Work Session
April 4, 2022

Opening

Call to Order

At 6:03 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the April 4, 2022, Caesar Rodney School District Work Session to order.

Roll Call

Members present in addition to President Marasco were: Vice President Jessica Marelli, Board Members: Mr. Dave Failing, Dr. Joyce Denman, and Mr. P. Scott Wilson.

Adoption of Agenda

Marelli made a motion to adopt the April 4, 2022 agenda as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Denman, Wilson, and Failing).

Discussion Items

President Marasco announced Dr. Christine Alois as the new superintendent.

Dr. Alois shared she was in the office on Saturday and it was like she never left. She thanked all for the support she has received. The district's leadership team has been wonderful. She also thanked Lauren Boulden and Carrie Bush who assisted with creating and getting the intro video message out. She is excited to start communication with everyone. She shared the District Office is assessable and will work together moving forward. The theme is "We are CR!" She will continue to use this throughout communications and on our social media platforms. She wants the focus to be on community members, staff and parents showcase ing the district's assets.
Dr. Alois continued to share her background in education. She stated she has 24 yrs in education while taking a 4 yr. hiatus to work at the Department of Education. She was a latch key teacher, elementary school teacher, resource teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, District Office Supervisor of Instruction, and Director of Instruction. Her different positions give her a wide perspective and allowed her to learn a lot about education in DE.

Dr. Alois shared her vision with the Board. She stated she has been visiting all schools and will continue this over the next few weeks. She is meeting with administrators, talking with staff members, and having lunch with students. She has held many positive conversations with students. Next week, will be her first principal's meeting where they will focus on collaborative problem-solving. As a team, they will discuss how to work towards our goals. She continued to share you need a strong relationship with peers to have good conversations. She also has many meetings scheduled with all educator groups such as CREA, CRSA, and DSEA. She continued to share this is perfect timing to plan as this is when districts begin planning in the spring for the next year.

Next will be how do we build a strategic plan? This includes funding, hiring, and prioritizing our time. She understands that things can change. She stated there should be a solid plan moving forward.
First, she would like to continue with social-emotional health and well-being with a multi-tiered system of support for everyone. She has learned more about this during her time at DOE. She feels strongly that we have great partners. Early literacy is next. We will be looking at this data to make sure we are providing every support we can. Thinking outside of the box and taking some risks.
Dr. Alois continued by discussing Universal Pre-K. She mentioned Build Back Better, a federal law in place. She stated we have a lot to learn about this. We would work together with child care facilities in the

community. STEM overall is next. We will explore new and innovative ways to address students' future options. The pandemic allowed us to expand our knowledge. We will continue to look at the initiative and expand this area. She stated when students leave the district, they will have a plan. Our job is to provide many options so they are prepared for whatever they want to do after they graduate. We will look at additional partners and work closely with the middle and high schools. Students must see a purpose to be prepared for life. Lastly, the focus will be on attracting and retaining strong educators. CR is known for having amazing educators. Recruiting different ways and importantly retaining educators is important.

Dr. Alois ended by sharing that people she has already spoken with are ready to plan and work together. She added this week is Assistant Principal's Appreciation Week. She reminded the Board these administrators have done a lot and administration is a tough job. Dr. Alois added she is happy to begin as superintendent and she is looking for the Board's continued feedback.

President Marasco is excited to support the team.

Mr. Failing and Dr. Denman shared the support of the team.

Executive Session

At 6:23 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session and to adjourn without returning to open session. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Denman, Wilson, and Failing).

Adjournment

At 9:00 p.m. President Marasco adjourned the meeting.

Christine Alois, Ed. D., Executive Secretary 4-12-22 Date

The Caesar Rodney School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in employment or educational programs, services, or activities based on race, color, religion, national origin, veteran or marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, or genetic information in accordance with state and federal laws. Inquiries about compliance should be made to the Title IX, District 504 and ADA Compliance Officers: Paul L. Dunbar Administration Building, 7 Front Street, Wyoming, DE 19934. Phone: (302) 698-4800.