

**Work Session
November 1, 2021**

Opening

Call to Order

At 6:04 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the November 1, 2021, Caesar Rodney School District Work Session 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. Kevin Fitzgerald.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the November 1, 2021 agenda as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Action Item

Disabled Veterans School Property Tax Credit Legislation

Mrs. Kimberly Judy, Director of Business and Finance, explained the Disabled Veterans School Property Tax Credit.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the Disabled Veterans School Property Tax Credit as presented. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried 5-0 (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Discussion Items

2021-22 SY Updates and School Supports

Dr. Fitzgerald gave an update on COVID cases in the district.

Dr. Fitzgerald shared that Dr. Jason Bonner, Transportation Supervisor, has been giving phone updates to the parents on any transportation issues allowing us to give the notifications as soon as possible. Ms. Marelli asked about the support he needs to make those calls. He stated has enough support at this time.

Dr. Fitzgerald continued to share we are hiring a transportation mechanic and have interviewed for a school constable. We will also be interviewing for an Assistant Principal for F. Neil Postlethwait Middle School in November.

Dr. Fitzgerald gave a reminder to the Board that on Nov. 12th, the day after Veterans Day, schools will be closed.

Dr. Denman asked about giving the credit hours to those who worked homecoming, etc., and what we are doing for those who did not. Dr. Fitzgerald shared there is a form available. CREA has a meeting coming up this week and he hears there is support. He stated for the staff participating in Rider Pride Day, etc. we can work with them on giving them those hours. Mr. Failing is pleased with the extra day off we can offer. He shared that this shows we are supporting and we value our employees. They have done an amazing job.

President Marasco asked how we are moving forward with the mechanic's equipment. Dr. Bonner stated we hope to have this available for the new mechanic who starts on Nov. 8th coming from DelDOT. It is difficult getting a work truck at this time but we are working on getting this for the new mechanic. He does have his own tools. Dr. Denman asked about his work experience. Dr. Bonner stated he has 18+ yrs. as a mechanic and is aware of the requirements working on types of diesel engines. Mr. Failing stated we should be aggressive with getting him the items he will need. He is sure he will be a great addition to the team.

President Marasco asked about the current mask mandates. Dr. Fitzgerald stated the regulation in question was not sanctioned by the Governor. This was the Department of Education (DOE). The Governor's office states that it will possibly move forward, but there would be no change with the current regulation. They do have the option to extend this 60 calendar days. Several associations stated they don't want the regulation to move forward because there is no need for it. Dr. Fitzgerald continued to share that today is the last day for public comments. He stated the language on physicals was needed and should be cleaned up. They simply added the mask thing to this change. They did not think about the consequences. All districts feel grateful that we can keep schools open. Regulations can be removed at any time. Dr. Fitzgerald stated he has been in contact with the legislators. He hopes they got the message and will remove this regulation. Mr. Failing stated this mask was temporary and to put it as a regulation with no end is not effective. He hopes they will remove this.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated today was the first day of staff uploading the vaccination card in Data Service Center and found the process to be easy. He thanked the CREA President, Mrs. Jossette Threatts, for the reminder.

Ms. Marelli shared a parent discussion question regarding the elementary level having a double recess. The parent stated this is good for the kids and helps learning. She has asked a few questions and it turns out some are already doing this and some are not. Dr. Fitzgerald stated this could be the additional mask breaks in some buildings. He will look into this. Ms. Marelli stated W.B. Simpson is doing this well. Dr. Denman shared some information on a school in Canada that did walk breaks. Mr. Failing stated CR High School is offering some outside opportunities.

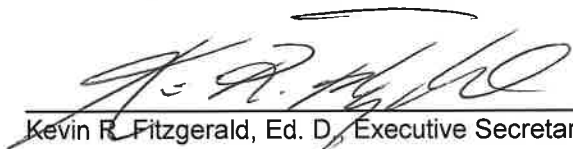
Mr. Failing asked about our vacant positions. Mrs. Bonner and Mrs. Judy have reviewed this and each school has some openings. We are posting now and funds are being considered for the greater need. He is pleased with the hiring plan. Mr. Failing stated we have done a great job with getting new staff and word of mouth is working well. He shared we should consider certified teachers over non-certified teachers. Dr. Fitzgerald stated we do pay our substitutes higher for certification through Kelly Services. Dr. Denman asked about adding a supplement to those salaries. Dr. Fitzgerald shared we are asking about this in the legislation and through DOE for approval. Mr. Failing stated we need to be more competitive with our salaries.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

At 6:41 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to adjourn Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent. (Marasco, Marelli, Failing, and Denman).


Kevin R. Fitzgerald, Ed. D, Executive Secretary
11/24/2021
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.