

**MINUTES**  
**CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**October 9, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Tina Gomez, President, in the Caro Middle School Media Center.  
Pledge of Allegiance – Moment of Silence  
Roll Call: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Gomez  
Absent: McComb, Moore, Skelton  
Also Present: Branding, Bitzer, Bringard, Moyer, Warren, Henry

**II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:  
Moved by Brunet, supported by Holder, to approve the September 11, 2023 minutes, as written.  
Ayes: Curtis, Holder, Brunet, Gomez  
Motion carried.
2. Approval of Bills:  
Moved by Holder, supported by Curtis, to approve the bills as follows:  
Payroll: \$1,236,601.61  
General Fund: \$410,705.66  
Food Service: \$92,462.30  
Total: \$1,739,769.57  
Ayes: Holder, Brunet, Curtis, Gomez  
Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Hon. Nancy Thane – Community Comment  
Pricilla Clish – Parent Comment

**IV. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Spring Break Trip Presentation:  
Caro Middle School Teacher, James Sira presented information on a proposed trip for Spring Break 2025 to Greece.
2. Dual Enrollment Policy:  
The Board received information on the current Policy 2271 and updates that needed to be approved in order to align with the dual enrollment procedures that were revised and approved in the High School handbook at the August Board Meeting.
3. Spanish Curriculum:  
The High School and Middle School Spanish curriculum online subscription is up for renewal. The Board received a quote to review the renewal of the online services through McGraw Hill.
4. Middle School and High School Air Conditioning Bids:  
Bids received on October 2<sup>nd</sup> for the High School and Middle School Air Conditioning Project were presented to the Board for consideration and discussion.
5. Middle School Gym Floor:  
Superintendent Rierson shared a status update on the Middle School gym floor following some water damage over the summer. With guidance from SET SEG, the affected area of the floor was dried completely and secured. The Board received estimates for their consideration regarding the full repair of the flooring to take place next summer.
6. Altria Settlement:  
A settlement agreement with Altria, a company who makes vaping products, has been presented to school districts who approved their participation in the lawsuit. The Board had the opportunity to review and ask question about the information provided by Thrun Law Firm and Frantz Law Group.
7. Paraprofessional Handbook:  
Board members were presented with the final updates to the paraprofessional handbook for their consideration. There was an opportunity for Board questions to be addressed and a discussion was had.
8. Crossing Guard:  
The Board discussed the crossing guards in Caro and how they are employed and trained by the City of Caro and the Caro Police Department.

**V. TOPICS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION:**

1. Moved by Curtis, supported by Brunet, to approve the 2023 Spring Break trip to Greece.  
Ayes: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Gomez  
Motion carried.
2. Moved by Brunet, supported by Holder, to approve the update to Policy 2271- Post Secondary Dual Enrollment Option Program, as presented.  
Ayes: Curtis, Holder, Brunet, Gomez  
Motion carried.
3. Moved by Holder, supported by Brunet, to approve the purchase of 115 Spanish curriculum licenses from McGraw Hill for \$8,707.26, as presented.  
Ayes: Holder, Brunet, Curtis, Gomez  
Motion carried.
4. Moved by Curtis, supported by Brunet, to approve the bid for Middle School and High School Air Conditioning from Johnson & Wood LLC for \$1,176,000.00, as presented.  
Ayes: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Gomez  
Motion carried.
5. Moved by Holder, supported by Curtis, to approve the repair of the Middle School Gym Floor by Kuhn Flooring for \$29,400.00, as presented.  
Ayes: Curtis, Holder, Brunet, Gomez  
Motion carried.
6. Moved by Curtis, supported by Brunet, to approve the following resolution:
  1. The Board accepts the settlement amount for Caro Community Schools' claim against Altria Group, Inc in Case No. 3:19-md-2913-WHO.
  2. The Board authorizes and directs the District Superintendent, George Rierson, to sign Lawsuit settlement documents pertaining to the Altria Defendants on behalf of the District and to take such other action as necessary to obtain the Settlement Amount and to settle the Lawsuit against the Altria Defendants, subject to review and approval by the District's legal counsel.
  3. The Board waives any applicable Board Policies and Bylaws for purposes of this settlement.
  4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions that conflict with the provisions of this resolution are rescinded.Ayes: Holder, Brunet, Curtis, Gomez  
Motion carried.
7. Moved by Brunet, supported by Curtis, to approve the Paraprofessional Handbook for the 2023-24 school year through the 2025-26 school year with retroactive pay to August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, as presented.  
Ayes: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Gomez  
Motion carried.

**VI. BUILDING REPORTS:**

The Board received updates from administration and had an opportunity to ask questions.

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

Superintendent Rierson thanked Judge Thane for her message about chronic absenteeism and the impact that it has on students. He shared an update on the district's capital improvement project and the results from the public surveys. Based on very preliminary enrollment numbers from count day on October 4<sup>th</sup> showed a decrease in student enrollment from the 2022-23 school year. Superintendent Rierson shared that he was looking into various organizations that provide strategic planning services to consider in the near future. The district is still looking for additional bus drivers and second shift custodians to fill vacant positions. He shared that October is National Principals Month and thanked all of principals for their continued dedication and leadership, and thanked Theresa Kitchen for her assistance at McComb Elementary.

**VIII. BOARD COMMENTS:**

Curtis: Thanked Matt Branding and Lindsay Bitzer for allowing Board members to attend High School Challenge Day and for all that went into the great event.

**IX. OTHER:**

None

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Ayes: Curtis, Holder, Brunet, Gomez

Motion carried.

*Brian McComb*

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Brian McComb, Secretary