

Considered **DRAFT** until approved at the next scheduled meeting.

Regular Board of Education Meeting (Tuesday, April 15, 2025)

Generated by Ann Craig on Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Members present

Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

Meeting called to order at 4:32 PM

1. Opening

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Action: C. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

Action: D. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

2. Executive Session I

Action: A. Convene into Executive Session I

The Board will meet in Executive Session I. The purpose of which is to conduct interviews for the Principal of Allen Frear Elementary and to discuss personnel and legal matters as needed.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

The Board entered executive session at 4:34p.m.

Action: B. Reconvene into Open Session

Motion to reconvene into open session.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

The Board reconvened into Regular Session at 6:01p.m.

3. Modification of the Agenda

Action: A. Item(s) Deleted

Action: B. Item(s) Added

4. Presentations

Information: A. Recognitions and Spirit of Caesar Rodney

The Board presented a Proclamation in Observance of the Month of the Military Child.

Ms. Jennifer Davis, Delaware's Military Interstate Compact Commissioner, presented banners to the Purple Star Distinguished Schools: Allen Frear Elementary, David E. Robinson Elementary, Nellie Stokes Elementary, Welch Elementary and Star Hill Elementary School.

Representatives Lyndon Yearick and Eric Buckson presented acknowledgments to each school in recognition of their Purple Star Distinguished School Designation.

Mr. John Newman and Mrs. Amy Smith received the Spirit of Caesar Rodney Award to their efforts in the Riders Pay It Forward

Initiative.

The Board recognized CRHS students who placed at the 2025 Delaware Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (DECTFL) Showcase.

Information: B. W. Reily Brown Elementary School

W. Reily Brown's Lighthouse Team presented Together, We are Better; Small Moments, Big Impact.

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The Lighthouse Team at W. Reily Brown Elementary shared ten inspiring examples of how students and staff have worked together to build a school culture where everyone can grow and thrive.

- **Hand-Knitted Hats** – Thoughtfully made by a student, these hats were shared with students and families to spread warmth and kindness.
- **Habit Hype Squad** – Promoting the 8 Habits of Leadership, the squad focuses on inclusion and differentiated learning. One small moment of acceptance can create a ripple effect of belonging.
- **Joke of the Day** – A schoolwide tradition! A special joke box allows staff, students, and custodians to contribute jokes, bringing laughter and connection to the school community.
- **Supporting Our Staff's Children** – Often starting the day quietly and early, Mrs. Dutton consistently goes above and beyond by leading engaging activities for staff members' children, many of whom are at school before and after regular hours. Her actions highlight the importance of community and care.
- **Ana's Morning Cheer** – A multilingual learner, Ana helps with the car line each morning, greeting everyone with a cheerful "Good Morning." Her positivity is a daily boost of joy for all.
- **Big Love from a Small Friend** – *Paws*, the school's therapy dog, provides comfort and joy to both students and staff, reminding everyone that love comes in all sizes.
- **Multilingual Reading Buddies** – Students connect across grade levels and cultures by sharing stories in multiple languages, strengthening literacy and friendships.
- **OM-azing Custodian** – Honoring our nighttime custodian, who supports the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) teams during evening practices. Not only is he a constant presence, but he also cheers the students on during competitions, showing them they matter.
- **Dynamic Duo** – A former Brown student, now a high school senior, returns weekly to support current students, modeling leadership, service, and school pride.
- **One School, One Community, One Shirt** – Thanks to community sponsors, every student received a T-shirt to wear on field trips and at school events, reinforcing unity and school spirit.

Information: C. Summer Projects

Mr. Jimmy Pennewell, Supervisor of Facilities Management, presented an overview of the projects scheduled for summer 2025.

Information: D. Instruction - Grading & Assessment Policy Updates

Mrs. Tara Faircloth, Director of Instruction, provided an overview of the focus areas currently under review by the Curriculum and Instruction team as they work to update the grading and assessment Policies.

Information: E. Communications

Dr. Miklus shared that *Rider Pride Day* was a tremendous success and a true celebration of community spirit. He extended his gratitude to Dan Rigby, Jimmy Pennewell, community partners, and the entire Caesar Rodney team who made the event possible.

As part of the event, a community meeting was held to provide a financial overview of the district, with an emphasis on planning for future needs.

Dr. Miklus also recognized April as the *Month of the Military Child*, honoring the resilience and contributions of military-connected students.

He highlighted the week-long *Blue Ribbon Celebrations* at Welch Elementary School and gave a special shout-out to Mr. Jason Payne for leading a high-energy and engaging assembly.

Additionally, Dr. Miklus and members of the Board recently attended the FFA Banquet, a student-led event that showcases leadership, dedication, and agricultural excellence.

He also shared his intention to continue connecting with community members to share important updates and strengthen engagement across the district.

Caesar Rodney High School was selected as one of only five schools in the state to receive the *Delaware AP School Access in Excellence* award, which honors schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to equitable access to Advanced Placement courses and exams.

Finally, Dr. Miklus reminded everyone that *Spring Break begins on Friday, April 18th*.

Board members acknowledged Brown Elementary for the positive culture they have created for the students and staff and they congratulated the schools for receiving the Purple Star Distinguished distinction. The Board wishes the community an enjoyable spring break.

5. Public Comment

Information: A. Public Comment Description

Ms. Valerie Watson, an Air Force veteran, retired State of Delaware Employee, and substitute teacher shared how she believes her company could partner with Caesar Rodney to offer free financial literacy workshops to high school students.

6. Action Items

Action: A. Appointment of Principal of Allen Frear Elementary

Motion to appoint candidate number 1975 as Principal of Allen Frear Elementary as a date to be determined.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

Action: B. Personnel Matters

Motion to accept Personnel Matters as presented.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

Action: C. Department of Education's Facility Assessment

Motion to approve the Department of Education's Facility Assessment as presented.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Nicole E Hill.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

Mr. Jimmy Pennewell provided an overview of Senate Bill 270 which requires districts to complete a facilities assessment tool.

Action: D. Support Staff Uniforms

Motion to award contract with selected vendor(s) for support staff uniforms.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

Vendors awarded included H.L. Scott, A-1 Uniform City and BSN Sports

Action: E. School Pictures

Motion to award contract with selected vendor(s) for School Pictures

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

Legacy was the vendor who was awarded for School Pictures.

7. Routine Business

Action: A. Student Travel

Motion to approve student travel as presented.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

Action: B. Gifts to Schools

Motion to approve gifts to schools as presented

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

8. Policy Matters

Action: A. School Choice

Motion to approve School Choice as presented.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

9. Fiscal Matters

Action: A. Budget/Fiscal Reports

Motion to accept the Budget/Fiscal Reports as presented.

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

Action: B. Financial Position Report

Motion to accept the Financial Position Report as presented

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

10. Discussion Items

Information: A. Leadership Report

11. Executive Session II

Action: A. Convene into Executive Session II

Motion to move into Executive Session II to continue the Executive Session I discussion, and to adjourn without coming back to open session

The board did not reconvene into Executive Session II.

12. Adjournment

Action: A. Adjournment

Motion by Dave Failing, second by Michael Marasco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jessica Marelli, Michael Marasco, Dave Failing, Joyce Denman, Nicole E Hill

The Board adjourned at 7:45p.m.

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