

**Regular Meeting
December 14, 2021**

Opening

Call to Order

At 7:06 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the December 14, 2021, 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, Lt. Col. Michael Mariotti, Base Liaison, and Executive Secretary Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald. Dr. Joyce Denman and Mr. P. Scott Wilson were not present.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the December 14, 2021 agenda and addendum as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 3-0 with two absent (Marelli, Marasco, and Failing).

Approval of the November 16, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the November 16, 2021, regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 3-0 with two absent (Marelli, Marasco, and Failing).

Approval of the November 29, 2021, Work Session Meeting Minutes

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the November 29, 2021 work session minutes as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 3-0 with two absent (Marelli, Marasco, and Failing).

Presentations

Recognitions

Darren Guido, Ed. D., Supervisor of Instruction was recognized for receiving the NSSSA Outstanding Social Studies Supervisor Award.

Presentations

W. B. Simpson Elementary School Principal, Ashley Holmes, introduced several students who prepared a presentation for the Board. They spoke about self-control, running a lap each day, and mindful movements. They do this each morning and connect with their classmates by setting the tone for the day. They did some breathing exercises with the Board.

Mrs. Tara Faircloth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, gave a presentation of the High School Forensics Science curriculum. Brittany Cole, Resource Teacher, and Rebecca Marasco, High School Science Teacher, joined Mrs. Faircloth in presenting the new curriculum to the Board. This is proposed to be on the course catalog for next year. This also falls within the instructional budget. The textbook was also shared. Discussion took place on the student interest and room to grow with this course.

Dr. Fitzgerald amended the roll call. Mr. P. Scott Wilson was present.

Mr. Jim Pennewell, Supervisor of Facilities Management, introduced ABHA Architects, Inc. who gave a presentation on a study/assessment for potential renovations and expansions to current facilities and sites. The long-range plan and certificate of necessity were shared. Land acquisition could be considered for future district projects. ABHA gave a snapshot of their previous work with several school districts throughout the state. Having a long-term plan and complete vision was discussed. Committee planning and discussions would take place with ABHA. Communication workshops would be held to form the master plan and vision. A preliminary schedule was shared. The process could take between six-eight months.

President Marasco asked about any negatives there would be in having a campus. Land acquisition and building it out are most important. Site and road work was also discussed. Current school campuses' positives and negatives were discussed. Mr. Failing stated he is interested in seeing what the architects can come up with for a district growth plan. The referendum timeline was discussed. Our current CN expires next October. This work would be in that timeline.

Communications

Superintendent

- Dr. Fitzgerald congratulated Dr. Darren Guido, Supervisor of Instruction, for winning the National Social Studies Supervisor Award.
- Dr. Fitzgerald thanked the students from W.B. Simpson and their parents for tonight's presentation.
- Dr. Fitzgerald shared our thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. Denman as she cares for her mother, the family of Dawn Card, Simpson's librarian, on the passing of her father, Bob Hardesty, our electrician, on the passing of his mother. Also to the family of Jim Powell on his passing. Jim was a former teacher, football coach, and AD an amazing man who continued to be involved in athletics throughout his life. And to the family of Harry Voshell, who passed away yesterday. Harry and B&B music were responsible for children in this district's love of music.
- Dr. Fitzgerald shared that Mrs. Amy Bonner, Director of Human Resources, informed him that currently 74% of our staff have been vaccinated, 12% are doing the weekly testing, while HR is working with the remaining 14%. Some of which are having difficulty in uploading their cards to the Data Service Center.
- Dr. Fitzgerald met with Mrs. Laurie Sisk, Base Family Liaison, recently. She is looking into the Department of Defense providing us with Child and Youth Behavioral Counselors at the Base Schools and CRHS. These counselors would primarily work with military-connected children but can also assist as needed.
- Dr. Fitzgerald shared we are in the process of interviewing three school constable candidates tomorrow for the high school. Since October, the school district has hired 50 new employees. Of these 16 are teachers and 15 are paras. We also have another 6 teachers that are currently being processed. Since the beginning of the year, the district has had 150 transfers or new hires. Mrs. Bonner is planning another job fair once we return from winter break. Kelly Services will also be assisting us with the additional hiring of substitutes.
- Dr. Fitzgerald shared some statistics: last week's COVID numbers are- Staff: 15 Quarantined, 12 Positive; Students: 111 Quarantined, 53 positive. There were 855 antigen tests given and of those 87 were tested to stay in place. From all the antigen tests given, there were 19 positive cases.
- Dr. Fitzgerald continued to state this past week has been a challenging one. The tragedy that took place in Michigan set in motion a series of threats that have taken place not only across our state but also across the nation. In our district, threats and pictures that were posted were taken seriously and investigated and I want to thank the state police, our school resource officer, school constables, our administrative teams, staff, students, and the parents for their diligence and cooperation during the investigation. When warranted, disciplinary action up to and including removal from school was taken and will be taken if there are future disturbances. As much as we'd like to provide more information, under Federal law and State regulation the district has the responsibility to protect privacy and cannot share information nor can it share any disciplinary actions. We are asking parents to help us, by having a conversation with their children to discuss what took place and to discuss what things are appropriate and inappropriate to bring or say in school. Last week, we had some students that brought things from home without thinking of the consequences and end up getting into trouble. Also, he reaffirmed that bullying is never acceptable even when someone thinks they are just playing; words matter, and if something is said, even as a joke or if something is posted on social media, if it causes a school disruption- disciplinary action will be taken. He asked parents to let students know that it's

better to report something to the office or to their teacher rather than post it on social media. Only by working together will we be able to create a safe environment for all of our children.

- Dr. Fitzgerald wished everyone Happy Holidays and he looks forward to a great 2022.

Board Members

Mr. Failing stated last week, after receiving a possible threat and after the recent events in Michigan, he had a parent call him. She stated the phones were not working at a critical time and she wanted to know what he was doing to keep her child safe. He apologized to the parent for his demeanor during the initial call. He continued to share that after they talked several times that day, she felt better and will be a great future asset for us. He mentioned a lot of work has been done to make our schools safe. Our administration addresses things very quickly. Mr. Failing also reminded her the Board also has students and spouses in the district. He stressed parents should be more involved in the schools. He believes communication and patience are most important.

President Marasco stated it has been a very challenging halfway point to the year thus far. He wished everyone happy holidays and reminded the staff this is time to recharge. He also shared the recent jazz concert was excellent.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Executive Session

At 8:16 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session. The purpose of which is to review administrative contract renewals/non-renewals. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with absent. (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

At 10:32 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent. (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

Action Items

District Realignment Plan

Ms. Marelli made a motion to accept the District Realignment Plan as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

Administrative Contract Renewals/Non-Renewals

Ms. Marelli made a motion to accept the Administrative Contracts Renewals/Non-Renewals as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

Director of Administrative Support and Services

Ms. Marelli made a motion to table the elimination of the position of Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the creation of the position of Director of Administrative Support and Services. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

Personnel Matters

1. Appointment of Director of Administrative Support and Services

This item was previously tabled.

The Board approved Personnel Matters D.2- D.8 as presented on the agenda and addendum.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to accept Personnel Matters D.2- D.8 as presented on the agenda and addendum. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

2. Teacher Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Lawrence Thomas	AFE	Elementary	Temporary appointment 01/03/2022-06/30/2022.
Katie Orona	AFE	Elementary	Temporary appointment 01/03/2022-06/30/2022.
Laurie Hake	AFE	Physical Education	Temporary appointment 12/13/2021-06/30/2022.
Makayla Raymond	CRHS/ ABM	Family Living Consumer Science	Temporary appointment 01/03/2022-06/30/2022.
Jessica Schaeffer	DER	Elementary	Temporary Appointment effective 01/10/2022-06/30/2021.
Anais Tatum	DER	Elementary	Temporary Appointment effective 01/18/2022-06/30/2021.
Lillian Garreffa	ILC	Case Manager	Temporary appointment effective 12/16/2021- 6/30/2022.
Peyton Cluff	JSC	Case Manager	Transfer effective 01/03/2022.
Ibeth Boxton	MCI	Spanish Immersion	Temporary appointment effective 12/13/2021-6/30/2022.
Lynette Garcia	MCI	Spanish Immersion	Temporary appointment effective 12/06/2021-6/30/2022.
Rachel Robinson	NHS	Elementary	Transfer effective date 11/29/2021.
Shawn Cushman	PMS	PE/Health	Temporary appointment 01/03/2022-6/30/2022.
Thomas "Buster" Jordan	PMS	Mathematics	Temporary appointment effective 12/06/2021-6/30/2022.
Timothy Warren	PMS	Social Studies	Temporary appointment 01/03/2022-06/30/2022.
Leksha Counts	SHE	Elementary	Temporary Appointment effective 12/13/2021-06/30/2021.
Paula Coleman	JSC	Secondary Teacher	Retirement effective 01/01/2022.
Kane Swaney	CRHS	Technology	Resignation effective 12/17/2021.
Ashley Upp	SHE	Achievement Liasion Teacher	Transfer effective 01/05/2021.
Kelly McKenna	SHE	Elementary	Resignation effective 11/30/2021.
Diane Lako	ILC	Board Certified Behavioral Analyst	Resignation effective 12/15/2021.
Yaoru Li	WBS	Elementary	Resignation effective 12/18/2021.

3. Paraprofessional Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Taylor Childers	AFE	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 11/29/2021-6/30/2022.
Tamar Vicere	CRHS	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 11/15/2021-6/30/2022.

Chavez Eaton	CRHS	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 11/15/2021-6/30/2022.
Aurelia Pollard	CRHS	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 12/13/2021-6/30/2022.
Janavor Weatherspoon	DER	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 01/03/2022-06/30/2022.
Evelyn Prouse	FMS	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 11/15/2021-6/30/2022.
Lauren Oldham	JSC	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 11/29/2021-6/30/2022.
Theresa Whisman	JSC	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 11/29/2021-6/30/2022.
Jennifer Boyer	JSC	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 01/03/2022-06/30/2022.
Emily Lockwood	MCI	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 11/22/2021-6/30/2022.
Anique Wilson	NHS	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 11/15/2021-6/30/2022.
Rachael McClain	SHE	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 01/03/2022-6/30/2022.
Megan Blackwood	WBS	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment effective 11/29/2021-6/30/2022.
Shawn Shrugars	WRB	Paraprofessional	Temporary appointment 01/03/2022-06/30/2022.
Logan Olshenske	DRE	Paraprofessional	Resignation effective 11/24/2021.
Crista Stephens	FMS	Paraprofessional	Resignation effective 11/30/2021.
James Savage	JSC	Paraprofessional	Resignation effective 11/23/2021.
Jose Bernard	JSC	Paraprofessional	Resignation effective 12/07/2021.
Theresa Whisman	JSC	Paraprofessional	Resignation effective 12/09/2021.
Jenna Kent	WRB	Paraprofessional	Rescinded resignation.

4. Chid Nutrition Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Melanie Mello	PMS	Manager	Appointment effective 11/08/2021.
Milaros Pelongco-Torres	PMS	6.00hr Cook	Appointment effective 11/08/2021.
Maria Chilcote	WBS	6.00hr Cook	Appointment effective 11/08/2021.
Christina Petrosky	SHE	6.00hr Cook	Transfer effective 11/15/2021.
Christina Caparatta	CRHS	5.50hr General Worker	Transfer effective 11/08/2021.
Camryn Bailey	CRHS	3.50hr General Worker	Appointment effective 11/08/2021.
Nicolle Fleming	CRHS	4.00hr General Worker	Appointment effective 11/22/2021.
Joanna Sherman	CRHS	5.50hr General Worker	Appointment effective 11/22/2021.
Wynonah Wallace	CRHS	3.00hr General Worker	Appointment effective 11/22/2021.

5. Secretarial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Alicia Tesch	CRHS	Secretary	Appointment effective 11/07/2021.
Tracey Moore	JSC	P/T Clerk	Appointment effective 12/06/2021.
Elizabeth Campbell	NHS	Secretary	Appointment effective 12/06/2021.

Kimberly Lucas	NHS	Clerk	Appointment effective 01/03/2022.
Elizabeth Campbell	NHS	Secretary	Resignation effective 12/07/2021.

6. Custodial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Rebecca Edwards	PMS	1st Shift Custodian	Appointment effective 01/03/2021.
David Lowary	PMS	1st Shift Custodian	Retirement effective 01/01/2022.
Kim Hitchens	MCI	Custodian	Resignation effective 01/01/2022.
Randy Delgado	SHE	Custodian Fireman	Reassignment effective 12/13/2021.

7. Other Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Charity Murphy	DO- Transportation	Bus Driver	Appointment effective 11/08/2021.

8. Extra Duty Recommendations/Resignations:

Name	School	Activity	Position	Action
Mike Tesno	CRHS	Winter Weight Program	Head Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22
Aurora King	CRHS	Indoor Track/Field	Volunteer	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22
Caleb Brown	ABM	Basketball	Volunteer	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22
Bo Falkey	ABM	Basketball/Boys	Head Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22
Alexis Hucks	ABM	Basketball/Girls	Asst. Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22
Nora Boehm	ABM	Service Organizations	National Honor Society Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year Round Activities SY21-22
Chavez Eaton	ABM	Basketball/Boys	Asst. Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22
Sarah Mouhtarim	MMS	Basketball/Girls	Asst. Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22
Chandler Rochford	MMS	Wrestling	Asst. Coach	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22
Chavez Eaton	MMS	Basketball	Volunteer	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22
Amanda Graham	WEL	Service Organizations	Odyssey of the Mind	Recommendation for Winter Sports SY21-22

Ms. Marelli asked about the coaching positions at Magnolia Middle School (MMS). Mrs. Amy Bonner, Director of Human Resources, stated the principal has been successful with filling those positions.

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 and addendum. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

Caesar Rodney High School Students

Event	Date	Location
Ursinus College- Indoor Track	Sunday, 1/16/2022	Collegeville, PA

F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Students

Event	Date	Location
Centerville Middle School- Boys and Girls Basketball	Monday, 1/31/2022	Centerville, MD

John S. Charlton Students

Event	Date	Location
Christian Mall- Charlton Classroom at Roads to Success DSU	Friday, 12/3/2021	Christiana, DE

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. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing)).

- The District Office received six bags of coats for students in need from the Wyoming Methodist Church.
- John S. Charlton School received the following donations:
 - Turkey dinner (value \$120) from T.&A. Farms
 - Pool Service (value \$450) and gift card (value \$100) from Rigby's Pool Services
 - Winter coats for students in need from the Knights of Columbia
 - \$1,800 for holiday support from High Tide Lab Company
 - \$214 in memory of Loretta Wright from Dawsons Bus Co. (drivers & aides)

Policy Matters

2021-22 School Choice Recommendations

The Board approved the 2021-22 School Choice as presented on the agenda.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the 2021-22 School Choice as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

High School Forensic Science- Mrs. Tara Faircloth

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the 2021-22 School Choice as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

Fiscal Matters

Budget/Fiscal Reports

Mrs. Kimberly Judy explained the Budget/Fiscal Reports and the FY22 Final District Operating Budget.

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 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

The Board approved the FY22 Final District Operating Budget as presented.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the FY22 Final District Operating Budget as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

Facilities Matters

Mr. Jim Pennewell, Supervisor of Facilities Management, explained the change order and contract individually as listed on the agenda.

The Board approved change order #005 for the Caesar Rodney High School from Amakor as presented.

Change Order #	Contractor	Amount/Increase	Amount/Decrease
#005- Moving power line to teachers' station (through the floor) to remove power pole, adding retractable cord reels, adding wiring for (2) monitors behind teachers' station. Betterment to the project.	Amakor	\$54,875.00	

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the change order #005 for the Caesar Rodney High School from Amakor as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

The Board approved the Contract: CRSD District-Wide from ABHA Architects, Inc. as presented.

- a. ABHA Architects, Inc.- Study/assessment for potential renovations and expansions to district current facilities and sites: \$27,750.00 (DW)

Ms. Marelli asked how they were contacted and Mr. Pennewell stated he reached out to the architects based on his experience with the company.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the contract from ABHA Architects, Inc. as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Wilson, and Failing).

Directors' Reports

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

Concealed Weapons Detection (CWD)

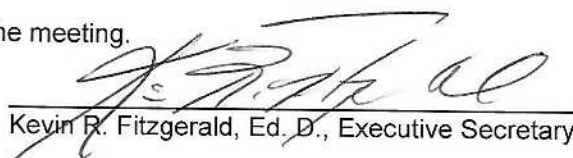
Mr. Failing stated a parent reached out to him regarding this option. This parent is connected with Motorola. Mr. Failing requested more information. He stated there is still some investigation since this is a new technology. Mr. Pennewell is also doing more research. The conversation will continue. President Marasco thanked Mr. Failing for requesting this information.

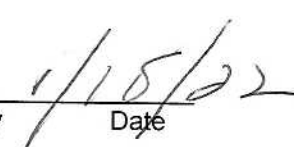
Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

At 10:38 p.m. Marelli and Failing adjourned the meeting.


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


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.