

**Work Session Meeting
October 12, 2020**

Opening

Call to Order

At 6:03 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the October 12, 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 not present.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Failing made a motion to adopt the October 12, 2020 agenda as presented. Ms. Marelli 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

President Marasco asked for an update on transportation and other items regarding the school re-opening.

Dr. Fitzgerald introduced Dr. Jason Bonner, Transportation Supervisor, and asked him to give a transportation update. Dr. Bonner stated all elementary students who elected to return hybrid w/ transportation received a letter with their assigned bus information. An identification card with individual bar codes was included so parents will know where the students are located, etc. These cards will be scanned upon entering the bus. Dr. Bonner then gave some stats on the bus numbers. Overall, the bus numbers are down. The John S. Charlton School numbers are also down. Based on the survey we distributed, some parents elected to provide their own transportation.

Mrs. Julie Lavender, Allen Frear Elementary School Principal, gave some details on parent pick-up and drop-off. Teachers have been given protocol for entering the building and understands all restrictions. Breakfast and lunch will be delivered to the classroom. Recess will be assigned in zones. Dismissal procedures are also ready and in place. Remote learning staff support is also available. She continued and stated three letters have been distributed and, for the most part, the numbers are consistent. One letter is from the principal with their schedule and another letter is from Dr. Bonner with transportation details. Restrictions and protocols were also distributed. Parent drop-off will be in the back of the building. Additional staff will assist with this. In the afternoon, students will stay in the classroom. Parent pick-up and bus numbers will be called for individually for dismissal.

Mrs. Brooke Castillo, J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center Principal, stated kindergarten students should say their goodbyes in the car before entering school and wear their masks. She continued to say that it will be a good year and they are very excited. Students will still have a great kindergarten experience.

Dr. Susan Frampton, W. Reily Brown Elementary School Principal, stated walkers have received school messages and must arrive by 9:15 a.m. Dots are posted every six feet for proper social distancing. Car drop-off will be monitored by staff. Any early arrivals will cause a congestion problem. Everyone has been very accommodating for the students who walk. They will monitor the traffic pattern.

Mr. Jason Payne, Major George S. Welch Elementary School Principal, has the most walkers and he stated they are overemphasizing to parents that students should not arrive early. There are six entrances. Staggered dismissal times will be in place. They ask for parent assistance with the protocols and restrictions.

Mrs. Darisa Everett, Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School Principal, shared the EIP program stated today. The difference with Stokes is the pre-k students arrive at 8:15 a.m, grades 1-3 arrive at 9:15 a.m., and the JSC program arrives at 9:15 a.m. She reinstated it is super important to follow the restrictions and for parents to utilize the circle.

Mrs. Kathleen Fitzgerald, Star Hill Elementary School Principal, shared they have the same protocols in place with staggering arrival time. There should be no early arrivals. Parents should be aware of the protocols. Busses will load first, then walkers, and finally car riders. All three entrances will be utilized.

Dr. Tina Sander-Loftus, John S. Charlton Principal, stated we are building up to Monday. JSC is all back on the 19th. The Wesley students are taking DART busses and other student transportation has been worked out with Dr. Bonner. Afternoon dismissal has been tweaked. A parent informational session was held on Saturday with another one planned for tomorrow night. This presentation will be posted on their website and shared with the staff.

Dr. Fitzgerald asked about the bus stops. Dr. Bonner stated students (K-12) must wear a mask while riding the bus. Those who may forget to bring their mask, one will be provided as we will have extras onboard the buses. Face masks are required, not gators. Social distancing at all bus stops is encouraged. Restrictions for one student per bus seat w/ 23 max on a bus are in place. Windows will be cracked and the use of vents will be used, weather permitting. Parent concerns can be sent directly to Dr. Bonner.

Mr. Ken Starke, Supervisor of Facilities Management, gave an update on the buildings being cleaned every 15 min-two hours and the status of PPE. All PPE is in place. Chiefs are holding weekly meetings. He stated we don't feel there will be any issues and we are in good shape at this time. Dr. Fitzgerald asked about the chemicals being used. Mr. Starke stated a combination of wipes and peroxide-based cleaners for high touch areas are being used. Aerosols are not being used. Dr. Fitzgerald asked about the electrostatic sprayers use their products. Mr. Starke continued by stating on Wednesdays and Fridays we have reserved for major, deep cleaning. We can adjust this as needed. Dr. Fitzgerald asked about posting the chemicals used for the parents. Mr. Starke stated we could post that information.

President Marasco stated that everyone is doing a great job. He asked about our bus contractors. Dr. Bonner stated he believes they are also ready. The contractors are supporting athletics right now. Thursday and Friday we will have bus practice runs. The MCI bus stop signs are also going out. Cleaning buses should not be a problem at this point.

Dr. Denman asked about the Boys and Girls Club student transportation to their respective schools. Dr. Bonner stated their vans are limited with two students unrelated and a driver regardless of the size of the van. They are allowed three if the students are related. They are held to the same standards as public schools. It is creating an overcrowding issue in the vans. Dr. Denman shared a parent concern regarding siblings and transportation from the B&G Club. Dr. Bonner continued and stated school choice students are allowed a ride on a bus if they can get to a bus stop and the bus has space. The B&G Club is a shuttle issue. The shuttles are very full with Immersion and Level IV students. Dr. Fitzgerald stated the boys and girls club should be contacting the parents. He continued to state we will need to revisit the fiscal responsibility as it is currently the B&G Club's responsibility to transport.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated we have received extra masks for our schools and buses. President Marasco asked about the availability of supplies for cleaning. Mr. Starke shared we have been receiving what we can. We are tracking our inventory to stay ahead of the curve. Right now we are good.

Mr. Failing asked about sports, band, and cheerleading pre-season/regular season updates. Dr. Sherry Kijowski, Caesar Rodney High School Principal, stated our plan was approved for two spectators per participant per home event. We are printing tickets for all home season games with the student participant's name and the adult attending the event with cell phone numbers for contact tracing if needed. They have been looking at the cleaning protocols for both inside and outside events. Contactless ticket taking will be in place. Dr. Fitzgerald asked about the band and chorus updates. Dr. Kijowski stated they have put together a show. They are practicing with painted social distancing dots. Band members have masks and PPE for instruments. The Band will occupy the visitor stands during all home games. There will be a floating "CR" for the show. Singers have to be about 13 ft. Colder temps and having singers inside are also being considered. President Marasco asked about other student groups. Dr. Kijowski continued and shared there is a social media post out regarding a live-streamed event on Oct. 29th at 7 p.m. for the drama fall play with 18 cast and crew members. Tickets can be purchased online. Animal science, plant science, and marketing students have also been coming in. There are a lot of moving parts at CRHS.

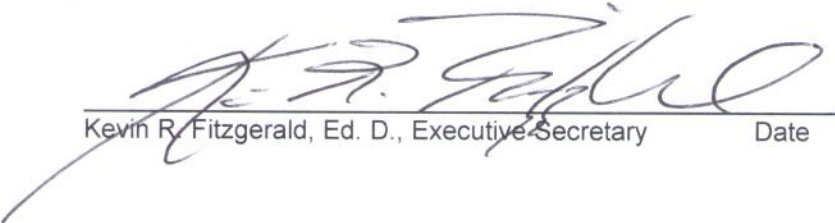
Mr. Failing thanked all principals and those attending the work session tonight. He stated that it is important to let the public know what is going on behind the scenes and he appreciated their attendance. President Marasco shared that October is Principal Appreciation Month and they should know they are appreciated more than ever during this unprecedented time.

Executive Session

At 6:45 p.m. Mr. Failing made a motion to go into Executive Session. Ms. Marelli amended the motion to state they will go into Executive Session. The purpose of which is to discuss personnel matters and real estate acquisition as afforded by 29 Del. C. Section 10004(b)(2) and the meeting to be adjourned without returning to the general session. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent. (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, and Denman).

Adjournment

At 7:18 p.m. Mr. Marasco adjourned the meeting.



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