

**Work Session Meeting
September 28, 2020**

Opening

Call to Order

At 6:02 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the September 28, 2020, Caesar Rodney School District Work Session Meeting to order.

Roll Call

Members present in addition to President Marasco were Vice President, Ms. Jessica Marelli, Board Members Mr. Dave Failing, Dr. Joyce Denman, and Executive Secretary Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald. Mr. P. Scott Wilson was absent

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the September 28, 2020 agenda as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, and Denman).

Update on School Re-Opening

Dr. Fitzgerald shared condolences to the family of Mr. Gerald Buckworth and to Peggy Bracket's family. He shared kudos to Mrs. Lavender and the Allen Frear Elementary School for being named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Mrs. Tara Faircloth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, gave a presentation on the hybrid schedule for reopening. Pre-K students will start on 10/12. The elementary schedule has two groups and a complete remote group. Students would report on Monday and Tuesday (K-3 starting on 10/19) with Wednesday as remote learning for all allowing for cleaning, etc. There is a calendar A and B group and that calendar will be sent home to parents. She shared the daily schedule for elementary. 9:30 a.m. is the start time with breaks included. Asynchronous (not live with the teacher) for Social Studies instruction and other assignments. This can be done at a later time if needed. Small group instruction times, office hours, and support times were included.

Mr. Marasco asked about the immersion students and that program instruction. Mrs. Faircloth stated they will have targeted language times every day. Flipgrid may also be used for Immersion students. Screen time comparisons from the first plan to the current plan were discussed. Instruction is still there but the afternoon instruction can be done at a different time allowing for flexibility. Mr. Marasco asked about the timeline for implementation. Mrs. Faircloth stated we are still screening our students. 10/12 is the target date for elementary. There will be practice time for the new schedule. Ms. Marelli asked about RTI (Response to Intervention). RTI is pushed in as much as possible during the day. We don't have the beginning of the year data yet. It will be mid-day or afternoon for RTI instruction.

Mrs. Faircloth continued explaining the secondary schedule. These students will begin on 11/9. The secondary schedule has three cohorts and remote. Families with siblings in the elementary grades were discussed. Schedule examples were given. Group A will meet on Monday & Tuesday, group B on Thursday and Friday, and group C the following week. Wednesday is a ZOOM day for all. The November and December calendar and the daily secondary schedule were also shared. The secondary day starts at 7:30 and ends at 2:40 with office hours, small group instruction, assessments with students, asynchronous work all available.

Mr. Marasco stated the start dates for each level and the staff reporting date. He asked about additional help for staff. Mrs. Faircloth stated at the elementary level, they are matching staff as much as possible. The next in-service day will have PD (professional development) opportunities for instructional staff on how to manage their day. Dr. Fitzgerald stated we are looking at additional ways we can support the elementary teachers. Mr. Marasco asked about secondary instruction time. Mrs. Faircloth stated they will have more instruction time with more contact with the teacher. Mr. Marasco continued and asked about the hybrid platform. He inquired if students would still use their chrome books. Mrs. Faircloth stated students will bring their devices to school in their district provided cases and have them fully charged. This will be discussed more at PD day giving support and finding balance. Some science experiments were tested. Ms. Marelli shared she has heard a lot from elementary staff. They are in front of students more with not enough planning time. Mrs. Faircloth stated with the new schedule, the times look a little different. We are looking at pre-planning for social studies with

science only one day a week. ELA and Math hours were discussed. Grade level appropriate instruction was discussed.

The John S. Charlton schedule was shared. They are following the same guidelines with groups AA and BB, etc. Mr. Marasco asked about bringing students back into JSC. Mrs. Faircloth stated we are learning a lot by bringing in students now. Student safety is highly important. Mr. Marasco stated he was impressed that we have shortened the screen time.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated fall athletics began today. Activity buses were running. The range of athletes needing transportation is from 35-100 students. We can continue doing this until 10/19. We will evaluate at that time. The big issue is whether the Board would like to have spectators at events. Some districts have stated no spectators and some districts are allowing spectators. 250 is the most allowed for an outdoor event with 50 for an indoor event. The district can submit a waiver to DPH (Delaware Department of Health) asking for more spectators. Ms. Marelli asked how we would determine the 250 count. Dr. Fitzgerald continued and stated we have to provide for the team, coaches, etc. and then it could be one or two spectators per athlete. In moving forward, we would need a waiver because we couldn't meet the 250 maximum requirement. Dr. Fitzgerald also stated we can live stream or record the events. Dr. Sherry Kijowski stated if we total the football, cheerleading, marching band, and their staff we have 260 people. Two tickets per student would be over 600 people. In a normal football game, the number is about 2000+. We would have to socially distance as we did at graduation. Dr. Denman asked about cheerleading and their rules. Dr. Kijowski stated they held try-outs last week and coaches have done a great job trying to meet protocols. Everyone must be masked no matter what your role is at all events. Mr. Marasco asked about other sports. Dr. Kijowski stated the same would need to be followed. The possible numbers for other sports were then discussed. Mr. Marasco asked about the number of home games scheduled. Dr. Kijowski stated there are three home football, six home field hockey, six home soccer, and six home volleyball games on the schedule. Dr. Fitzgerald stated for cross country, Athletic Director, Mr. Bob Beron, has been working with Kent County Parks and Rec. They are looking at staggered start times. Microchips on shoes may come into play. Winter sports restrictions were mentioned for using all gyms and weights rooms. Ms. Marelli inquired about if we offering anything other than athletics? Dr. Kijowski stated on-campus band and cheerleading are going on. Clubs and activities have been discussed with all advisors. Drama productions will be virtual. Ms. Marelli asked about screening athletes. She wanted to know if our coaches would be liable for students who may test positive. Dr. Kijowski shared the trainers are involved in the athlete's screening process. She continued to state all head coaches and administrators have had training on the screening process with the nursing staff. Ms. Marelli asked about screening students vs. athletes screening. Dr. Fitzgerald stated the health screener should be done before arriving at school. No temps are taken for students, but parents should do this at home. Mr. Marasco inquired about indoor practice limits. Dr. Kijowski continued to state practices started today and everyone must be socially distanced during practice or doing their drills individually. Cleaning all equipment has been considered and we are doing what we need to do.

Mr. Marasco asked about providing transportation for the away games. Dr. Kijowski shared we are only allowed to have 23 on a bus. Items to consider are who will be the passengers on the busses, the availability of busses, who is actually competing at the event (JV, Varsity). Anyone who would like more information on the individual teams should visit Ridersports.com. Dr. Fitzgerald inquired about swimming. Dr. Kijowski stated we can practice at Lake Forest High School, but no times have been set yet. Many schools in the state are using Lake Forest so we must be flexible.

Mr. Marasco asked for a technology update? Mrs. Faircloth stated we are working through some issues with Zoom and we are troubleshooting now. Over 150 hotspots for the internet are out in the district for connectivity. More hotspots are being ordered. All school parking lots are available for those who have issues. The tech team is helping families with getting some assistance to get connected.

Dr. Denman asked for the Board's position on using ZOOM meetings for voting. Dr. Fitzgerald stated public agencies can zoom and vote under the Governor's order right now. If this order is lifted, voting must be in person. To change, this would a legislative action item. ZOOM could be an option for the future if approved. DSBA (Delaware School Boards Association) would like this to move forward. Mr. Failing stated this is possible and a new way to do things.

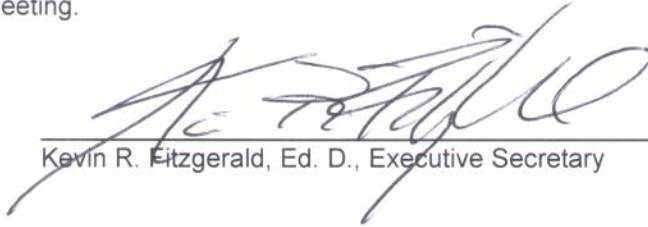
Mr. Failing inquired about middle school sports. Dr. Fitzgerald stated this is on hold due to bussing consistency, etc. We want to see how things are going to work out with getting our students back to school and with the high school sports. We don't want to overburden our transportation. Mr. Failing stated CR will try to do everything we can do and do it safely.

Executive Session

At 7:15 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session. The purpose of which is to discuss property acquisition as afforded by 29 Del. C. Section 10004(b)(2) and to adjourn from the executive session without returning to regular session. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent. (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, and Denman).

Adjournment

At 8:21 p.m. Mr. Marasco adjourned the meeting.



Kevin R. Fitzgerald, Ed. D., Executive Secretary Date