early College at the high school level. Dual Enrollment means that students enrolled in certain classes will receive high school class credits as well as SBCC college class credits. These can count toward future college credits. A new program this year is Early College which means that if students complete this two year program with qualifying grades, they are able to receive a high school diploma and an AA degree at the same time upon graduation. In addition, all students with qualifying grades and a high school diploma from Carpinteria High School will receive automatic enrollment into any Cal State university without need for application, testing or application fees.

7. Student Mental Health Services

8. After School Programs - available to all elementary schools except Summerland; Summerland School has creative club for one hour on Wednesdays three weeks each month

9. Oct 13 - PD Day for Teachers

10. Site Highlights/Concerns

11. Measure U Update- Aliso TK/K Project - New TK/K classroom

12. Additional items

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11