

**MINUTES**  
**CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**September 11, 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, Warren, Johnson, Hess, Weijola, Dwyer, Chapelo, Henry

**II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Moore, supported by McComb, to approve the August 14, 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: \$1,144,972.57

General Fund: \$403,057.27

Food Service: \$3,138.38

Total: \$1,551,168.22

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

Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Joe Fulton – Community Member Comment

Emily Taylor – Parent Comment

Melony Wood – Community Member Comment

Tara Wagner – Community Member Comment

Amanda Sitko – Parent Comment

Brandon Putman – Community Member Comment

Noah Putman – Community Member Comment

Blake Putman – Community Member Comment

Chris Wilcox – Parent Comment

Whittney Zinger – Staff Comment

Patrick Ford – Community Member Comment

Gavino Reynero – Parent Comment

Joshua Tobias – Student Comment

Ashton Niklowicz – Student Comment

Katie Tobias – Parent Comment

Ashley Hart – Parent Comment

**IV. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Summer Camp Presentation:

Middle School Principal Nick Moyer and a group of students reflected on their experience at the MASC/MAHC Leadership Camp at Albion College in July.

2. Audit Report – Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran, PC:

Valerie Hartel, from Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran, PC, presented the audit report and answered questions from the Board concerning the 2022-2023 audit. Mrs. Hartel stated that the audit was given a “Clean Opinion” and zero rating which is the highest level of assurance.

3. Bond Project Update:

The Building and Grounds Committee met on September 8<sup>th</sup> with the planning team of Banach, Banach and Cassidy, IDI and Spence Brothers to review the community input received from the panel sessions held in August and the community survey at the end of August.

4. Elementary Handbooks:

The handbooks for McComb and Schall Elementary were provided to the Board for their review with further updates since the August Board Meeting.

## 5. Bus Driver Wage Increase:

With the district greatly needing additional bus drivers, Superintendent Rierson presented a wage comparison with neighboring districts. The Board discussed and questions were answered.

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

## 1. Moved by Moore, supported by Holder, to approve the 2022-2023 Financial Audit report as presented by Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt &amp; Doran, PC.

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

Motion carried.

## 2. Moved by Moore, supported by Brunet, to approve the 2023-2024 elementary handbook updates, as presented.

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

Nays: Gomez

Motion carried.

## 3. Moved by Brunet, supported by Skelton, to approve the bus driver wage to \$44.00 per bus route and the extra trip hourly rate to \$17.00, effective tomorrow, September 12th, 2023.

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

Nays: Holder

Motion carried.

## 4. Moved by McComb, supported by Moore, to approve the hire of Renee Dietrich as Middle School Phys Ed and Health Teacher, Jennifer Beardslee as High School Special Ed Teacher, Sarah Buffman as Student Success Coordinator, and Jacob LaPratt as IT Technician, effective the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.

Ayes: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Skelton, 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 MacMillan Engineering's air conditioning project in the High School and Middle School, with the bid documents released this week and will be up for approval by the Board at the October meeting. The Middle School Gym floor had some damage from the heavy rains. The leak has been repaired and the floor will be tacked down this fall so it can be used as normal, with a new floor installed in that area over the summer of 2024. Superintendent Rierson also expressed his excitement with the return of staff and new teachers and support staff on board to work together to have a really great start to the school year.

**VIII. BOARD COMMENTS:**

Brunet: Ms. Brunet mentioned that with the increase in health issues she hopes that the district will air on the side of personal choice.

McComb: Mr. McComb shared his hopes that we make decisions in the best interest for all of our students.

**IX. OTHER:**

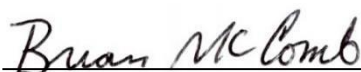
None

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Moore, supported by Holder, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 PM.

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

Motion carried.



Brian McComb, Secretary