

Regular Meeting July 20, 2021

Opening

Call to Order

At 6: 06 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the July 20, 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, Dr. Joyce Denman, Mr. P. Scott Wilson, and Executive Secretary Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the July 20, 2021 agenda and addendum as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and after roll call, the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Approval of the June 15, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes, June 21, 2021, Special Meeting/Work Session, and July 7, 2021, Re-Organization Meeting Minutes

Ms. Marelli made motions to approve the June 15, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes, June 21, 2021, Special Meeting/Work Session, and July 7, 2021, Re-Organization Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motions and after roll call, the motions carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Executive Session

At 6:08 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session. The purpose of which is to conduct interviews for the Assistant Principal at W.B. Simpson Elementary School and Caesar Rodney High School. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

At 7:46 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Denman, and Wilson).

Presentations

Presentations

Mrs. Tara Faircloth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mr. Kevin Thompson, Director of Student Services, gave an overview of the Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS). A PowerPoint presentation was shared. The system is the support of students and staff for the opening of school fully in-person. Positive Behavior Interventions, Social Emotional Learning, Equity, Trauma-Informed Practices, and Restorative Practices are a part of the system. The three tiers of support levels were explained. The MTSS is driven by data. Accelerated learning is included for all students. The Department of Education is providing support for MTSS. Each school in the district will develop a leadership core team.

Communications

Superintendent

- Dr. Fitzgerald shared our thoughts and prayers go out to high school teacher John Muller on the loss of his wife and to retirees Ron Gough on the passing of his wife, and Rich Pieshala on the passing of his daughter and CR alum, Amanda.
- Dr. Fitzgerald congratulated Dr. Kris Failing on being recognized as the national administrator of the year by the National Association of Educational Office Professionals. The awards ceremony was last week in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Dr. Fitzgerald reminded the Board that the Caesar Rodney High School will be hosting vaccination clinics from 10-2 p.m. for anyone 12 and older every Wednesday starting tomorrow, July 21st - August 11th, and again on August 18th from 5-7:30 p.m.
- Dr. Fitzgerald continued to share that tomorrow there will be an Innovation Luncheon at 1 p.m. in the high school library to recognize teachers and students involved in this year's Summer Innovation Program. There is also a Cheer Camp Showcase at 3:45 p.m. at the high school.
- Dr. Fitzgerald reminded the Board that Summer School Graduation will be this Thursday at 10 a.m. and he congratulated the newest members of the Class of 2021 on their graduation.
- Dr. Fitzgerald stated also on Thursday CR Alumni Jarrett Butler is being recognized by the State Legislature and the Delaware State Fairgrounds with the dedication of an ADA-compliant restroom facility. Jarrett who served as a legislative intern for Rep. Lyndon Yearick is well on his way to being governor!
- Dr. Fitzgerald continued to share some important dates:
 - August 10th – 12th will be the administrative workshops.
 - August 13th we meet our new teachers at 8:30 a.m. here at Robinson Elementary School.
 - Robinson Elementary will officially open on August 18th with a dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. which is also the first official day for teachers.
 - August 24th is the first student day.

Board Members

Ms. Marelli stated Dr. Fitzgerald recently received an award.

Public Comment

Anna Hyde thanked the Board and gave public comment on behalf of the children living in Barrett Farms. Their children would be realigned to go to Star Hil Elementary even though their neighborhood is directly across from David E. Robinson Elementary. They want their children to attend the new school. There are one dozen children in the neighborhood. She requests the Board reconsider the realignment for this school year instead of consideration for next year. She spoke to bussing and the transportation of these students. She stated they understand school choice but wanted to ask if all would be considered. A petition with 300 signatures has been created from the community.

Action Items

Appointment of Caesar Rodney High School Assistant Principal

Ms. Marelli made a motion to appoint Kristen Brown- Massey as the CRHS Assistant Principal with an effective date of August 1st. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, and Denman).

Appointment of W.B. Simpson Elementary School Assistant Principal

Ms. Marelli made a motion to appoint Katrina Custer as the WBS Assistant Principal with an effective date of August 1st. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, and Denman).

Personnel Matters

The Board approved Personnel Matters C. 1- C. 8 as presented on the agenda and addendum.

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

1. Administrative Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Freeman Williams	NHS	Principal	Appointment effective 07/01/2021.
Ashley Holmes	WBS	Principal	Appointment effective 07/01/2021.
Darisa Everett	SHE	Principal	Transfer effective 07/01/2021.
Kathleen Fitzgerald	DER	Principal	Transfer effective 07/01/2021.
Jean O'Connell	DER	Assistant Principal	Transfer effective 07/01/2021.
Jennifer Wolford	DO	Supervisor of Student Services	Appointment effective 7/21/2021.

2. Teacher Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Christine Pierson	DW	Speech language Pathologist	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Jessica Shalongo	DW	Occupational Therapist	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Sara Price	CRHS	Special Education	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Kyle Taylor	CRHS	Special Education	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Erica Motejunas	CRHS	Special Education	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Katelyn Reed	CRHS	Special Education	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Michael Bittner	CRHS	Mathematics	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Patricia Guido	CRHS	Spanish	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Andrea Edmonds	CRHS	Social Studies	Transfer effective 08/18/2021.
Shanann Kenton	ABM	Special Education	Transfer effective 08/18/2021.
Agoston Szabo	FMS	Social Studies	Transfer effective 08/18/2021.
Nicole Fox	FMS	MS Music	Transfer effective 08/18/2021.
Heidi Patten	FMS	English Language Arts	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Sydney Brauer	PMS	School Psychologist	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Nyree Wright	PMS	ELA	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Jillian Matz	PMS	Science	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Devon Wills	PMS	Social Studies	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Christine Gordon-Siler	PMS	English Language Arts	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Nancy Haupt	PMS	Social Studies	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Alex Petrella	MMS	PE/Health	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Sabrina Paulino	MMS	Mathematics	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Danielle Lenoir	MMS	MS Instrumental	Transfer effective 08/18/2021.
April Murray	JSC	Special Education	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Sandra Perkins	JSC	Board Certified Behavioral Analyst	Temporary appointment effective 08/18/21.
Autumn Childs	SHE	EIP	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Tara Pickett	SHE	Special Education	Transfer effective 08/18/2021.

Nicole Edelblute	WEL	Elementary	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Sarah Reitzel	WEL	Elementary	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Stephanie Cummings	WEL	Elementary	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Aaron Briggs	WEL	Elementary	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Jennifer McConnell	WEL	Elementary	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Taylor Morris	WBS	Elementary	Transfer effective 08/18/2021.
Brianna Mears	WBS	Elementary	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Denise Ewell- Fleming	WBS	Special Education	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Julie Price	FMS	English	Retirement effective end of 2020-21 SY.
Erin Sosa	DO	Spanish Immersion Coach	Resignation effective 07/10/2021.
Rebecca Holroyd	DW	School Psychologist	Resignation effective end of 2020-21 SY.
Veronica Mejia	DW	School Psychologist	Rescinded appointment.
Taquil Foster Lewis	CRHS	Business	Resignation effective end of 2020-21 SY.
Elizabeth Paolano	CRHS	Social Studies	Resignation effective end of 2020-21 SY.
Samantha Timlin	CRHS	Mathematics	Resignation effective end of 2020-21 SY.
Kayla Watson	PMS	English Language Arts	Resignation effective end of 2020-21 SY.
Kim Weber	WEL	Kindergarten	Resignation effective end of 2020-21 SY.
Lisa Fox	WRB	Elementary	Resignation effective end of 2020-21 SY.
Elizabeth Roverano	WRB	Spanish Immersion	Resignation effective end of 2020-21 SY.
Sandra Perkins	JSC	Board Certified Behavior Analyst	Rescinded position.
Amanda Holman	CRHS	Mathematics	Resignation effective end of 2020-21 SY.

3. Paraprofessional Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Donna Hutchins	JSC	Paraprofessional	Retirement effective end of 2020-21 SY.

4. Secretarial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Lauren Shelton	MMS	Secretary	Appointment effective 08/02/2021.
Kristen Chargualaf	DRE	P/T Clerk	Appointment effective 07/26/2021.
Renea Thompson	DO	Financial Secretary	Appointment effective 07/06/2021.
Karyn Stant	FMS	Secretary	Appointment effective 07/06/2021.
Denise Boyce	DER	Secretary	Appointment effective 07/06/2021.

5. Custodial Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
Vincent Spizio	DW	Skilled Craftsman/HVAC	Appointment effective 08/09/2021.
Valarie Johnson	MMS	Chief Custodian	Appointment effective 08/02/2021.
Garrett Williams	MMS	2 nd Shift Custodian	Appointment effective 08/09/2021.
Lee Merklein	DRE	1 st Shift Custodian	Transfer effective- TBD.
Tamara Vicere	CRHS	1 st Shift Custodian	Transfer effective 07/20/2021.
Arthur Miller	CRHS	2 nd Shift Custodian	Appointment effective 06/21/2021.
Joseph Ramsey	CRHS	Chief Custodian	Retirement effective 9/01/2021.

6. Other Appointments/Resignations/Retirements/Transfers

Name	School	Position	Action
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Michael Wisniewski	MMS	Constable	Appointment effective 08/18/2021.
Thomas Harmon	DW	Transportation Coordinator	Appointment effective 07/12/2021.

7. CREA Travel

Name	School	Position	Action
Candace Simonini	CRHS	Counselor	To attend EFT- Treatment Approach for Anxiety and Trauma (online) July 28-30, 2021.

8. Extra Duty Recommendations/Resignations:

Name	School	Activity	Position	Action
Rebecca Handel	CRHS	Field Hockey	Varsity	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Laurie Kontz	CRHS	Field Hockey	Jr. Varsity	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Kristin Finley	CRHS	Field Hockey	Assistant Jr. Varsity	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Alexis Howerin	CRHS	Field Hockey	Assistant Varsity	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Catherine Preszler	CRHS	Summer Band Camp	Director	Recommendation for Summer Activities 2021
Mark Crossley	CRHS	Summer Band Camp	Assistant	Recommendation for Summer Activities 2021
Raul Reyes	CRHS	Summer Band Camp	Co-Assistant	Recommendation for Summer Activities 2021
Dillon Otto	CRHS	Summer Band Camp	Specialist	Recommendation for Summer Activities 2021
Dan Robinson	CRHS	Summer Band Camp	Specialist	Recommendation for Summer Activities 2021
Stephen Gelberg	CRHS	Summer Band Camp	Specialist	Recommendation for Summer Activities 2021
Jennifer Bones	CRHS	Volleyball	Jr. Varsity Head Coach	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Mike Tesno	CRHS	Summer Weight Program	Training	Recommendation for Summer Sports 2021
Andrea Caswell	CRHS	Cheerleading	JV Head Coach	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Janet Butler	CRHS	Volleyball	Volunteer	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Charles Konadu-Adjei	ABM	Athletic Director	Athletic Director	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Charles Konadu-Adjei	ABM	Boys Soccer	Head Coach	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Charles Konadu-Adjei	ABM	Service Organizations	Odyssey of the Mind Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Laulewasika Bendolph	ABM	Boys Soccer	Assistant Coach	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Krista Durbano	ABM	Field Hockey	Head Coach	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Melissa Wich	ABM	Field Hockey	Assistant Coach	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Amanda Graham	ABM	Cheerleading	Head Coach	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Ashley Caverly	ABM	Cheerleading	Assistant Coach	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021

Jennifer McCarthy	ABM	Musical	Chorus	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Jennifer McCarthy	ABM	Musical	Band/Gr. 7&8	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Jennifer McCarthy	ABM	Musical	Band/Gr. 6	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Jennifer McCarthy	ABM	Musical	Drama	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Russell Yeager	ABM	Service Organizations	Odyssey of the Mind Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Nelle Coleman	ABM	Service Organizations	National Honor Society Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Jennifer Bailey	ABM	Service Organizations	National Honor Society Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Bobbi Scott	ABM	Student Publications	Yearbook Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
D'Lorah Sutfin	ABM	Student Publications	Yearbook Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Holly Strickland	ABM	Service Organizations	MS/BPA	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
John Downs	PMS	Athletic Director	Athletic Director	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Mickie Price	PMS	Football	Assistant Coach	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Steven White	PMS	Football	Assistant Coach	Recommendation for Fall Sports 2021
Trish Cluff	PMS	Service Organizations	National Honor Society Co-Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Jennifer McCarthy	WEL	Musical	Band	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Emily Walls	WEL	Musical	Chorus	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Amanda Graham	WEL	Service Organizations	Student Council Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Wendy Wallace	WEL	Service Organizations	Safety Patrol Sponsor	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Brian Zambotti	WEL	Service Organizations	Math League/Gr5	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22
Taylor Queen	WEL	Service Organizations	Math League/Gr. 4	Recommendation for Year-Round Activities SY21-22

Routine Business

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 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

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 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Fiscal Matters

Budget/Fiscal Reports

Mrs. Kimberly Judy 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, Wilson, and Denman).

FY 22 Preliminary District Operating Budget

Mrs. Kimberly Judy explained the FY 22 Preliminary District Operating Budget.

The Board approved the FY 22 Preliminary District Operating Budget as presented.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the FY 22 Preliminary District Operating Budget as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Facilities Matters

The Board approved the contract for the David E. Robinson Elementary School from DELL Technologies as presented.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to approve the David E. Robinson Elementary School from DELL Technologies as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Key Priorities

Dr. Fitzgerald recapped the suggested 2021-22 Key Priorities.

The 2021-22 Key Priorities were adopted as presented.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the 2021-22 Key Priorities with the adjustment of numbering as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

Discussion Items

Directors' Reports

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

Ms. Marelli stated she was listening to her children recently and shared their excitement for the opening of school and cafeteria lunches.

President Marasco asked about the recent job fair. Dr. Noel stated it was very successful with 75-100 attendees. The event was held at Fifer Middle School.

ESSER III Budget

Mrs. Kimberly Judy explained the ESSER III Budget and deadlines. She highlighted the big-ticket items. Staffing, curriculum, and social-emotional learning were included. Building renovations for Magnolia Middle were included. Technology also included.

This will be presented in August for approval. Mr. Failing stated he served on this committee and he likes the allocations they have suggested with the opportunity to make changes.

CDC and DPH Guidance/School Reopening

Dr. Fitzgerald shared the current CDC/DPH Guidance for school reopening with the Board. Once the Governor's order ended, the mask mandate went away. This was then given to school boards to make their determination with the exception of wearing masks on buses. The Governor is meeting with superintendents tomorrow. Dr. Fitzgerald recommended the Board makes the suggestion for students to wear masks for those not vaccinated and this would be optional for those who are vaccinated. The District will continue to follow all CDC and DPH guidelines. Since the Board decided we are committed to returning five days a week and in-person, the Board should make the recommendation as stated. Dr. Fitzgerald stated COVID testing and vaccinations are available and optional.

President Marasco is comfortable with this recommendation. Dr. Denman stated some parents may have concerns. Mr. Wilson stated we will give the information to the public and parents can make their choice. He is not in favor of mandating masks. As a Board, he stated it should be an option. Mr. Failing stated he was not pleased that this was given to the Boards to make the decision. He prefers to wait to see what the government guidance says in the next few weeks. He is concerned about liability issues. Ms. Marelli liked the recommendation. She stated it may be hard to enforce this.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated we understand this is a personal choice. But the best place for children is in school with social interaction. This is only the beginning of this discussion. Things will most likely change before the next board meeting. The three-foot social distancing precautions are in place and being taken seriously for students and staff. We understand the students under 12 are not able to get a vaccine. We hope these students would wear their masks for safety. Lockers were also discussed. Dr. Fitzgerald stated this is being discussed at the middle schools. President Marasco asked about the staff health screener. Dr. Fitzgerald stated he would like to have this continue. Contact tracing will also continue throughout the district.

Bus Driver Recruitment and Retention

Dr. Jason Bonner, Supervisor of Transportation, shared a plan for recruiting and retaining bus drivers. He stated five years ago we had no buses. Since then we now have 21 buses in CR for this year. He reminded the Board they capped hiring drivers at six full-time positions. He shared information on costs for one full-time position. The local benefits for drivers were also shared. He is requesting permission to increase this to 21 full-time drivers to match the buses we currently have. Discussion took place on the amount of funding needed for these positions. Dr. Bonner would like to recruit with benefits and full-time positions. The bus companies are dropping routes which we must take over. This is something that is decided when the companies meet with their drivers in August.

Dr. Denman asked about utilizing paraprofessionals. Dr. Bonner stated they have reached out to all employee groups. Bus aides are difficult to get assigned from the state. Mr. Failing continued to inquire what does the future looks like with contractor changes and how can we prepare for the unknown. Dr. Bonner stated the new transportation facility is very nice, but as the fleet ages, we will need to look into hiring a mechanic and this would be cost-effective. Dr. Denman asked about the yearly maintenance of the buses. Mr. Wilson stated Dr. Bonner needs to have the flexibility to hire drivers as needed. Mr. Failing stated the financial part will continue to rise. Discussion continued regarding contractors, routes, and insurance costs.

The Board stated they would give Dr. Bonner flexibility to hire the drivers he needs. Mr. Failing stated he would like to keep the hiring at a limit and revisit as needed. Dr. Fitzgerald gave kudos to Dr. Bonner on his development of our own drivers. Full-time driver's hours and extracurricular activities were also discussed.

Elementary School Realignment

This item was tabled.

Executive Session

At 9:21 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session and to adjourn without coming back to open session. The purpose of which is to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0. (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, Wilson, and Denman).

At 10:32 p.m. President Marasco adjourned the meeting.


Kevin R. Fitzgerald, Ed. D., Executive Secretary Date 8/12/21