

**Regular Meeting
December 15, 2020**

Opening

Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the December 15, 2020, Caesar Rodney School District regular 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, Mr. P. Scott Wilson, and Executive Secretary Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the December 15, 2020 agenda as presented. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 5-0 unanimously (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Approval of the Minutes: November 17, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes and November 16, 2020, November 30, 2020, and the December 7, 2020, Work Session Meeting Minutes

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the November 17, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes. Dr. Denman seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 unanimously (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the November 16, 2020, November 30, 2020, and December 7, 2020, Work Session Meeting Minutes. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 5-0 unanimously (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Presentations

Nellie Hughes Stokes Principal, Darisa Everett showed a video presentation on their Unified Sports program. She also gave credit to all of the staff involved in the program.

Communications

Superintendent

- Dr. Fitzgerald wished the Unified Football Team luck as they play in the state semifinals tonight.
- Dr. Fitzgerald reminded parents/guardians that the opportunity to change their child's current commitment to either attend hybrid or remote learning for the second semester ends tonight at 11:59 p.m.
- Dr. Fitzgerald invited the school board to visit the holiday lights displays at various schools this week. He shared the dates and times.
- Dr. Fitzgerald mentioned the upcoming forecast for a winter storm and possible snow. He stated we will be doing remote learning in place of snow days this year.
- Dr. Fitzgerald shared he would tell new administrators that they really wouldn't be good at doing their job until they did it for seven years. His thinking was that over those seven years, they would have seen and experienced all the good and bad things that could happen and would be prepared to handle any situation that could come their way. Unfortunately, he had to modify that thinking and tell new administrators to forget the seven years, all they need to do is live through a pandemic. Nothing in the

past has prepared any educator for what has taken place in these last six months. When he states "educators", he means all teachers, paras, nurses, specialists, secretaries, custodians, food service workers, bus drivers, crossing guards, administrators, and School Board members. Each and everyone involved in meeting the educational needs of our students found that they needed to do things differently. He has been truly amazed at how Caesar Rodney has adapted to meet the challenges that we have faced and continue to face. While there is hope, COVID is not going away. While our schools have generally been one of the safest places for students, like everything else, what happens in the community comes into our schools. We cannot just close our doors and keep it out, We need others to do their part by wearing masks, handwashing, and limiting social gatherings if we are to return to in-person instruction. He continued to state this is real and we all have been impacted. To move forward we must all take ownership. So this holiday season he asked that everyone do their part. Stay safe and healthy.

- Dr. Fitzgerald also wished everyone a happy holiday and wanted everyone to work on the same News Year's resolution which is for 2021 to have COVID less and in-school instruction more.

School Board

- President Marasco stated it was a crazy year. He continued to say as we continue to be challenged, he wanted to thank the entire school staff as they have continued to provide the best education possible. It has been difficult with the decisions we have had to make. He wished happy holidays to all.
- Mr. Failing stated he agreed and we must keep the spread down. He shared he enjoyed the CRHS Jazz Presentation last night. He was much appreciative of everyone who contributed to the fall sports season. They did an amazing job with what we had to work with. He believes next year will be even better.
- Ms. Marelli stated she agrees with all statements and hopes 2021 will be a better and happy new year.
- Dr. Denman also agreed and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Executive Session

At 7:15 p.m Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session. The purpose of which is to discuss individual administrators' contract renewals/non-renewals and personnel matters. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

At 8:14 p.m. Mr. Failing made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Marasco seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Action Items

A. Administrative Contract Renewals/Non-Renewals

The Board approved the Administrative Contract Renewals/Non-Renewals as presented.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to accept the Administrative Contracts Renewals/Non-Renewals as presented. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

B. Chambers Bus Contracts

The Board revoked two bus contracts for Chambers Bus Company.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to revoke two bus contracts for Chambers Bus Co. as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Personnel Matters

The Board approved Personnel Matters C1.- C6. as presented on the agenda. Ms. Marelli made a motion to Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

1. Teacher Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Nicole Mulhern	WBS	Occupational Therapist	Temporary appointment effective 12/14/2020.
Kimberly Lucas	NHS	P/T Reading Interventionist	Temporary appointment effective 12/01/2020.
Caitlyn Finfinger	NHS	P/T Reading Interventionist	Temporary appointment effective 11/30/2020.
Samantha George	MCI	P/T Reading Interventionist	Temporary appointment effective 11/30/2020.
Emily Brogan	JSC	Special Education	Temporary appointment effective 1/04/2021.
Jennifer Heffernan	CRHS	Mathematics	Resignation effective 12/19/2020.
Susanne Johnson	FMS	Social Studies	Retirement effective end of SY 2020-2021.

2. Paraprofessional Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Blake Waller	CRHS	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 01/04/2021.
Crista Stephens	JSC	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 12/07/2020.
Michelle Gladden	JSC	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 1/04/2021.
Sara Price	CRHS	Paraprofessional	Resignation effective 11/28/2020.

3. Child Nutrition Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Sara Russell	WRB	3 hour General Worker	Appointment effective 11/23/2020.
Letitia Williams	AFE	5.5 hour General Worker	Appointment effective 11/23/2020.
Lisa Moreau	MCI	3 hour General Worker	Resignation effective 12/2/2020.
JaQuasia Reid-Norwood	NHS	3 hour General Worker	Resignation effective 10/30/2020.

4. Secretarial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Diane Robinson	FMS	Secretary	Retirement effective 7/1/2021.

5. Custodial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Bernadette Blankenship	CRHS	2 nd Shift Custodian	Appointment effective 12/14/2020.

6. Extra Duty Recommendations/Resignations

Name	School	Activity	Position	Action
Jennifer McCarthy	WEL	Musical	Band	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY20-21
Emily Walls	WEL	Musical	Chorus	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY20-21
Brendan Flaherty	WEL	Service Organizations	Odyssey of the Mind Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY20-21
Brendan Flaherty	WEL	Service Organizations	Student Council Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY20-21
Amanda Graham	WEL	Service Organizations	Student Council Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY20-21
Michelle Wissler	WEL	Service Organizations	Safety Patrol Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY20-21
Wendy Wallace	WEL	Service Organizations	Safety Patrol Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY20-21
Leah Whalen	CRHS	Music	March Band Specialist	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY20-21
Raul Reyes	CRHS	Music	March Band Specialist	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY20-21
John Rigby	CRHS	Wrestling	Volunteer Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports 2020
Julie Gorman	CRHS	Swimming	Volunteer Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports 2020
Cortney Porter	CRHS	Girls Basketball	Volunteer Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports 2020
Brandon Barnes	CRHS	Girls Basketball	Asst. Varsity Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports 2020
Elizabeth Boaman	CRHS	Girls Basketball	Volunteer Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports 2020

Routine Business

Gifts to Schools

The Board approved Gifts to Schools as presented on the agenda.

Dr. Denman made a motion to approve the Gifts to Schools as presented on the agenda. Ms. Marelli seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman). President Marasco thanked all donors.

The following donations were Board approved:

- F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School received 40 face masks from Victoria James.
- F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School received 15 bottles of hand sanitizer, masks, and 9 containers of Clorox wipes from Nicole Clayton.
- The District Office received a Google nest WiFi Router for a high school student from Courtney Kaczka.
- Major George S. Welch received Bob Book Sets 1-3 from Donors Choose via Kim Weber.
- Major George S. Welch received Fidget toys, a hanging file organizer, Command strips, 25 headphones, Pinkalicious Pack 5 book set, and clip Connect 100 pieces from Donors Choose via Amanda Graham.
- McIlvaine Early Childhood Center received \$1,000 in classroom supplies from Donors Choose via Michelle Lefever.

Policy Matters

2020-21 School Choice Recommendations

The Board approved the 2020-21 School Choice as presented on the agenda.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the 2020-21 School Choice as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Fiscal Matters

Budget/Fiscal Reports

Mrs. Kimberly Judy explained the Budget/Fiscal Reports. The Board members thanked her for her work and explanations.

The Board approved the Budget/ Fiscal Reports as presented.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the Budget/Fiscal Reports as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Facilities Matters

Mr. Starke explained Facilities Matters individually as listed on the agenda.

1. The following contracts for Caesar Rodney High School are presented for Board approval:
 - a. Remove and replace two water softeners, Peninsula Water Conditioning, Inc. = \$22,983.00
 - b. Remove and replace water heaters, Diamond Mechanical, Inc. = \$42,470.00

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the Caesar Rodney High School contracts as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

2. The following contracts for the David E. Robinson Elementary School are presented for Board approval:
 - a. USB and HDMI cables, CDW-G, LLC. = \$1,290.00
 - b. Panasonic communications server, Martel = \$25,000.00
 - c. 30 Document cameras, IPEVO, Inc. = \$10,038.86
 - d. SMART Boards and installation, Assurance Media= \$174,930.00

Dr. Denman made a motion to approve the David E. Robinson Elementary School contracts as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

3. Change Order: Caesar Rodney High School (Sitework and Athletic Fields)

The following change order for the Caesar Rodney High School was presented for Board approval:

Change Order #	Contractor	Amount/Increase	Amount/Decrease
#006- Ornamental fence revisions and masonry paver repair.	Richard Y. Johnson & Son, Inc.	\$44,144.13	

Mr. Failing stated the entire project is perfect and he is very happy with the work.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the Caesar Rodney High School Change Order #006 from Richard Y. Johnson, and Son, Inc. as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

4. Change Order: David E. Robinson Elementary School

The following change order for the David E. Robinson Elementary School was presented for Board approval:

Change Order #	Contractor	Amount/Increase	Amount/Decrease
#011- Additional roller shades and installation.	Richard Y. Johnson & Son, Inc.	\$12,164.00	

Mr. Failing stated he took a tour recently and the school is looking good.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the David E. Robinson Elementary School Change Order #011 from Richard Y. Johnson, and Son, Inc. as presented on the agenda. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Directors' Reports

Directors' reports, which include their Supervisors' reports, were included for the Board's review.

Ms. Marelli mentioned the Google problem yesterday and stated it was not down very long. Mrs. Tarat Faircloth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction shared some details. Kudos were given to all via the technical support staff.

University of DE Study

Dr. Michael Noel, Assistant Superintendent/Director of Human Resources, thanked the parent representatives and Mr. Wilson from the School Board for the work they have done on this committee. Feedback from the committee was given to Mr. John Laznick, University of DE. An updated version of the proposal will be given next month. Mr. Laznick joined the meeting. A PowerPoint presentation of Draft #2 was shared stating the current statistics and the assignment of students to their closest schools. This included the St. Thomas More school as an additional middle school. Adjusting the attendance lines balances the enrollment numbers for all three middle schools. Travel, bus stops, Immersion students, and school choice students are being considered. Future growth and feeder patterns are also being considered.

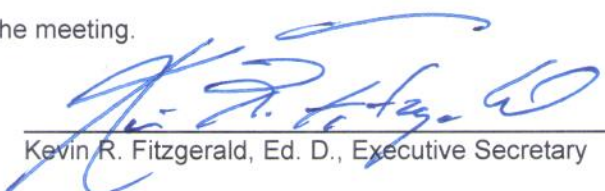
Dr. Denman understood the presentation clearly and stated it was amazing. She asked about Dr. Fitzgerald's prediction on the public's response. Dr. Fitzgerald shared the committee will continue to work on this project. We will be notifying the public and asking them to participate in the discussions. Dr. Noel stated the committee members have the Draft #2 information to share. Dr. Denman asked about the St. Thomas More numbers. Mr. Wilson stated we are still reviewing the demographics. We need to consider the future growth in the St. Thomas More zone. President Marasco stated he agrees with Rt. 13 as a boundary and he is looking forward to the finished project.

Executive Session

At 8:50 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session. The purpose of which is to discuss personnel matters with the meeting to be adjourned without returning to the general session. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Adjournment

At 9:40 p.m. President Marasco adjourned the meeting.


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

12/16/2020
Date