

Red Clay Consolidated School District

eNews

October 27, 2017

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New Board Member Appointed



Educator and funeral consultant Jason P. Casper was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Red Clay Board of Education at the October meeting. Mr. Casper is set to take his oath of office in November and serve through June 30, 2018.

Mr. Casper has served as a teacher in the Brandywine School District, and an instructor at two charter schools in New Castle County, where he also served on the Board of Directors. He is currently a Driver Education and Traffic Safety teacher at the Delaware Academy of Public Safety & Security, where he also serves as the Varsity Boys Soccer assistant coach.

Mr. Casper has also worked in the funeral industry for more than 20 years, serving as an assistant and consultant.

It was his involvement in education which prompted him to apply for the seat vacated by Mike Piccio, who moved from the area, he said. "The field of education has been one of the most important aspects of my life for as long as I can remember, as a product of Delaware's public school system, as an educator in Delaware's public school system and as a parent of two Delaware public school children," he wrote in his letter of interest. "The future of education is heading in a very exciting direction for students with new technologies and new opportunities that will prepare them for the future."

Mr. Casper said he strongly supports public schools, and will bring a unique perspective to the board. "Delaware's public schools are all about educating our youth, and preparing them for their respective futures," he wrote. "This preparation only flourishes when the schools have highly qualified staff working with our young people. As everyone is aware, today's current social climate brings so many more issues to the table than ever before. Today's school boards need to address these issues as they have a direct effect on our schools. It is my opinion that having an educator's point of view to speak to current issues within the classrooms and schools of today would be most beneficial."

Mr. Casper comes to the role with some training. While working as a social studies teacher and summer camp director at the Family Foundations Academy Charter School, he attended all of the required and recommended training for board members of a public school board. "These trainings prepared me to sit on those two charter school boards, and I feel as though they have prepared me to sit on Red Clay's school board as well," he wrote. "In closing, after serving on two small community charter school boards, I would like to serve the community in which I reside. The Red Clay Consolidated School District is my home now, and has been since 2011. It serves the young people and their families within my community and I would like the opportunity to represent the student and families of District E in Red Clay."

Mr. Casper holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Wilmington University, an Associate's Degree in Mortuary Science from Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and has done graduate coursework at the Delaware State University campus in Dover. He has also been past president of the New Castle Hundred Lions Club, and is a member of the St. Joseph on the Brandywine Cemetery Committee in Greenville.

District Passes Safe and Inclusive Schools Resolution

The Red Clay Board of Education passed a resolution at the October meeting which looks to establish schools as a safe zone for its students who face possible federal immigration enforcement or action.

The "Safe and Inclusive Schools for All Students" resolution was introduced by Board Member Adriana Bohm. The full resolution can be read [here](#).

The resolution declares Red Clay as "safe haven for all students and families threatened by immigration enforcement discrimination, and stop and frisk policies to the fullest extent permitted by law."

The resolution calls for any district personnel who are approached or contacted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to be immediately directed to the Superintendent. According to the resolution, the Superintendent is to deny entry or disclosures to ICE unless the district is presented with a valid court order, subpoena or other appropriate written authority, or as may otherwise be required by law."

"The Red Clay Safe and Inclusive Schools Resolution is important right now, in America, because many groups feel under attack, and are scared," said Bohm. "Hate crimes, racism, and violence towards immigrants has become more explicit, visible, and vocal. The fear of deportation is real, and many of our children experience the trauma of having to think about the separation of their families every day. During public comment at our board meeting one of our teachers described being asked by her 16-year-old high school student, 'Will you adopt me if my parents are deported?'" Read her full statement [here](#). Bohm believes it is within this context that it is critical for elected officials to affirm their commitment to safe and inclusive schools for all children, including immigrants.

The vote was 5 to 0, with one abstention. Board Member Ashley Sabo abstained from voting, reading a statement that said the resolution offered a false sense of security, that it was unenforceable and redundant.

“Red Clay already has statements in place to the same effect as documented by Policy 1001, 1002 and 8002 which were created well before the concerns related to the current administration ever started because Red Clay has always been and will continue to be a safe and welcoming place for all our students,” she read. “Furthermore, schools and churches are already deemed sensitive locations by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.” Read Sabo’s full statement [here](#), or listen to a recording of the meeting [here](#).

The resolution calls for Red Clay to distribute the new policy to all students and their families, and to make district personnel aware of the protocol for a situation in which immigration officials come onto school grounds or attempt to enter a school.

Salute to Service on Nov. 9

Red Clay will come together the morning of November 9, 2017 to celebrate, honor and remember those who keep our community safe. All active duty military, veterans and first responders in the Red Clay community are invited to attend this special event, which will be held at the Conrad Schools of Science from 8 to 9 a.m.

“A Salute to Service” will feature the Pledge of Allegiance and a Flag Salute with local scouts, followed by a Performance of the Star-Spangled Banner, remarks by Superintendent Merv Daugherty, National Social Studies Honor Society speakers, and a closing performance by the Conrad Choir.

“How can one appropriately thank the men and women who serve our country, and the community we live in?” asked Dr. Daugherty. “This event is an attempt to do that, and to remind us all – staff, teachers, parents and students – that good people put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve our community.”

The district has a number of Red Clay parents and employees who serve our community in these roles, and they are invited as well. There is no registration or RSVP needed to attend this event.

Mark Pruitt, Principal of Conrad, said guest speakers will focus on what service men and women have meant to them. Red Clay students are helping by writing notes to our local heroes on the invitations and programs. Conrad is located at 201 Jackson Avenue, Wilmington, DE.

October Board of Education Meeting

- [School Choice Policy](#)
- [ACLU Settlement](#)
- [Wilmington Improvement Education Commission \(WEIC\) Report](#)
- [Delaware School Boards Association Report](#)
- [Superintendent’s Report](#)

Dickinson Robotics Team Expanded



Interest in Robotics has grown steadily enough at John Dickinson High School and the Middle Years Programme to add a second middle school team this school year.

A total of four teams - 12 high school and close to 20 middle school students - meet for two hours once a week to work on developing a robot to solve a challenge. This year the challenge, "In the Zone" will take place on February 10th and will involve stacking and moving cones into scoring zones. Last year's VEX Robotics high school team from Dickinson took first place in the Technology Student Association (TSA) state competition.

Robotics, a branch of engineering, technology and science deals with the design, construction, operation and use of robots. In today's world, the use of robots is increasing. Robots are most commonly used in manufacturing processes, dangerous environments (bomb detection and de-activation) and places where humans cannot survive, such as space.

The students at Dickinson are having fun working with robots while learning the skills needed to create precise and accurate instructions. They learn to be creative and innovative thinkers as they analyze problems and begin to understand what robots can and cannot do.

Working together the students learn to problem solve, program, document and create technical drawings. On their own time they do research to develop new ideas to present to the team. They are continually building, testing and revising. Robotics teacher Shawn Bowser tells his students, "If it doesn't work the first time try again." When talking about the robotics club he added, "This is a place where engineering is all about problem solving and it's a safe environment to take risks."

In today's technology driven world, it's important to prepare students for the future. Robotics helps them understand how science, engineering, math and technology interact and work together. The field of robotics also engages many types of students including students on the autism spectrum.

Jobs in the STEM field are the fastest growing careers and students who have experience with robotics in middle or high school will be equipped with the knowledge to design and create the technology that is needed. The valuable life lessons of

determination, perseverance and risk taking that are learned by Dickinson students as they face the challenges of building and programming robots will stay with them for a lifetime.

McKean Boys Soccer Wins Conference Title



The Thomas McKean High School boys' soccer team defeated Glasgow by a score of 6-2 under the lights at Randy White Stadium on Oct. 18, 2017 to clinch the Flight B Championship. The Highlanders were undefeated through Conference play with a record of 7-0 (9-2-1 Overall). The Highlanders are led by Captains Yoel Munoz, Nick Evans, Juan Carlos Cruz, and Angel Bergarra.

The game on Wednesday evening was a total team effort, with five different Highlanders scoring goals. Nick Evans led of the scoring, Carlos Santana added another on just before half. Richard Lopez added two additional goals to stretch the lead early in the second half, Ulises Guzman added the 5th goal and Juan Carlos Cruz sealed the deal with header off a corner kick as time expired.

This is the second time the class of 2018 has won the conference championship. They began as freshman in 2013 sharing a conference title with St. Georges, however it has taken teamwork and dedication in order for these seniors to led us back to the state playoffs.

The Highlanders have 3 games remaining and are hoping to continue their success and clinch a first round bye in the state tournament. The coach of the Highlanders, Dan DiGiacobbe', had taken this group and led this team success. Dan has been so close the last two years of making the state tournament but has fell just short.

With so many seniors, Dan felt this was the Highlanders year, especially after winning the Kirkwood soccer summer league. The success has continued into the season with Highlanders playing some of their best soccer. Time will only tell if the Highlanders are ready to take the next step and make run deep into the state tournament.

Cab Presents Speaker on Safe Driving

In recognition of National Teen Driver Safety Week, Cab Calloway School of the Arts presented speaker Chris Sandy to students, thanks to the Office of Highway Safety, which paid for paid for 10 Schools in Delaware to hear the speaker. Students were moved by the presenter, and went up on stage to thank him after he spoke.

Chris Sandy is a motivational speaker, life coach, author, and mentor. Chris does specialize in alcohol awareness. He has traveled to over 40 different states and has spoken to over a million students, parents, educators, and military service members nationwide.

Chris is the author of the book "Enduring Regret: Two Different Stories of Drunk Driving, Two Very Different Prisons". He has been featured in the Double EMMY Award Winning Television Documentary "Enduring Regret: Chris Sandy Living Life After Causing Death". Chris' story has been featured in a number of articles and is used all over the world to help people make good choices, especially youth.

Chris has won numerous awards for his efforts to save lives. He uses his story and life journey to bring awareness to teens and young adults. He has a unique approach to captivate his audience and is considered one of the best messengers in the country. Chris' mission is to motivate people to accomplish goals, overcome adversity, persevere, and give a genuine reality check that people of all ages need to hear.

Early College Academy to be Showcased

An exciting dual enrollment program available at Alexis I. duPont High School will be featured in an informational meeting on November 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the library at the school, 50 Hillside Road. The Early College Academy is a partnership with Wilmington University (WU) that offers WU classes to AIHS students. It differs from other dual enrollment classes in that students follow a scripted sequence of classes.

If enrolled all four years in the "Early College Academy," students can earn up to 31 college credits, finishing their first year of college while still in high school and saving up to \$10,000 if they were to continue their education at Wilmington University.

The presentation is in advance of the AIHS annual Choice Open House, which is scheduled for December 14th from 6:00-8:00pm. The intended audience is any 7th or 8th grade student and their parents or guardians.

Nutrition Jobs Available

Are you looking for a fun and rewarding part time job that offers you the ability to work while your kids are in school? If so, look no further than Red Clay Café! Red Clay Café can offer you an opportunity to work in a school cafeteria serving nutritious meals to Red Clay students with a smile. If you are interested in applying, please visit us at the nutrition office to obtain a copy of the application or obtain a copy of the application from a Red Clay School Cafeteria or office near you. The Nutrition Office is located at 1798 Limestone Rd., Wilmington, DE 19804.

Wellness Challenge to Focus on Fitness

This week marks the start of the Great Red Clay Wellness Challenge Part 2: Fitness Focus! There are roughly 250 participants signed up for our 8-week challenge, and we will continue to get more throughout the week with our late registration closing on Friday, October 27th. Week one will focus on starting safely with your new fitness routine. Before starting any new exercise routine, you should check in with your body, and maybe even your doctor for those with certain medical conditions, to make sure you are healthy enough to jump in. Participants in the Fitness Challenge will start tracking their daily exercise minutes, as well as their mentee's minutes, and log them each following Monday. Schools will be handing out weekly prizes to those in the lead and all schools will be working towards that grand prize at the end of the challenge!

Daily tips will be posted in Schoology and on social media @RedClayCafe! If you are interested in signing up, it's not too late! Registers [HERE](#) up until Friday and give \$5 to your school's main office.

Family Resource Fair Adds Literacy Focus

Red Clay has partnered with the News Journal to present the Imagine Delaware Literacy Fair, sponsored by Nemours, in conjunction with the highly popular Red Clay Family Resource Fair on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at John Dickinson High School.

Plans for the Literacy Fair include guest celebrity readers and speakers who can offer parents tips on how to help their children with reading. More information on the Literacy Fair will be released shortly.

More than 100 vendors typically attend the Family Resource Fair, from schools to community agencies which offer support to children and their families. The event is free to the public and does not require registration.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- End of First Marking Period, Oct. 27
- **Schools Closed – Grading Day, Oct. 30**
- Red Clay Family Resource Fair, Nov. 4, 10:00a.m. – 1:00p.m., Dickinson
- School Choice Window Opens, Nov. 6
- Parent Advisory Council Meeting, Nov. 6, 6:00-8:00p.m., Baltz
- Choice Open House – Richey, Cab Calloway Middle, Nov. 6, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- Choice Open House – Shortlidge, H.B. Middle, Nov. 7, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- Community Financial Review Committee Meeting, Nov. 7, 6:30p.m., Brandywine Springs Teachers' Lounge
- Choice Open House – Forest Oak, A.I. Middle, Nov. 8, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- **Schools/Offices Closed – Veterans Day, Nov. 10**

- Early College Academy at Alexis I. DuPont High School

On November 20th, at 6:30pm in our Library we are hosting an informational meeting for anyone that is interested in our Early College Academy. This presentation is in advance of

our annual Choice Open House night with is scheduled for December 14th from 6:00-8:00pm. The intended audience is any 8th grade student and their parents or guardians.

Anyone that wants to hear more about this exciting Dual Enrollment program, should join us on November 20th, at 6:30pm.