Work Session
March 9, 2015

Opening

Call to Order
At 1:05 p.m. School Board President Mr. William G. Bush IV called the March 9, 2015 Caesar Rodney School District Work Session 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 and Executive Secretary Dr. Kevin R. Fitzgerald.

Adoption of Agenda
Mrs. Precourt made a motion to adopt the March 9, 2015 Work Session agenda as presented. Mrs. Marelli seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Precourt, Marelli, Bush, Heavner and Wilson).

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Work Session

Discussion of the Building needs of the District
Discussion of the Financial needs of the District

Mr. Kevin Thompson, Director of Student Services, presented a PowerPoint to the Board in regards to the building and financial needs of the District. Mr. Thompson explained how the District has grown by 173 teaching units and 1,350 students since 2000. Also that Postlethwait and Fifer Middle Schools opened and renovation/expansion projects for the High School, Star Hill, W. B. Simpson, Allen Frear, W. Reily Brown and McIlvaine have been completed since 2000. Mr. Thompson touched on some of the achievements of the District such as Immersion Programs, distinguished schools, honoree schools, recognition school winners and division and state awards earned by the District.

Mr. Thompson brought to the Board's attention that there have been federal and state financial losses totaling $1.2 million and potential financial losses in the future of health care costs, unfunded legislation, un-freezing equalization formula, loss/reduction of sustainment state funds and sustainment of state technology grant. Some methods that have been used to maintain and sustain the District's budget included program and staffing budget cuts, department and building budget cuts, pursuing grants, maximizing federal/state/local funding sources and energy efficiencies.

Mr. Thompson provided the District's referendum history from 1987 – 2007 with the last successful current operating expense referendum passing in 1987. Tax comparison charts were provided to compare how low Caesar Rodney's tax rate is in comparison with Smyrna, Lake Forest, Capital and Milford School Districts. It was also pointed out that the Department of Education and OMB have approved a Certificate of Necessity for additions and renovations for multiple buildings, major cap maintenance and replacement, OCR compliance and debt service.

Dr. Lykens, Director of Instruction, Dr. Puzzo, Director of Business and Finance, Mr. Farley, Director of Support Services and Mr. Starke, Supervisor of Facilities provided additional information and answered questions from the Board.

Adjournment

At 2:13 p.m. Mr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Precourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Wilson, Precourt, Bush, Heavner and Marelli).

Kevin R. Fitzgerald, Ed. D., Executive Secretary — Date 3/17/15

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