

**Regular Meeting
May 17, 2022**

Opening

Call to Order

At 5:28 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the May 17, 2022, 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. Christine Alois.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the May 17, 2022 agenda as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Approval of the April 12, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the April 12, 2022, regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Approval of the April 25, 2022, and May 2, 2022, Work Session Minutes

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the April 25, 2022, and May 2, 2022, Work Session Minutes as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Executive Session I

At 5:30 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session I. The purpose of which is to interview for the Director of Student Services and to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

At 7:15 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to come out of Executive Session I. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Presentations

A. Presentations

The Board recognized the following staff, students, and community members.

1. Lilly Bartlett- Arbor Day School Poster Winner (1st Place State)
2. Ben Austin- Arbor Day School Poster Winner (Grades 1 & 2)
3. Eliana Oberdick- Arbor Day School Poster Winner (Grades 3 & 4)
4. Nathen Going- DNREC Earth Day Video Contest Winner (Grades 9-12)
5. Christian Wiggins and Priya Patel- DNREC 2022 Delaware Junior Solar Sprint Champions
6. Caleb Johnson, Chris Brookes, Josh Johnson, and Ammar McNair- Special Olympics Unified Team
7. Chef Rikki Senn & CRHS Pro Start Culinary Team- National Winners
8. Mr. Ray Gingrich- Spirit of CR Volunteer Award
9. Dr. Kristina Failing- 2022 Delaware Secondary School Principal of the Year

10. 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year
11. 2022-2023 Behavioral Health Professional of the Year

B. Recognitions

The Board recognized the following.

1. National School Nurses Week
2. Teacher Appreciation Week
3. School Lunch Heroes

C. W. Reily Brown Elementary School gave a brief presentation to the Board.

Communications

Superintendent

- Dr. Alois shared some important dates with the Board.
 - Last Senior Day- May 25th
 - Schools Closed- May 27th & 30th holiday
 - JSC Graduation HS /Adult- June 1st @ 5 pm
 - CRHS Senior Awards Night- June 2nd @ 5:30 pm
 - CRHS Graduation- June 4th @ 9 am (Board Members arrive earlier)
 - MECC Graduation- June 6th
 - WEL Graduation- June 8th
 - Last Student Day- June 9th
 - Last Teacher Day- June 13th
 - Several "moving up" ceremonies are scheduled throughout the district
- Dr. Alois shared that on Friday, all 5th, 8th, and a bus of HS students will travel to Dover Air Force Base for the airshow. They will watch the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds practice and participate in a STEM fair. (1500 students approx..)
- Dr. Alois stated we are launching the Strategic Planning this coming Friday. The District is working with Insight Education Group to develop a plan with feedback from all stakeholders from May-October 2022. A survey will be going out to all. Then we will select a Steering Committee with approximately 25-30 members chosen by individual knowledge and skill as well as affiliation to a variety of stakeholder groups. We will choose to equitably represent the demographics of the district's student population, various areas of the district, range of schools, grade levels, positions, and years of experience, creating a balance of internal and external. Not everyone can be on the steering committee and much more commitment is required. There are up to eight in-person meetings to be scheduled. We will also have focus groups that will be more towards August to review and give feedback on the Steering Committee's work.
- Dr. Alois reminded the Board at the December 2022 School Board meeting, that the Board voted to move forward with restructuring feeder patterns in Caesar Rodney's elementary schools for the 2022-2023 school year. Upon review of the numbers provided for this restructuring, the transition to a new superintendent, and the launching of a district-wide strategic planning process, the school district will be modifying its original plan as an intermediary step in addressing several needs. Completion of the district's five-year strategic plan will help to best position the district to provide plans for future restructuring related to the community's wants and needs.
- Dr. Alois then shared our Covid numbers are increasing, but buildings are doing an excellent job of communicating when more than two cases are popping up in a classroom and discussing precautionary steps... hand washing, social distancing, extra cleaning, etc.

Board Members

Mr. Failing stated he is excited to be here this evening with all of the wonderful things we have recognized throughout our district.

President Marasco congratulations to the organizations and sports teams on their seasons. He also congratulated the seniors as they graduate from CR this year.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

Appointment of the Director of Student Services

The Board appointed Dr. Jennifer Wolford as the Director of Student Services with a start date to be determined.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to appoint Dr. Jennifer Wolford as the Director of Student Services. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Personnel Matters

The Board approved Personnel Matters B.1.- B.8. as presented on the agenda.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to accept Personnel Matters B.1.- B.8. as presented on the agenda. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

1. Administrative Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Action</u>
Tamara Toles-Torain	D.O.	Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent	Resignation effective 04/30/2022.

2. Teacher Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Action</u>
Emily Hotsko	ABMS	Special Education	Appointment effective 08/17/2022.
Charles DeWeese	CRHS	Technology	Appointment effective 08/17/2022.
Lindsay Bellis	CRHS	Mathematics	Appointment effective 08/17/2022.
Rahsel Holland	CRHS	ELA	Appointment effective 08/17/2022.
Julianna Neel	CRHS	Mathematics	Appointment effective 08/17/2022.
Emily Lockwood	MECC	Teacher	Temporary appointment effective 04/25/2022-06/30/2022.
Katelyn Shulties	WRB	Teacher	Resignation effective 04/22/2022.

3. Paraprofessional Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Action</u>
Stephanie Boyd	JSC	Paraprofessional	Retirement effective 07/01/2022.

Francisco Alfaro	NHS	Paraprofessional	Resignation effective 06/11/2022.
Employee #041122-1			Termination effective 04/11/2022.

4. Custodial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Action</u>
Jimmy Jones	NHS	Custodian Fireman	Transfer effective 5/9/2022.
John Way	CRHS	Custodian	Resignation effective 04/16/2022.

5. Child Nutrition Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Action</u>
Stephen Schoepp	CRHS	5.50 hr. General Worker	Transfer effective 04/25/2022.
Joanna Sherman	CRHS	5.50 hr. General Worker	Resignation effective 04/06/2022.

6. Staff Travel

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Action</u>
Tina Sander-Loftus	JSC	Principal	To attend the Project SEARCH Conference-July 25-29, 2022 in Baltimore, MD.
Megan Polichetti	JSC	Assistant Principal	To attend the Project SEARCH Conference-July 25-29, 2022 in Baltimore, MD.
Michelle Flanders	JSC	Teacher	To attend the Project SEARCH Conference-July 25-29, 2022 in Baltimore, MD.

7. CREA Travel

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Action</u>
Amanda Oswald	FMS	Teacher	To attend SREB-Making School Work, Grapevine, TX 7/19/2022-7/22/2022.
Megan Dalfavo-Szabo	MMS	Teacher	To attend Odyssey of the Mind, Iowa State 5/25/2022-5/29/2022.
Dawn Gordinier	AFE	Teacher	To attend Odyssey of the Mind, Iowa State 5/25/2022-5/29/2022.
Todd Klawinski	D.O.	Teacher	To attend 2022 Children & Nature Network, Inside-Out International Conference, Atlanta GA 05/09/2022-05/12/2022.
Tiffany Citro	FMS	Teacher	To attend SREB-Making School Work, Grapevine, TX 7/19/2022-7/22/2022.
Sarah Smith	FMS	Teacher	To attend SREB-Making School Work, Grapevine, TX 7/19/2022-7/22/2022.

8. Extra Duty Appointment/Resignations/Retirements

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Action</u>
Michael Gettings	PMS	Softball	Volunteer	Recommendation for Spring Sports 2022.
Jacob Hebner	MMS	Lacrosse	Asst. Coach	Recommendation for Spring Sports 2022.

Routine Business

Student Travel

The Board approved Student Travel as presented on the agenda.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve Student Travel as presented on the agenda. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Gifts to Schools

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

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

Policy Matters

2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Choice Recommendations

The Board approved the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Choice as presented on the agenda.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Choice as presented on the agenda. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Fiscal Matters

Budget/Fiscal Reports

Mrs. Kimberly Judy, Director of Business and Finance, explained the Budget/Fiscal Reports.

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 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Leadership Team Report

The Leadership Team Report was included for the Board's review.

Mr. Failing likes the new format and it is very informative.

Bus Bell Times

Mr. Jason Bonner, Transportation Supervisor, and the committee evaluated the bell times for next year. The committee members, community members, parents, teachers at all levels, Board members, Directors, and CREA reviewed the current times, and identify the problems, bussing concerns, driver impact, and bus routes. Meeting two was to brainstorm. They looked at having three different bells (HS, MS, and Elem). Meeting three was considered all ideas. The committee determined to maintain the status quo with some caveats. Looking at combining MCI and WBS buses to reduce driver needs. Secondly, FMS and HS combined runs. The reduces our driver need by 15.

The committee also reviewed a behavior matrix. Dr. Bonner presented this to the Dept. of Ed behavior as standardized across districts and grade level to level. Parents will know the consequences across the board no matter what level.

President Marasco asked who tracks this. Dr. Bonner stated that the Board would adopt the policy. Ms. Marelli asked if other districts are currently using this matrix. Dr. Bonner stated a form it this is being used in a few districts.

Dr. Denman stated that this is wise. Heavy requirement for mandatory reporting at the lower level. Dr. Bonner stated, for example, bullying and fighting must be reported. Faircloth stated certain things must be reported and should be aligned with our code of conduct that we are working on.

Mr. Wilson stated that we need to tell parents about the protection of their students. Dr. Bonner stated some are siblings, we piloted older students in the back and younger in the front. No complaints or issues with this. Assigned by grade or age. Students won't be at risk. Mr. Wilson stated additional people are needed. Aides on buses have better success with their staff members participating than with others. Great success with teachers and people they know. Mr. Wilson stated we need to be prepared for any issues that may occur with mixing ages.

President Marasco asked what other districts combine bussing. Dr. Bonner stated a few had tried this with some success. He can look into this throughout the state. President Marasco asked about the more frequent disciplinary actions this past year. Fighting seems to be at the top. Language and defiance are also frequent.

Ms. Marelli stated there are a few districts that are doing a three bell schedule. Dr. Bonner stated we have muddled through our problems. Discussion took place on the current three bell schedules being used throughout the districts.

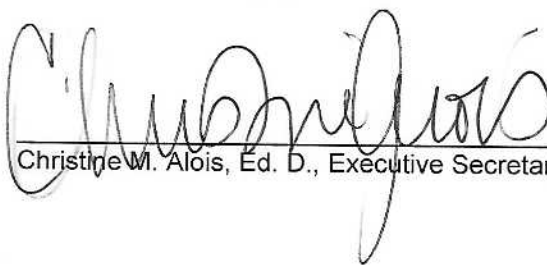
Mr. Failing stated he is not against this. He was approached by a community member who stated a scenario of having staff members on the buses with great success. Dr. Bonner agrees and he looks forward to being more successful next year. He stated our drivers should know we are supporting them.

Executive Session II

There was no Executive Session II.

Adjournment

At 9:25 Ms. Marelli made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).



Christine M. Alois, Ed. D., Executive Secretary

Date