

**F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
May 10, 2017
Administrative Items**

Opening

Call to Order

At 7:02 p.m. School Board President Mr. William G. Bush IV called the May 10, 2017 Caesar Rodney School District regular meeting to order.

Roll Call

Members present in addition to Mr. Bush were Vice-President Jessica Marelli, Mrs. Cheryl Precourt, Mr. Michael Marasco, and Executive Secretary Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald with Mr. P. Scott Wilson arriving late.

Adoption of Agenda

Vice-President Marelli made a motion to adopt the May 10, 2017 agenda and addendum as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 4-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, and Marasco).

Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice-President Marelli made a motion to approve the April 12, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 4-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, and Marasco).

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Presentations

Recognitions

Josette Threatts was recognized for receiving the NEA Education Support Professional of the Year award for the State of Delaware. Dr. Fitzgerald added she has been an advocate for the district, the children it serves and continues to serve as a role model for others.

Dr. Dawn Harmon was recognized for receiving her Doctorate degree from Delaware State University. Dr. Harmon has over twenty-one years' experience in education with eighteen years here at Caesar Rodney.

Coach Bill Victory was recognized for his 421st varsity girls' basketball win. In twenty-seven years, he has won 421 games, made the DIAA State Tournament twenty-seven times, made the DIAA State Tournament Elite eight times, Made the DIAA State Tournament Final four times and won the Henlopen Conference six times.

Kyle Hill was recognized for being selected as the District Teacher of the Year.

Fred Fifer III Middle School Wrestlers recognition was removed from the agenda via an addendum.

President Bush called for a five minute recess to take photographs with those individuals honored. The meeting resumed at 7:20 p.m.

Presentations

F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School's principal, Mr. Derek Prillaman, invited the Board and guests outside to explore their outdoor classroom led by teacher, Mr. Todd Klawinski. F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School has been awarded a Green Ribbon School by the Department of Education. Board members and guests visited the outdoor classroom, composting area, farm to table vegetable garden, learning deck, and other areas.

Communications

Superintendent

- Dr. Fitzgerald congratulated Kyle Hill on his selection as the Caesar Rodney School District's 2017-18 Teacher of the Year. He also congratulated the other three finalists, who made the decision a tough one; Alexandra March from Fifer Middle, Nora Tuke from the high school, and Molley Crist from Welch. He also congratulated all other building teachers of the year. He stated, "Each of you contribute to making Caesar Rodney such a special place."
- Since this is Teacher Appreciation Week, Dr. Fitzgerald took the opportunity to thank each of our teachers and paras for what they do each day. He stated, "You are our reason why students come to CR, why students get a wonderful education, why they are college and career ready and why CR is the best school district in the state."
- Dr. Fitzgerald congratulated Mr. Dave Failing on his victory in yesterday's school board election.
- Dr. Fitzgerald congratulated Postlethwait on being named a Green Ribbon award winner. He added, "After tonight's presentation, I think we can all see why they won this award."
- Dr. Fitzgerald congratulated Dr. Sherry Kijowski and the students and staff of the high school for being recognized by U.S. News and World Report as being in the top 8% of high schools in the United States.
- Dr. Fitzgerald wished the Odyssey of the Mind teams from Simpson and the high school good luck as they prepare to compete for the world championship over Memorial Day weekend.
- Dr. Fitzgerald congratulated senior Johnny Bui for winning the Presidential CTE Scholar Award. Johnny will be attending MIT in the fall.
- Dr. Fitzgerald congratulated Mr. John Coveleski for his induction into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame. He has won three lacrosse state championships.
- Dr. Fitzgerald shared some important dates: Honor Cord Ceremony is Monday, May 15th at 6 p.m., Charlton's Graduation is Saturday, May 20th at 10:30 a.m., Senior's Last Day is May 24th, Senior Awards Night is Thursday, June 1st at 6 p.m., Graduation is June 3rd and the Board should report at 9:30 a.m., McIlvaine's Graduation is June 5th, Welch's Kindergarten Graduation is June 7th at 9:30 a.m. at The Landings.
- The student's last day June 9th and Teacher/Staff last day is June 13th. The year has flown by.

School Board

- President Bush recognized Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked them for their dedication.

Action Items

Personnel Matters

The following Personnel Matters were presented for Board approval:

1. Administrator Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Wendy Whitehurst	WRB	Assistant Principal	Retirement effective 7/1/2017.

2. Teacher Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Employee # 20170327			Termination: Transition to *LTD eff. 3/27/2017.
Employee # 20170427			Termination: Transition to *LTD eff. 4/27/2017.
Gariah Ritts	WRB	Teacher	Resignation effective end of SY 2016-17.
Brandi Diaz	JSC	Life Skills Teacher	Resignation effective end of SY 2016-17.

Isabel Sanchez	MCI	Spanish Immersion Teacher	Resignation effective end of SY 2016-17.
Laura Howard	NHS	Teacher	Retirement effective end of SY 2016-17.
Elizabeth Boaman	CRHS	Business Education	Retirement effective 7/1/2017.
Laura Clark	DW	Speech/Lang. Pathologist	Assignment effective 8/22/2017.
Temporary contracts issued for the 2016-17 SY conclude effective 6/30/2017.			

3. Paraprofessional Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Employee # 20170324			Termination: Transition to *LTD eff. 3/24/2017.
Brandon Hughes	JSC	Paraprofessional	Resignation effective end of SY 2016-17.
Melissa Sargent	NHS	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 4/24/2017.
Jennifer Foulk	JSC	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 5/8/2017.

4. Custodial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Wayne Thompson	AFE	Custodian	Resignation effective 6/10/2017.
Michael Semans	NHS	Chief Custodian	Transfer from JSC effective 5/1/2017.
Gretchen Messick	CRHS	2 nd Shift Custodian	Resignation effective 5/10/2017.

5. Secretarial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Employee # 20170410			Termination: Transition to *LTD eff. 4/10/2017.
Sandra Potter	CRHS	Secretary	Resignation effective 6/3/2017.
Ann Craig	JSC	Secretary	Appointment effective 5/1/2017.
Yvette Yerkes	DO	Administrative Secretary	Retirement effective 5/13/2017.

6. Child Nutrition Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Joan Page	WRB	4hr General Worker	Resignation effective 4/14/2017.
Deborah Rose	CRHS	3hr General Worker	Transfer effective 4/24/2017.
Brittney Sturgis	AFE	3hr General Worker	Transfer effective 4/24/2017.

7. Extra Duty Recommendations/Resignations

Name	School	Activity	Position	Action
Jamie Cox	FMS	Softball	Volunteer Coach	Recommendation for Spring SY2016-17.
Gehrig Johnson	CRHS	Lacrosse	Volunteer Coach	Recommendation for Spring SY2016-17.

8. CREA Travel Requests

Name	School	Position	Action
Jori Smith	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 6/19-6/23/2017.
Jori Killen	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 6/19-6/23/2017.

Karine Scott	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 6/19-6/23/2017.
Paula Kohout	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 6/19-6/23/2017.
Abby Botts	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 7/11-7/14/2017.
Mandi Christensen	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 7/11-7/14/2017.
Nicole Cox	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 7/11-7/14/2017.
Ashley Miclette	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 8/8-8/11/2017.
Cassie Guarino	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 8/8-8/11/2017.
Hannah Rohrbaugh	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 8/8-8/11/2017.
Catherine Loughran	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 8/8-8/11/2017.
Lisa Sirman	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 8/8-8/11/2017.
Lindsey Fitzgerald	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 8/8-8/11/2017.
Lindsay Price	WBS	Teacher	To attend Responsive Classroom Course 8/8-8/11/2017.
Carolyn Bush	DO	Resource Teacher	To attend OM World Competition 5/24-5/28/2017.
Colleen Polanin	CRHS	Teacher	To attend OM World Competition 5/24-5/28/2017.

*LTD- Long Term Disability

Vice-President Marelli made a motion to approve Personnel Matters A.1 through A.8 as presented on the agenda and addendum. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

Routine Business

Student Travel

Caesar Rodney High School Students

Event	Date	Location
FCCLA National Leadership Conference-FCCLA students	Sunday, July 2- Thursday, July 6 2017	Nashville, TN

F. Niel Postlethwait Middle Students

Event	Date	Location
Music in the Park- Chorus and Band Students	Friday, May 26, 2017	Hershey, PA
Technology Student Association National Conference- TSA Students	Tuesday, June 20- Monday, June 26, 2017	Orlando, FL

Fred Fifer III Middle School Students

Event	Date	Location
Adventure Aquarium- Student Council	Wednesday, May 31, 2017	Camden, NJ
Six Flags- GEMS Peer Mentor Group	Monday, June 5, 2017	Bowie, MD

W. B. Simpson Elementary Students

Event	Date	Location
5 th Grade Field Trip	Thursday, June 1, 2017	Washington, DC

Allen Frear Elementary Students

Event	Date	Location
Field Trip- Smithsonian	Thursday, June 1, 2017	Washington, DC

Vice-President Marelli made a motion to approve Student Travel as presented on the agenda. Mrs. Precourt seconded

the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

Gifts to Schools

- a. W. B. Simpson Elementary School received a \$100.00 donation from Bennett Insurance Agency, Inc. for the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition.
- b. W. B. Simpson Elementary School received a \$100.00 donation from R.B. & D.J. Harper for the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition.
- c. W. B. Simpson Elementary School received a \$100.00 donation from Beth & Stephen Flaherty for the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition.
- d. W. B. Simpson Elementary School received a \$50.00 donation from Hilton Bus Service, Inc. for the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition.

Vice-President Marelli made a motion to approve Gifts to School as presented on the agenda. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

Policy Matters

1. 2016-17 and 2017-18 School Choice Recommendations

2016-17 and 2017-18 School Choice Recommendations were included for the Board's review and approval.

Vice-President Marelli made a motion to approve the 2016-17 and 2017-18 School Choice Recommendations as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

2. Transportation Policies- Review and Revision

Revised Transportation Policies: EEAC, EEAE, EEAEA, EEAEAC, EEAEAC-R, EE and EEAA were included for the Board's review and approval.

Vice-President Marelli made a motion to approve Transportation Policies: EEAC, EEAE, EEAEA, EEAEAC, EEAEAC-R, EE, and EEAA as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

Fiscal Matters

1. Budget/Fiscal Reports

Mr. Scott Kessel, Director of Business and Finance/ Support Services, explained the Budget/Fiscal Reports.

Vice-President Marelli made a motion to approve the Budget/Fiscal Reports as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

2. Proposed reduction in educational programs and staff in anticipation of proposed state budget reductions.

Mr. Scott Kessel passed out information on the budget reduction recommendations. Dr. Fitzgerald explained the information in detail regarding the breakdown of the cuts: Statewide Educational Operating Budget Reduction, Health Care Cost Share and Double State Share Elimination, Energy Reduction, Transportation Reduction and Education Sustainment (Statewide). The plan to address the first reductions was reviewed. Trading in vacant positions, which also mean units, will help us reach the amount needed to be cut. Discussion took place regarding supporting the new bell schedule and route consolidation so the district would not have to RIF (Reduction in Force). Dr. Fitzgerald reminded the Board that teachers must be notified by May 15th regarding their position for the next year. Mr. Wilson asked when the final decision on the reduction in educational programs and staff needs to be Board approved since things could change. Mr. Kessel stated by June 30th a final decision must be made. President Bush stated the district plan has been made to address this reduction and the presentation was well put together. The Board thanked everyone for doing a great job on having a plan in place with the uncertainty that lies ahead.

Vice-President Marelli made to table the proposed reduction in educational programs and staff as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

Facilities Matters

1. Contract for John S. Charlton Renovation

The following contract was included for the Board's review and approval.

- a. IF IT'S WATER- Pool filter and UV system: \$10,597

2. Contract for John S. Charlton Renovation

- a. Richard Y. Johnson: \$1,187,600

3. Change Order: John S. Charlton Renovation

The following change order for the John S. Charlton Renovation was presented for Board approval:

Change Order#	Contractor	Amount/Increase	Amount/Decrease
A1	Richard Y. Johnson	\$16,870	
Contract Change:	Prevailing wage increase		

4. Contract for Caesar Rodney High School

The following contract was included for the Board's review and approval.

- a. Harvard Environmental- Asbestos design for auditorium roof: \$3,842

5. Contract for Caesar Rodney High School ADA Renovations

The following contract was included for the Board's review and approval.

- a. Bathon Builders: \$348,000

Change Order#	Contractor	Amount/Increase	Amount/Decrease
A1	Bathon Builders	\$10,833.62	
Contract Change:	Prevailing wage increase		

6. Contract for New Elementary School A/E

The following contract was included for the Board's review and approval.

- a. Becker Morgan Group: \$1,171,104

Vice-President Marelli made a motion to accept the contracts E1-E6 pending DFM approval for John S. Charlton, Caesar Rodney High School and the New Elementary School A/E as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

7. Approval of the 2017-18 SY Bell Schedule

Mr. Jason Bonner, Transportation Supervisor, explained the 2017-18 SY Bell Schedule and obstacles that we are faced with: decrease in drivers, transportation cuts, etc. He reminded the board that a committee made up teachers, parents, administrators, and board members was created and they met twice to discuss the bell schedule changes. The committee recommended Option #1 which allows for a half hour earlier start time for middle and high schools and a five minute adjustment to the elementary schools and allows the time needed for buses to do additional bus runs per day. Dr. Fitzgerald asked if we could purchase another bus for CR from the state. Mr. Bonner stated we could possibly purchase another bus from the state, but this comes with additional obstacles such as finding mechanics, housing the buses, finding drivers, etc. Discussion continued regarding creating a 3-5 year strategic plan and revisiting the bell schedule in the future. The Board agreed that a plan needs to be created for future transportation obstacles. Details were discussed regarding the bell schedule and the start times. Vice- President Marelli expressed concerns she has received regarding the early start times. She asked for a fifth option adjusting the entire schedule fifteen minutes. This was also presented for consideration. Dr. Fitzgerald added by approving the bell schedule we are handling a problem we are facing today. If the situation should change, we would be able to revisit this. He reminded the Board that this problem is not only a district issue, it is also a state wide issue.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve Option #1 of the 2017-18 SY Bell Schedule as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 4-0 (Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco) (Marelli abstained).

Discussion Items

A. Directors' Reports

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

Mrs. Precourt asked about the Kelly Temporary Services contract. Dr. Michael Noel has met with the company and the district is pleased with them at this time.

Mr. Marasco asked about the updates on McIlvaine. Mr. Ken Starke stated we are on track and there will be a plaque presented upon completion.

B. Studio JAED

Studio JAED 's proposed CRHS site plan was presented to the Board.

Studio JAED presented a budget update, schematic design submission, athletic fields plan, and timeline update. The Board was polled and asked for their opinions at the end of the presentation. (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Marasco were in favor with Wilson having no comment).

Executive Session

At 9:34 p.m. Vice-President Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session. The purpose of which was to discuss personnel items. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

10:55 p.m. Vice-President Marelli made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Wilson, and Marasco).

Adjournment


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

6/20/12
Date