

**Regular Meeting  
April 19, 2016**

**Opening**

Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. School Board President Mr. William G. Bush, IV called the April 19, 2016 Caesar Rodney School District Regular School Board meeting to order.

Roll Call

Members present in addition to Mr. Bush were Vice-President Mrs. Melody Heavner, Mrs. Cheryl Precourt, Mr. P. Scott Wilson, Mrs. Jessica Marelli, Base Liaison Col. Michael Phillips and Executive Secretary Dr. Kevin R. Fitzgerald.

Adoption of Agenda

Mrs. Marelli made a motion to adopt the April 19, 2016 agenda and addendum as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Precourt, Bush, Heavner and Wilson).

Approval of Minutes – March 22, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Heavner made a motion to approve the March 22, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Heavner, Precourt, Bush, Wilson and Marelli).

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this meeting.

**Presentation**

Presentation

F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School

Mr. Derek Prillaman, F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Principal welcomed the Board and thanked Mrs. Kellie Wilson, Family Consumer Science teacher, and her students for preparing dinner for the Board. Mr. Prillaman introduced Mr. Todd Klawinski, Science teacher, who is a Superstars in Education Award Recipient for the 2016 F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Outdoor Classroom.

Mr. Klawinski explained to the Board that the outdoor classroom (enrichment classroom) began 5 years ago as a drainage ditch. Mr. Klawinski asked Dr. Michael Noel (who was the F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Principal at the time) for permission to use the drainage ditch as a learning space to reunite the children and community with nature as the space had running water and habitat. The outdoor classroom has earned county and state recognitions including the Delaware Chamber of Commerce Superstars in Education winner of 2016.

Dr. Kristina Failing, F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Assistant Principal closed the presentation stating that great things are happening at F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School, in particular Mr. David Pearson becoming the Dean of Students last February.

## Recognitions

### Eric Smith – 2016 Delaware Geographic Bee Winner

The Caesar Rodney School District Board of Education recognized and presented a Certificate of Recognition to Eric Smith for winning the Delaware Geographic Bee held recently in Middletown, Delaware. Eric had to place first at the F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School's Geographic Bee before becoming eligible to compete against nearly 100 other middle school students at the state level. In Middletown, Eric battled through many rounds of competition with extremely difficult questions asked and precise answers required. Eric will now represent Delaware at the National Geographic Bee to be held on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Washington, DC.

### F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Girls Basketball Team – Combat Sports Bracket of Capital Classic

The Caesar Rodney Board of Education recognized and presented Coach Michael Warren and Assistant Coach Kurt Cherry with a Certificate of Recognition for coaching the F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School girls' basketball team in winning the Combat Sports Bracket of the Capital Classic basketball tournament held in Sussex County. The Postlethwait Riders would finish the season with a phenomenal 12-1 record.

The Caesar Rodney Board of Education also recognized and presented a Certificate of Recognition to the following F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School girls' basketball team players:

Jazmin Kellam	Kaitlyn Stotler
Noelle Ruggiero	Haley Schafer
Isabelle Trudel	Lillian Ayers
Natanya Johnson	Haley Hansen
Thalia Garcia	Morgan Fitzhugh
Jada McCullough	Jayla Scott-Cottman
Stacey Deputy	Giselle Baker
Peyton Yingling	

### Odyssey of the Mind – F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School

The Caesar Rodney Board of Education recognized and presented Coach Maria Andaya with a Certificate of Recognition for coaching the F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team whose stellar performance earned them the right to advance to the World Finals to be held in Iowa in May, 2016.

Mr. Prillaman recognized Mr. Scott Golden as the F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team advisor.

The Caesar Rodney Board of Education also recognized and presented a Certificate of Recognition to the following F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team:

Izzy Andaya	Jalen Rogers
Akshay Bachavala	Ryan Verticchio
Trey Myers	Alayna Wilson

### Odyssey of the Mind – Star Hill Elementary School

The Caesar Rodney Board of Education recognized and presented Coach Alaina Dunning and Coach Maggie Rose with a Certificate of Recognition for coaching the Star Hill Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind team whose stellar performance earned them the right to advance to the World Finals to be held in Iowa in May, 2016. Parent Volunteer Coach Kristy Mast was unable to attend this meeting.

The Caesar Rodney Board of Education also recognized and presented a Certificate of Recognition to the following Star Hill Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind team:

McKinley Boyce	Kaitlyn Mast
Sam Fisher	Kyle Morris
Lauren Forbes	Kyan Pernol
Paige Hardee	



## Communications

### Superintendent

Dr. Fitzgerald communicated the following to the Board:

- Dr. Fitzgerald thanked Mrs. Wilson and her family consumer science class for a wonderful dinner.
- Congratulations to our Odyssey of the Mind winners and good luck in the Worlds.
- Congratulations to our Secretary of Education Scholars: Julia Boaman, Hailley Loper, Liam O'Connor and Andrew Stant. They will be recognized at our May Regular Board Meeting.
- Thank you to Senator Coons and the leadership of the Air Base. My understanding is that the new base school will be funded.
- Dr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that the recommendation of the Equalization Committee is to keep the current formula as is for another year. There are some issues related to specific districts that are being discussed, but for our purposes the equalization money provided per student will remain the same.
- We are looking forward to the April 26<sup>th</sup> Technology In-Service Day. Special kudos go out to Dr. Alois, Mrs. Galgano and Mrs. Bush for putting this program together and for all of the teachers and staff members that are presenting.
- Dr. Fitzgerald expressed his pleasure with the work that the Instruction Division and the middle schools have done in moving our 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition day forward.
- Staffing-numbers/units Spring snapshot – Department of Education is projecting a net growth of 5 units next year (539-544). Our guaranteed units are 98% (533 units) but there is concern with enrollment at Stokes and Star Hill. Dr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that they may want to consider opening Stokes and Star Hill up to School Choice next school year.
- Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Governor Markell will be visiting W. Reily Brown Elementary School.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> is the Prom at Modern Maturity Center from 8:00 – 12:00.
- May 9<sup>th</sup> is the reception at the River Front for the F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Superstar in Education award.
- Also on May 9<sup>th</sup> the City of Dover is recognizing the Caesar Rodney School District on its Centennial.
- School Board elections will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> and the results will be announced at the Board of Elections. Any district resident 18 years or older may vote. Polling places are Brown, Simpson and Frear.
- The Gala is May 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 12:00 at Dover Downs.
- Honor Cord Ceremony is May 16<sup>th</sup> with dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m.

### School Board

Mrs. Marelli shared that her daughter has been participating in the field hockey clinic being held on Sundays at Caesar Rodney High School and wanted to thank the coaches for the feeder programs that keep the students excited.

## **Action Items**

### Personnel Matters

#### 1. Administrative Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Barbara Miklus	AFE	Assistant Principal	Appointment effective 4/4/2016.

#### 2. Teacher Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Sheree Warren	WRB	Exceptional Children	Retirement effective end of SY 2015-16.
Laura Vassallo	WBT	Grade 5	Resignation effective end of SY 2015-16.

Colleen Gerwien	WBS	Grade 2	Resignation effective end of SY 2015-16.
Jessica Valenti	CHA	Speech Language Pathologist	Resignation effective end of SY 2015-16.

3. Paraprofessional Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Leeann Ivey	ABM	Special Education	Temporary appointment effective 4/4/2016.
Teresa Fitchett	SHE	SBI	Retirement effective end of SY 2015-16.
Lajuana Gedney	CHA	Special Education	Retirement effective end of SY 2015-16.

4. Secretarial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Katie Coenen	ABM	PT Clerk	Appointment effective 4/4/2016.

5. Custodial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Joseph Shahan	FMS	Custodian	Retirement effective 7/1/2016.
Arnold Tyrone Scott	FMS	Custodian	Retirement effective 8/1/2016.

6. Child Nutrition Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Shanise Abernathy	WRB	3 hr. General Worker	Appointment effective 3/7/2016.
Michelle Thorpe	WRB	3 hr. General Worker	Resignation effective 3/24/2016.
Edna Clay	FNP	3.5 hr. General Worker	Resignation effective 4/1/2016.

7. Extra Duty Recommendations/Resignations

Name	School	Activity	Position	Action
Justin Webb	CHA		Long Term Substitute	Temporary appointment effective 4/4/2016.
LaKeisha Warren	CHA		Long Term Substitute	Temporary appointment effective 3/22/2016.
Glen Stubbolo	ABM	Track	Volunteer	Recommended for Spring Sports SY 2015-16.

8. CREA Travel Requests

Name	School	Position	Action
David Barish	FMS	Teacher	Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference, Boston, MA – 5/5/2016-5/9/2016.

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

Routine Business

Student Travel

**John S. Charlton Students**

Event	Date	Location
Community outing to address learning objectives and goals in the areas of staying with	Wednesday, May 11, 2016	Salisbury Zoo 755 S. Park Drive



the group, social skills, walking in community environment and identification of social opportunity objects.		Salisbury, MD 21802
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**F. Niel Postlethwait Middle Students**

Event	Date	Location
Gold 8 Team	Monday, May 23, 2016	Smithsonian Museums/Mall Washington, DC
Technology Student Association (TSA) National Competition	Monday, June 27 through Saturday, July 2, 2016	Nashville, Tennessee

**Allen Frear Elementary Students**

Event	Date	Location
Field Trip	Wednesday, June 1, 2016	Smithsonian Washington, DC

**Caesar Rodney High Students**

Event	Date	Location
Spring Eastern Regional FFA Contest Day	Monday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 3, 2016	Lebanon, PA

**Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary Students**

Event	Date	Location
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip	Thursday, May 12, 2016	Washington, DC

**Welch Elementary Students**

Event	Date	Location
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip	Monday, May 16, 2016	Washington, DC

Mrs. Marelli made a motion to approve Student Travel as presented on the agenda and addendum. Mrs. Heavner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Heavner, Bush, Precourt and Wilson).

Gifts to Schools

- a. Caesar Rodney High School SAT Prep Course received a \$50.00 gift card from Cheddar's.
- b. Caesar Rodney High School SAT Prep Course received 25 free appetizer and 5 free entree coupons from Texas Roadhouse.
- c. Caesar Rodney High School SAT Prep Course received two (2) \$25.00 gift cards from Elegant Images.
- d. Caesar Rodney High School SAT Prep Course received 50 Munchkins from Dunkin Donuts.
- e. F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Lacrosse Program received a \$1,500.00 donation from Delaware LaCrosse Foundation.

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

Policy Matters

2015-16 and 2016-17 School Choice Recommendations

Mrs. Heavner made a motion to approve 2015-16 and 2016-17 School Choice Recommendations as presented. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Heavner, Precourt, Bush, Wilson and Marelli). Mrs. Marelli stated that she is not opposed to opening School Choice to Stokes and Star Hill but was concerned that it could cause an abundance rolling through the middle schools.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Suicide Prevention Training Policy JLDBA

Mrs. Heavner made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Suicide Prevention Training Policy JLDBA as presented. Mrs. Marelli seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Heavner, Marelli, Bush, Precourt and Wilson).

### Modification to the 10-month Employee Calendar

Mrs. Heavner made a motion to approve the modification to the 10-month employee calendar to reflect June 15, 2016 as the last day for 10-month employees. Mrs. Marelli seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Heavner, Marelli, Bush, Precourt and Wilson).

### Fiscal Matters

#### Budget/Fiscal Reports

Mrs. Heavner made a motion to accept the Budget/Fiscal reports as presented. Mrs. Marelli seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Heavner, Marelli, Bush, Precourt and Wilson).

### **Discussion Items**

#### Directors' Reports

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

### **Executive Session**

At 8:11 p.m. Mrs. Heavner made a motion to go into Executive Session. The purpose of which was to discuss the superintendent's evaluation, contract negotiations for CREA/CRAA and discussion of the Architectural Services Contract with Becker Morgan Group, Inc. for the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center Construction Project. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Heavner, Precourt, Bush, Wilson and Marelli).

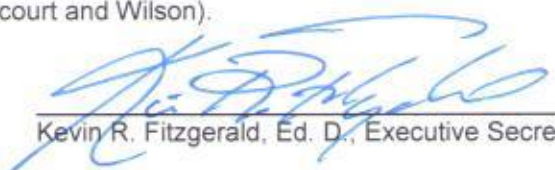
At 10:08 p.m. Mrs. Marelli made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mrs. Heavner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Heavner, Bush, Precourt and Wilson).

### **Personnel Matters**

Mrs. Marelli made a motion to approve the Architectural Services Contract with Becker Morgan Group, Inc. for the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center Construction Project per Board recommended changes. Mrs. Heavner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Heavner, Bush, Precourt and Wilson).

### **Adjournment**

At 10:09 p.m. Mrs. Heavner made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Marelli seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Heavner, Marelli, Bush, Precourt and Wilson).

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

5/17/16  
Date