

**Work Session Meeting
November 9, 2020**

Opening

Call to Order

At 6:03 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the November 9, 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

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the November 9, 2020 agenda as presented. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, and Denman).

Update on School Re-Opening

President Marasco thanked everyone for attending.

Dr. Fitzgerald asked for an update on the middle school opening today.

Dr. Kristina Failing stated it was a great day at F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School. Students were calm and followed all safety protocols. Things ran very smoothly. She thanked everyone for making that happen. Mrs. Kim Corbeil stated it started very smoothly at Fred Fifer III Middle School. Students were excited to be in school. She thanked the additional support that was present today. They utilized one-way directional hallways. Every student wore their mask and did what they needed to do. She couldn't have asked for more. Dr. Fitzgerald shared Mrs. Corbeil was on WBOC live today. She continued and stated it was very interesting how they interview and what is actually selected to air. Mrs. Nicole Jones stated the same as the previous principal's statements. She added thanks to the custodial staff and shared it was a wonderful day at Dover Air Base Middle School.

Dr. Sherry Kijowski shared the high school is working on their last-minute details. The custodians are labeling desks. There are approximately 20-22 desks per classroom. They have reassigned custodial areas for cleaning purposes. The 9th Grade Academy students and students new to the building will have the opportunity to walk the building before school opening on several different dates and times. The perimeters are one child with one adult to tour the building. The dedication ceremony will be held on 12/9 in the afternoon. They are finalizing this schedule. Invitations will be coming out soon. The dedication event will also be live-streamed.

Dr. Fitzgerald asked for the elementary updates. There were no new challenges. Everything is going well.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated this Wednesday is Veteran's Day and he asked the principals to share their plans for honoring veterans. The different activities for each school were shared with the Board. Several activities will now be virtual. These activities will be posted on social media platforms. Some base school activities have been drastically scaled back and modified. Dr. Fitzgerald thanked everyone for planning their Veteran's Day activities in support of our veterans.

Dr. Jason Bonner, Transportation Supervisor, shared a brief update for transportation. Fog delays were mentioned. Overall, things are going well.

Mr. Paul Rodgers, Child Nutrition Supervisor, gave an update on child nutrition. Since the implementation of elementary school students in the buildings, curbside meals have been going down which is to be expected. In-school feeding is going very well. They are working out all kinks and things are moving smoothly.

Mr. Ken Starke, Supervisor of Facilities Management, shared they recently met with the chief custodians and cleaning is going very well in the buildings. There are no concerns at this time. He sees no problems with the middle schools to date.

Dr. Michael Noel, Assistant Superintendent/Director of Human Resources, stated we are doing ok with staffing. We have interviews scheduled to fill current vacancies.

Dr. Fitzgerald shared the Sept 30th student count is a Nov. 13th student count this year. Dr. Fitzgerald thanked the principals for their work tracking down students. He thanked Dr. Toles-Torian, Executive Assistant, for leading this challenge. Dr. Toles-Torian also serves as the district's contact person for the Department of Public Health (DPH). With each positive case we receive, we are doing everything to provide safety for all staff and students. We continue to follow all DPH guidelines with her guidance.

Ms. Marelli asked about hybrid teaching and remote teaching simultaneously. Mrs. Tara Faircloth, Director of Instruction and Curriculum, stated overall the more teachers do things, it becomes easier for them. Some minor technical things are being adjusted. Teachers are getting the hang of it now and finding their rhythm.

Dr. Denman asked about attendance at the elementary level. Mrs. Kathleen Fitzgerald, Star Hill Elementary, shared they are averaging 92% which is typical. Mr. Jason Payne stated they are doing very well with attendance at Welch Elementary School. He shared even the students on vacation can still ZOOM in and they are still able to participate virtually.

Mr. Failing thanked everyone for attending these work sessions. He believes the stress level for all has gone down and we have done a great job dealing with positive cases. He appreciated everyone's hard work. He stated it has not gone unnoticed. Their efforts have been way above and beyond.

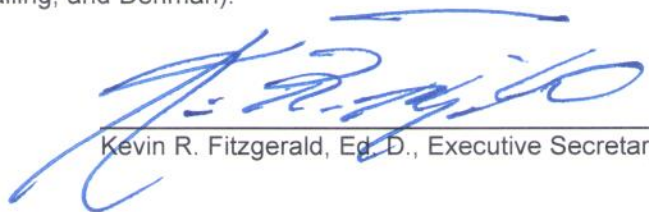
President Marasco thanked everyone again and stated it is amazing to see where we are now and where we started. The district's teamwork is amazing. He thinks we are setting the right pathway for hybrid learning. He continued to state they are still a lot of challenges ahead. We are doing well.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

At 6:34 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent. (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, and Denman).


Kevin R. Fitzgerald, Ed. D., Executive Secretary
11/18/2020
Date