

**Caesar Rodney School District
Citizen Budget Oversight Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
12:00 p.m.
June 17, 2021**

I. Opening

The meeting commenced at 12:00 via Zoom. The following members were present: Shari Gary, Dave Failing, Tracy Jones, and Cheryl Precourt (Ade Kuforiji, Mary Birney, Sherry Kijowski will receive summary via email). Kimberly Judy, Caesar Rodney School District (CRSD) Director of Business and Finance, and Lauren Pierce, Administrative Secretary for CRSD Business and Finance Department, were also present.

II. Discussion Items

A. The May Monthly Budget Report was discussed in detail with the Committee.

B. A brief overview of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds was provided along with a copy of the presentation slides shared at the June 7, 2021 Board Work Session. The District must seek public input into its “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan” and how we can safely reopen schools using the ARP ESSER funds. There are specific deadlines associated with these funds:

- i. May 24, 2021 – The District received \$12.3 million, which is 2/3 of its allocation. The Department of Education (DOE) has asked us not to spend the funds until the grant application has been approved.
- ii. June 23, 2021 – The District’s Safe Return Plan is due to DOE after seeking public comment.
 1. The cr_esser@cr.k12.de.us email is open through June 17, 2021 for public comment and was shared at the June 7 work session and June 15 Board meeting.
 2. Meetings were held with various stakeholders, including CR High School student council members, the District’s Curriculum Cabinet (made up of teachers, administrators, and District Office staff), the Achievement Liaison Teachers (ALT) team (one ALT per building), and union representatives. The CBOC did not have any further information to add to the safe reopening plan.
- iii. August 23, 2021 – ESSER spending plan due to DOE.

C. Mrs. Judy shared the proposed tax rate, which included a one cent increase for Minor Capital Improvements based on our share required by the Bond Bill, and a three cent increase for Tuition Tax. Mrs. Judy shared that last year, there was a

seven cent increase, which was modest for the upcoming need. The overall goal was to increase the rate 14 cents over several years, so the three cents is a continuation of that effort to cover the escalating costs of the special education department.

D. The following items were discussed:

- i. MMS making progress for students to attend August 24. Board voted during Tuesday's board meeting to move forward with using our impact fees to purchase the facility. The District has work to do to get the State on board with producing their 79% of the cost.
- ii. The Board also approved the return of students to full in person instruction for the 2021-22 school year without a remote option.
- iii. The Fiscal Year 2022 budget is in its preliminary stages. Will host another meeting in approximately a month to get input before presenting the budget to the Board for approval.

III. Adjournment