Re-Organization Meeting  
August 17, 2020

Opening

Call to Order

At 6:10 p.m. School Board President Jessica Marelli called the August 17, 2020, Caesar Rodney School District Re-Organization meeting to order.

Roll Call

Members present in addition to President Marelli were Mr. Dave Failing, Mr. Michael Marasco, Mr. P. Scott Wilson, Dr. Joyce Denman, and Executive Secretary Dr. Kevin R. Fitzgerald.

Public Comments

Jennifer Glanden, a High School parent spoke on behalf of her special needs son who struggled with remote learning and has regressed. She expressed that he needs a one-on-one and classroom structure. He doesn’t function well learning through the computer. She advocated for her son and a hybrid plan for re-opening school.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Marasco made a motion to adopt the August 17, 2020 agenda as presented. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Failing, Denman, Wilson, and Marasco).

Board Re-Organization

New Member Oath of Office

Dr. Joyce Denman took and subscribed to the oath of office of a school board member. The oath was administered by Mrs. Marelli, President of the Caesar Rodney School District Board of Education.

Election of President

Mr. Failing made a motion to elect Mr. Michael Marasco to President of the Caesar Rodney Board of Education. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one abstention (Marelli, Failing, Denman, Wilson).

Election of Vice-President

Dr. Denman made a motion to elect Mrs. Marasco to Vice-President of the Caesar Rodney School Board of Education. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one abstention (Failing, Denman, Wilson, and Marelli).

Appointment of Superintendent of Schools as Executive Secretary of the Board

Ms. Marelli made a motion to appoint Dr. Kevin R. Fitzgerald as Executive Secretary of the Caesar Rodney School District Board of Education. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Failing, Denman, Wilson, and Marasco).

Determination of Date and Time for Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board
Ms. Marelli shared her availability. Dr. Denman asked for monthly workshop meetings to be added to the calendar. Mr. Failing asked about the transition as a hybrid meeting. Dr. Fitzgerald stated the governor’s restrictions and executive order which are currently in place. Discussion took place regarding the July 6, 2021 meeting date. Monday workshop meetings will begin on August 31st on every other Monday through September. Zoom meeting options were also discussed.

Mr. Failing made a motion to add the following dates for the 2020-21 Workshop Meetings of the Board as follows:

Day: Monday

August 31, 2020 (Workshop)
September 14, 2020 (Workshop)
September 28, 2020 (Workshop)

Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Failing, Denman, Wilson, and Marasco).

Ms. Marelli made a motion to hold its 2020-21 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board as follows:

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Day: 3rd Tuesday of the month

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<tr>
<th>August 18, 2020</th>
<th>December 15, 2020</th>
<th>April 20, 2021</th>
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<td>September 15, 2020</td>
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<td>October 20, 2020</td>
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<td>November 17, 2020</td>
<td>March 16, 2021</td>
<td>*July 6, 2021</td>
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*Re-Organization Meeting

Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Failing, Denman, Wilson, and Marasco).

Committee Appointments

The Following Board members volunteered to serve as the following representatives.

- DSBA Representative (1) Mr. Marasco and Alternate (1) Ms. Marelli
- DSBA Legislative Committee Representative (1) Dr. Denman and Alternate (1) Ms. Marelli
- District Financial Review Committee Representative (1) Mr. Failing

Resolution to continue Policies, Regulations, and Practices of the Former Boards of Education

Be it resolved that this Board of Education of the Caesar Rodney School District continues the Policies, Regulations, and Practices of its predecessor Board until such time that the Board of Education revises a policy or concludes that a Regulation or Practice is not an appropriate application of its Policy.

Ms. Marelli made a motion to adopt the resolution to continue policies, regulations, and practices of the former Boards of Education as presented on the agenda. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously 5-0 (Marelli, Failing, Denman, Wilson, and Marasco).

Presentation on the District’s Liability Insurance

Mrs. Kimberly Judy, Director of Business and Finance, gave a brief overview of the District’s Liability Insurance policies and the coverage we receive. Liberty Mutual is the District’s insurance company. Dave Scortino, an insurance agent, was in attendance. Mr. Failing asked if our liability insurance policy will change. Mr. Scortino stated there will be changes in the future, but nothing is currently in place.
Discussion Items

Proposed Board Goals

Dr. Fitzgerald shared potential key priorities for the 2020-21 school year for the Board’s consideration. Mr. Failing stated he preferences on the Key Priorities. Ms. Marelli shared her preferences.

District Re-Opening Plan

Mr. Marasco stated the Board would like to continue the discussion. Dr. Toles-Torain shared the staff survey results. 970 of 1200 staff members responded with all buildings represented. All classifications were included. Routine cleaning was a top priority along with sanitizing materials available. The averages were discussed with the results of the staff split between wanting to go with remote learning and going back as a hybrid plan. Each question and the results were read. Individual comments were shared with the Board.

Dr. Fitzgerald shared 1/3 student population were interested in remote learning. All districts are having challenges with transportation and cleaning. There are variables with moving forward. He suggested a rolling process with bringing students back. He reminded the Board of the 2-week and 6-week remote plan with rolling into a hybrid plan.

Several principals were in attendance. Mr. Failing asked about the data and which parents and what staff want us to open in person. Dr. Fitzgerald stated we have a commitment letter ready for parents to make their selection on the plan with the fast turn-around results. The staff with circumstances that would not allow them to return in person is available from Dr. Noel. We hope to have both answers in a short time.

Mr. Bonner has met with drivers and driver’s aides. Generally, the concern is what are we doing to protect our drivers? He shared the limitations from DOE. Deep cleaning after every morning and afternoon with additional cleaning after each run. We are compelled to follow the DOE and CDC guidelines.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated custodial staff and the plan for all hands on deck for a hybrid setting for cleaning is important. Special Education student needs are also important. He reminded the Board of our timeline for opening school and shared some stats regarding other districts’ plans.

Dr. Denman stated 53% of staff want to start remote with 33% of parents preferred remote learning. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that participation from the parent survey was not as great as the staff survey participation.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated we need to know our suggestion on how many weeks we would go remotely. Ms. Marelli stated we are asking for time to prepare our buildings. She stated the parent survey results did not give us enough participation.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated a commitment is much different than a survey for parents. This will help us know how many students we are expecting, Mr. Marasco asked about which groups would be integrated into a hybrid setting. CR High School Principal, Dr. Kijowski, stated the Drivers Ed students and students needing senior photos have been brought into the campus. There are strict cleaning protocols for driver’s education. Social distancing and steam cleaning are in place for senior photos. High touch areas have been cleaned. Small groups, traffic patterns, lunch, dismissal are some challenges. There were about roughly 35-30 students for photos scheduled daily in stages/locations. The numbers are very small and very controlled.

Dr. Denman is interested in hearing the ideas for small groups in the middle schools. F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School Principal, Dr. Kris Failing, stated we would be targeting those students who need the in-person instruction. The classroom might be as low as less than 10 students in a classroom setting. She stated we would need at least 6-weeks to put a place in place. Only 13 students in a stairwell at a time, bathrooms, and other logistics, etc. were strong concerns. Fred Fifer III Middle School Principal, Mrs. Corbeil shared the same thoughts and stated we really need to give our teacher time to provide remote learning much better than the spring.

Allen Frear Elementary School Principal, Mrs. Lavender, spoke on behalf of the elementary level. She shared safety is a concern. Allen Frear Elementary has set up a classroom for social distancing as an example. Some logistics still need to be worked out. Time is needed to make those decisions. They need this time to fine-tune instruction. Major George S.
Welch Elementary School Principal, Mr. Payne, stated there is a concern with young children social distancing. Cleaning protocols have to be super tight because of this.

Mr. Failing stated he would like to see more details added to the commitment letter. But we will be going through this without knowing what will come up. It is a work in progress. There is a lot of work being done to make sure our students and staff are safe. He wants the public to know the team is working very hard to achieve this.

The John S. Charlton Principal, Dr. Sander-Loftus, stated we have to look at on-sight and off-sight programs. We are going to have to practice with staff using PPE. It is very intense to use this equipment. We need to practice wearing full gear and serving small groups of students. She stated we will need more time to plan everything out. Project SEARCH students will be going back in September with DELDOT assisting with protocols. The JSC shipment of PPE is planned to arrive before September 1st. PPE replenishment is a concern. It is difficult to know how much to order at this time.

Mr. Marasco stated we need to be flexible with our staff getting back into the buildings. The safety of students and staff is of the highest importance.

Dr. Fitzgerald amended the roll call. As of 8:10 p.m. Mr. P. Scott Wilson was not in attendance.

Executive Session

At 8:07 p.m. Ms. Marelli made a motion to go into Executive Session The purpose of which is to discuss personnel matters and real estate acquisition as afforded by 29 Del. C. Sect. 10004(b)(2) with adjourning after the executive session without coming back to general session. Dr. Denman seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with one absent (Marelli, Failing, Denman, and Marasco).

Adjournment

At 10:59 p.m. Dr. Denman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Failing seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent (Marelli, Marasco, Failing, and Denman).

Kevin R. Fitzgerald, Ed. D., Executive Secretary Date

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