

**MINUTES**  
**CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**May 8, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Phoebe Moore, Vice President, in the Caro Middle School Media Center.

Pledge of Allegiance – Moment of Silence

Roll Call: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Gomez (arrived at 8:00 PM)

Absent: Skelton

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

**II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve the April 10, 2023 minutes, as written.

Ayes: Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Brunet

Motion carried.

2. Approval of Bills:

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

Payroll: \$1,086,246.35

General Fund: \$510,983.66

Food Service: \$53,681.89

Total: \$1,650,911.90

Ayes: Holder, McComb, Moore, Brunet, Curtis

Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

**IV. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Tuscola ISD Budget:

TISD Superintendent Gene Pierce presented the Tuscola ISD 2023-2024 General Education Budget to the Board for their review.

2. Belize Trip Presentation:

Teachers James and Allison Sira shared a video and photos from the spring break trip to Belize with nine students.

3. Middle School WEB Club Presentation:

Teachers and club leaders Shelley Wiederhold, Teresa Deering, and Carly Brown shared information about the Middle School WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Club and the positive impact it has for both the incoming sixth graders and the eighth graders who act as mentors.

4. Building and Grounds Report:

An update on the current capital improvement and pre-bond planning project was shared with the Board, with Spence Brothers and IDI Architects working together on a timeline and developing the list of building and grounds projects to be considered. It was also shared that the committee continues to work on future landscaping improvements in front of McComb and in front of the Auditorium entrance.

5. Technology Purchase:

The Board received information on the need to purchase replacement batteries for the battery backup units that power the district's network switches with 80% of the purchase being paid for through ERATE and the remaining 20% paid for by the district. Also for the Board to consider was the purchase of services to transfer the current virtual Windows Server 2012r2 to the new Windows Server 2022 virtual machines hosted at the TISD.

6. Food Service Purchase:

Our food service applied for the National School Lunch Program – Equipment Assistance Program Grant from the MDE this year and was approved to receive up to \$15,000. Food Service Director Janet Weijola provided two quotes for the Board's review to consider a purchase with reimbursement through the grant. Items requested for purchase included a three door freezer and warming/holding cabinet for McComb School, and a new milk cooler and a warming/holding cabinet for Schall School.

7. Engineering Services:

The Board was asked to consider approving the relocation of the air quality project from McComb to the Middle and High School at the original fee of 6.2% of construction costs, but not including the costs of work already completed at McComb. A discussion was had and questions were answered.

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

1. Moved by Brunet, supported by Curtis, to approve the resolution supporting the 2023-2024 Tuscola Intermediate School District Budget, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

2. Moved by Holder, supported by McComb, to approve the purchase of battery backup units from Elevate Technology Partners for the total amount of \$6,740.00 with \$1,348.00 paid by the district and \$5,392.00 paid by ERATE, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

3. Moved by Gomez, supported by Curtis, to approve the services of Vector Tech Group to upgrade the district server through the Tuscola ISD for the amount of \$7,200.00.

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

Motion carried.

4. Moved by McComb, supported by Brunet, to approve the purchase of a three door freezer and a warming cabinet for McComb School, and a milk cooler and warming cabinet for Schall School, through Central Restaurant Products for the total of \$12,209.03 using the funds reimbursed through the National School Lunch Program - Equipment Assistance Program Grant, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

5. Moved by Holder, supported by McComb, to approve the relocation of the District's ESSER-funded Air Quality Project from McComb Elementary School to the Middle School/High School, which approval includes the engineering services of MacMillan under the previously proposed scope of work, whose fee is 6.2% of total project cost.

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

Motion carried.

6. Moved by McComb, supported by Brunet, to approve the purchase of 40 football helmets from Riddell All American Sports for \$15,800.00, as presented, with \$7,900.00 (half) being reimbursed to the district from the Football Internal Account.

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

Motion carried.

7. Moved by Holder, supported by McComb, to approve the retirement of teachers Michelle Cobb, Carrie Lambie, and Michelle Tiseo, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, with regret and best wishes.

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

Motion carried.

**VI. BUILDING REPORTS:**

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

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

Superintendent Rierson shared an update on the Middle School Targeted School Improvement Plan and the focus on improving curriculum alignment which will start with math curriculum and improving student engagement. Various trainings will begin this month and continue throughout the summer and into next year. He reported on the continuation of the behavior review team and the additional services that have been added since the April Board meeting including new staff in the responsibility room, two additional days of social worker service from the TISD, revised procedure for discipline, and mental health support for staff two partial days a week. There was a site assessment by Secure Education Consultants at the end of April where they reviewed facilities, policies and interviewed staff about safety plans and procedures. A report with recommendations for improved safety and security is expected this summer. Superintendent Rierson congratulated Schall and the Middle School on receiving the Capturing Kids Hearts Rising Start Recognition and for McComb receiving the Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase Award. A fine arts camp is scheduled for June 7th-9th for grades K-12<sup>th</sup> students, with our own Caro grad

Megan Tibbits along with other artists that will share their talents in the theater and arts. He wished the very best to the teachers who will be retiring this year. He also shared great appreciation to all the teachers and staff as they are all part of the teaching process here at Caro Community Schools, and for the care they provide for our students.

**VIII. BOARD COMMENTS:**

Gomez: Mrs. Gomez requested a review of GASB 84 by the current district's accounting firm and an additional review by an external source.

Curtis: Mrs. Curtis expressed her deep appreciation to the teachers and staff and the impact they have on students both now and for a lifetime.

Holder: Mrs. Holder thanked all of the teachers and staff for all they do every day.

Moore: Ms. Moore shared how blessed the board is to have so many members that attended school here and she also expressed her thanks for the teachers and how they have changed so many lives. She also shared her excitement for the end of the year events coming up and looking forward to seeing others at those events.

**IX. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEGAL COUNSEL (OMA Sec 8.(1(e)) AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:**

Moved by Holder, supported by McComb, to go to closed session at 8:52 PM for the purpose of legal counsel (OMA Sec 8. (1(e)) and contract negotiations.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to end the closed session at 9:59 PM and return to open session in the Middle School Media Center.

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

Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to return to open session at 10:02 PM.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Curtis, supported by McComb, to extend counsel the authority to resolve the pending litigation.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Brunet, to approve the May 8, 2023 closed session minutes.

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

Motion carried.

**X. OTHER:**

None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Holder, supported by McComb, to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 PM.

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

Motion carried.



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Brian McComb, Secretary