

MINUTES
CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 10, 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, McComb, Moore, Skelton, Gomez

Absent: N/A

Also Present: Branding, Bitzer, Bringard, Moyer, LaBerge, Weijola, Chapelo, Dwyer, Sanders, Henry

II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by McComb, supported by Moore, to approve the March 13, 2023 minutes, as written.

Ayes: Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Skelton, Brunet, Gomez

Motion carried.

2. Approval of Bills:

Moved by Holder, supported by Skelton, to approve the bills as follows:

Payroll: \$1,584,509.49

General Fund: \$1,343,090.63

Food Service: \$52,346.57

Total: \$2,979,946.69

Ayes: Holder, McComb, Moore, Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Gomez

Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1. Peggy Montei – Staff Comment
2. Cindy McKinney-Volz – Parent Comment
3. Ashley Hart – Parent Comment
4. Ashley Skinner – Staff Comment
5. Sara Buniack – Staff Comment
6. Lesley McIntosh – Parent Comment

IV. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Building and Grounds Report:

2. Social Media Litigation:

The Board discussed the lawsuit by school districts across the nation against social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik-Tok, and others, and the relevance of the district joining the litigation.

3. Big Thumb Conference:

Superintendent Rierson presented information to the Board for consideration at the March meeting regarding the opportunity to work with 25 other districts in developing the Big Thumb Conference. Board members were able to ask additional questions and share their thoughts.

4. Technology Purchase:

Every five years the district replaces the teachers' computers with newly refurbished computers that are under warrantee. Quotes were provided to the Board for them to review and discuss.

5. TISD Biennial Election:

The upcoming biennial election of the board members of the Tuscola Intermediate Board of Education will take place on June 5th, 2023. Information was shared about the district's involvement in the TISD election process. A special meeting was discussed and will be scheduled for June 1st, 2023 at 5:00 PM for the board to select the candidates the district will vote for in the ISD board election.

V. TOPICS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION:

1. Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to approve Integrated Designs Inc (IDI) as the architectural and engineering firm for the 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Initiative, as presented.

Ayes: McComb, Moore, Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Gomez

Motion carried.

2. Moved by Moore, supported by McComb, to approve the purchase of a Kubota ZD1211-3-72 zero-turn mower from Farm Depot for \$16,300.00, as presented.

Ayes: Moore, Skelton, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Gomez

Nays: Brunet

Motion carried.

3. Moved by Moore, supported by Holder, to approve the resolution to join the social media lawsuit against Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik-Tok, and other social media platforms and authorize Superintendent Rierson to sign the Attorney-Client Fee Contract with Frantz Law Group, on behalf of Caro Schools and to take such other action as necessary to obtain monetary damages and injunctive relief for the school, subject to review by the School's legal counsel.

Ayes: Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Gomez

Motion carried.

4. Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to move to join the Big Thumb Conference and to designate Superintendent Rierson and Athletic Director Hess to take all actions necessary to proceed with joining the Big Thumb Conference, with full implementation beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

Ayes: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Skelton, Gomez

Motion carried.

5. Moved by Moore, supported by Curtis, to table the purchase of desktop computers for teacher work stations to consider full options for the technology purchase.

Ayes: Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Skelton, Brunet, Gomez

Motion carried.

6. Moved by Moore, supported by Skelton, to approve the resolution to consider naming Brian McComb as the representative and naming Susan Holder as an alternate representative of the Caro Board at their Biennial Election on Monday, June 5th, 2023.

Ayes: Holder, McComb, Moore, Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Gomez

Motion carried.

VI. BUILDING REPORTS:

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

VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Rierson expressed his appreciation for the staff, resource officer and local law enforcement for all they did when the district responded to a recent threat. He shared that Mr. Branding is working with a committee to review the information available on dual enrollment for high school students. MacMillan Associates continues to work with the district inspecting and providing estimates on unit ventilator updates and potential air conditioning in the different buildings. Superintendent Rierson reported that the behavior intervention team at McComb School continues to meet regularly to discuss data and to develop plans for students, and a behavior review team has been formed as well, to address concerns related to aggressive student behavior. The team has increased administrative support with Jeff Schember being involved in the response and communication for behavior situations. The team is reviewing and revising the disciplinary plan at McComb School, have created a reset room for students to use to de-escalate when needed, and is setting up support options for the employees as well as encouraging parents to utilize community offered assistance and support.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS:

Gomez: Mrs. Gomez thanked the staff for doing all they have been able to do in the recent situations and recognized that expressing thanks was much less than what was deserved.

Skelton: Mrs. Skelton mentioned the need to find a way to provide a pay raise for staff.

McComb: Mr. McComb thanked the teachers and the paraprofessionals, but recognized that thank you wasn't enough and shared that we need to do better.

Holder: Mrs. Holder reiterated the thank you to the teachers and staff and for all they do every day.

Moore: Ms. Moore echoed the appreciation and recognized the staff's dedication in the current situations and assured that concerns are being taken seriously. She also praised James and Allison Sira on the great spring break trip to Belize that they put together.

IX. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEGAL COUNCIL (OMA Sec 8.(1(e)):

Moved by Holder, supported by McComb, to go to closed session at 8:53 PM for the purpose of legal council (OMA Sec 8. (1(e))).

Ayes: McComb, Moore, Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Gomez

Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Moore, to end the closed session at 9:33 PM and return to open session in the Middle School Media Center.

Ayes: Moore, Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Gomez

Moved by Holder, supported by McComb, to return to open session at 9:35 PM.

Ayes: Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Gomez

Motion carried.

Moved by Holder, supported by Brunet, to approve the April 10, 2023 closed session minutes.

Ayes: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Skelton, Gomez

Motion carried.

X. OTHER:

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Moore, supported by Skelton, to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 PM.

Ayes: Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Skelton, Brunet, Gomez

Motion carried.

Brian McComb, Secretary