

**Work Session  
April 25, 2022**

**Opening**

Call to Order

At 6:03 p.m. School Board President Michael Marasco called the April 25, 2022, Caesar Rodney School District Work Session to order.

Roll Call

Members present in addition to President Marasco were: Vice President Jessica Marelli, Board Members: Mr. Dave Failing, and Dr. Joyce Denman. Mr. P. Scott Wilson was absent.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the April 25, 2022 agenda as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marasco, Marelli, Denman, and Failing).

**Discussion Items**

President Marasco discussed the recent meeting regarding the Insight Education Groups for strategic planning. The Board is looking into working with Insight on a multi-year district plan. He liked the discussion thus far. They use a variety of tools to create a strategic plan utilizing focus groups. They will give us a comprehensive overview of what our district needs. Recruitment and retention of staff will be a part of this. They look at the demands of our schools and provide coaching for our leaders.

Ms. Marelli liked the focus groups. She also liked that we can use our same leaders but bring in new people from the community, etc. The meetings will be held in person and some would be virtual.

Mr. Failing shared he read the plan and hopes it is good as it sounds. He likes the balance of equality and reaching out to community stakeholders. They would have some tough conversations with specialists, etc. This plan aligns with more community involvement. It allows us to see what things we can do to prepare our students to be successful. It also allows us to prepare our families' and students' needs for their future.

President Marasco shared the timeline for this plan to begin in May and last for 5-6 months. He would like this listed on the May regular meeting agenda. Dr. Alois stated we will prepare our graduates for what they need to do when they leave CR. Interviews and strategies will be used. This includes staff, public, and district input. It helps to lead us in action steps with a follow-up. She is excited for this to start in May.

Dr. Denman stated she too is very excited and is putting faith in this company. She doesn't foresee any problems or concerns with moving forward. Dr. Alois stated this would begin with a three-year, then a five-year, and finally a ten-year plan. Dr. Alois has met with different groups and building a strategic plan is supported.

Marelli asked if we can add this approval to move forward to the next work session agenda. Dr. Alois stated we could have the contract finalized and sooner is better than later. President Marasco would like to add this to the next work session agenda. Mr. Failing is happy to do this with an outside company. Dr. Alois is a participant instead of the facilitator. The company graphs the finished project for us. She will continue to discuss the plan with the board. Mr. Failing shared the District Office team has done a great job and stepped up. We have a bigger voice and we are in a good spot. Dr. Alois added that educators are planners.

Ms. Marelli started a new discussion. She inquired about the next steps to improve Legacy Field. She added that Rider Stadium is a beautiful stadium. Mr. Failing added there is a need for a concession stand and bathroom facilities. Ms. Marelli asked what the next steps would be on this project. Would we need a bond

bill? We need a plan. President Marasco stated the utilities are there. Mr. Failing stated we could tap into that. Dr. Sherry Kijowski, CRHS Principal, and Mr. Jimmy Pennewell, Facilities Management Supervisor, should be included in the planning as this is a pretty involved process. Ms. Marelli stated the Board has talked with no action taken. President Marasco added a multi-use building needs consideration. Mr. Failing inquired about the funding for this. Dr. Denman asked about using ESSER funds. Dr. Alois shared this would be stretching it and we would look at other funding options. Mr. Failing stated a pole building is cheap but can become expensive with the options needed. He mentioned the CRHS Agriculture Program and its needs. Options were discussed. The land is needed for expansion. Dr. Alois added we need to state these needs through the strategic plan. Dr. Denman added the D.O. is busting at the seams and we can't put that off for another two years. More conversations are needed with Mr. Pennewell & Dr. Kijowski.

P. Scott Wilson joined the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

**Executive Session**

At 6:36 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session and to adjourn without returning to open session. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marasco, Marelli, Denman, and Failing).

**Adjournment**

At 8:00 p.m. President Marasco adjourned the meeting.

  
Christine Alois, Ed. D., Executive Secretary  
4-25-22  
Date