

**Work Session Meeting
January 12, 2021**

Opening

Call to Order

At 6:01 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the January 12, 2021, 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, Mr. P. Scott Wilson, and Executive Secretary Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the January 12, 2021 agenda as presented. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Update on School Re-Opening

President Marasco asked for an update on the hybrid re-opening this week.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated tonight is the first night of winter sports. He asked the individual principals to speak on how they did with the re-opening this week. He was very pleased with what he saw this week.

Mrs. Julie Lavender spoke on behalf of the elementary schools. She stated things are going well and it was great to be back in the building. There was a slight dip in attendance with some families moving to full remote learning. They are still navigating staff coverage as needed. They are very excited to be back.

Dr. Kristina Failing spoke on behalf of the middle schools. She shared they also have families who have selected to go to remote learning due to the increased state COVID numbers. The middle schools are doing well with both live and ZOOM sessions. They are also sensitive about the usual winter bugs and are making good decisions. Students are following all protocols and she stated students were quiet this week.

Dr. Sherry Kijowski spoke on behalf of the high school. She shared the re-opening has gone smoothly this week. Attendance is also the same as with the other schools. Some families have asked for a pause due to the recent numbers. Students are not using lockers and are carrying materials in and out of the building. This week was the start of winter sports and it is going great. They are looking forward to a successful season.

Dr. Fitzgerald shared he was impressed with what he saw in the classrooms. He mentioned the "C" group of students and stated they are happy to be back. Cleaning takes place on Wednesdays and the other groups will return as scheduled. If we need to shut down a particular school, he reminded the Board that we are prepared to do so. The state will be giving us more guidance for administering the vaccine in late January or early February for those who want it. Many school nurses were recently already vaccinated. Tomorrow, CRHS will continue to be a testing site from 10 am-6 pm. Anyone who wishes to be tested should sign up. We encourage our students and community members to get tested to be on the safe side. The results are returned quickly.

President Marasco asked about the other in-school programs and how they are doing. Dr. Kijowski stated that Drivers Education continues to follow the same protocol as in the summer. They have done a great job with that. Instructors are currently driving right now. This week, the Thespians are having a virtual performance. Chorus is looking for how they can perform for the spring. The CRHS social media sites have updated information on the programs. ROTC continues with its practices. President Marasco asked about school pictures. Dr. Kijowski stated the undergraduate photos are rescheduled for early February. Information for sign-ups will be done on Sign Up Genius. The yearbook publication will allow these photos and all photos will show safety protocols in place.

Dr. Fitzgerald asked for a transportation update. Dr. Jason Bonner, Transportation Supervisor, stated rider numbers are down significantly for the "C" cohort. There are no problems with busing to date. Dr. Denman asked for clarification on the low number of riders. Dr. Bonner stated "C" is a smaller cohort. Dr. Fitzgerald explained the demographics of the cohorts which includes families with siblings.

Dr. Fitzgerald asked about child nutrition. Mr. Paul Rodgers, Child Nutrition Supervisor, stated they have also noticed a decrease in participation. They are still providing the service with a limited selection. This allows ease for teachers having those meals in the classroom. The community program is flourishing with about 35,000-39,000 meals a week. This is going very well. The programs are becoming quite popular.

Dr. Fitzgerald asked for Mr. Ken Starke, Supervisor of Facilities Management, to give an update. Mr. Starke shared the custodians are keeping their game up and feel we are still on top of things. Supplies are still going well.

President Marasco concluded the discussion by stating it seems like we are doing everything we need to do to keep everyone safe. He thanked everyone for doing a great job.

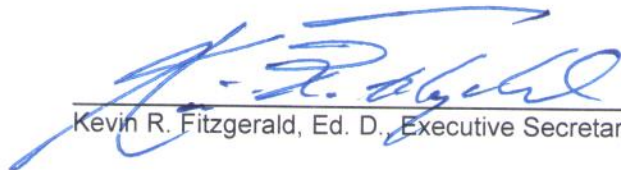
Executive Session

At 6:30 p.m. Mr. Failing made a motion to go into Executive Session and to adjourn without returning to open session. Ms. Marelli seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Dr. Fitzgerald thanked all staff for their work getting schools back open this week. He gave kudos to every department and stated he was very impressed with their work.

Adjournment

At 8:40 p.m., Mr. Marasco adjourned the meeting.


Kevin R. Fitzgerald, Ed. D., Executive Secretary
1/19/2021 Date