



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 63 BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

December 2006

Board of Education Highlights November 21, 2006 Regular Board Meeting

Approved Tentative Tax Levy

The 2006 tentative tax levy was approved by the Board. A Truth in Taxation Public Hearing is scheduled for the December 19 Regular Board of Education meeting.

In other action, the Board:

- Approved a \$1,650 donation from the PTC to go towards the Cass Junior High School Courtyard and the Parent/Teacher Conference Scheduler.

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at Cass School District No. 63, 8502 Bailey Road in Darien.

December 4, 2006 Finance Committee Meeting

- Discussed Fiscal Year 2007 Tax Anticipation Warrants
- Reviewing referendum results and discussed future options.
- Discussed Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Reduction Process and Parameters.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at Cass School District No. 63, 8502 Bailey Road in Darien.

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Meg Ormiston, President
Michael Webster, Vice President
Jackie Hynek, Secretary
Brett DeKing, Member
Pam Henry, Member
Stacy Iwema, Member
Julie Leganski, Member

Linda M. Farley, Principal, Concord Elementary School
Mark Enright, Principal, Cass Junior High School
Kerry J. Foderaro, Superintendent
Robert J. Strande, Business Manager

Administrators' Addendum

Earlier this week, we received good news from the Illinois State Board of Education. Once again, both Concord and Cass schools fully met the annual "No Child Left Behind" Adequate Yearly Progress standards. This is no small feat and each year it becomes more challenging, and Cass School District No. 63 has once again been successful in this area. We congratulate all of our students, parents and our staff.

On a different note, but still somewhat related, at our last Board of Education Finance Committee meeting, the committee supported the Administration's recommendation to balance the district's budget for the 2007/08 school year. To accomplish this task, we need to see a reduction of approximately \$750,000. The Board has charged the Administration to make a formal recommendation that will show reductions at three different levels of \$750,000, \$1 million and \$1.2 million. The Administration will present their formal recommendations at the February 20, 2007 meeting.

These reductions follow the implementation of \$1.2 million in reductions in this year's budget. Your input in the upcoming reductions is desired and you are encouraged to attend one of two community meetings we have scheduled on the following dates:

Continued on page 2

Administrator's Report (continued from page 1)

Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 PM
Cass Junior High School; or

Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 PM
Concord Elementary School

At both of these meetings, we will review the school district's financial needs and the reduction process. There will be an opportunity for the public to provide feedback. If you cannot attend one of these meetings, we would still appreciate your feedback. After winter break we will be sending home a survey for you to complete to give us feedback on the reduction process for 2007/08 school year.

Finally, it is a very busy time of the year and we hope you and your family have had the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate some of our seasonal Fine Arts' productions and classroom activities. We wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable winter break and a wonderful new year. Happy Holidays!

Mark Enright
Kerry Foderaro

Linda Farley
Robert Strande



Events in December

Winter Choral Concert at Cass Junior High School
Wednesday, December 20th at 7:30 p.m.

Events in January

Hinsdale South Choral Festival (8th Grade Chorus Students) at Hinsdale South High School
Wednesday, January 10th from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Hornet Jazz Festival (Jazz Band) at Hinsdale South High School
Thursday, January 11th at 7:30 p.m.

2nd Grade Music Program and Artwork on display (2nd Grade Students) at Concord Elementary School
Thursday, January 25th at 7:30 p.m.

Thank you to the parent chaperones who helped on Saturday, December 2nd with the District 66 Band Festival for 5th & 6th Grade Band students at Lakeview Junior High School in Downers Grove (Parent Chaperones – Kristine Wall, Rita Guritz, Maria Steinhous and John Prosia).

Thank you to the parent chaperones who helped on Thursday, December 7th with the Winter Band Concert (4th – 8th Grade Bands) at Cass Jr. High (Parent Chaperones – Denise Dimitrijevic, Mary Benedict, Sheryl DeSanto, Violet Ofenloch, Michele Jahelka, Sandy Webster, Claire VanHorn, Linda Iftikhar, Susan Mistretta, and Doreen Prosia).

Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias for our Band and Choral Programs. The plants added a festive touch to our wonderful performances.

Happy Holidays from the Fine Arts Boosters!

*The next Fine Arts Booster meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8th at 3:35 p.m.
in Gail Diedrichsen's room at Cass Junior High School.*

Cass School District #63 PTC

The Holiday season reminds us to take the time to remember how much we have to be thankful for. We appreciate family members to cherish and share our history, friends to lend an ear or shoulder to cry on and of course our wonderful children that challenge us daily and make us laugh (and sometimes cry!). Their innocence and optimistic attitude reminds us that each day is truly a blessing.

As the months pass by, I am especially grateful for all of our fabulous parent volunteers, schools and excellent teaching staff. I am ever so appreciative for the opportunities and experiences that they provide through their dedication and hard work. Thank You!!

On that note I will start off by thanking several of our parent volunteers. Thank you to **Marianne Batryn** who raised approximately **\$4,200** with the PTC sponsored magazine subscription fundraiser by Great American Opportunities.

Debbie Gillespie and Lisa Anderson (the other one ☺) would like to thank several people who helped them set up and distribute the Innisbrook Wrapping Paper and Candy sale on November 13th. Thank you to **Nancy Foody, Stephanie Deolitsis and Kristine Wall**. A big thank you goes to **Becky Bodnum** who went beyond the call of duty not only to distribute orders but stayed overtime to make reminder phone calls to those that needed to pick up their items. In addition, special thanks goes to **custodians Bob and Wayne** who helped Lisa receive and move the entire delivery from the gym to the distribution area. Again, approximately **\$9,000** was raised for our schools!

Thank you to **Elaine Dapkus and Anne Dellamaria** who for our Teacher Appreciation event, provided a wonderful dinner of sandwiches, fruit, veggies and salad from The Original Sandwich Factory and Panera Bread on November 8th and 9th for our teachers during school conferences. **Carolyn Gattuso** lent a hand by providing home made baked goods and Concord Principal **Linda Farley** was gracious enough to clean up after the event. This is such a busy time for our teaching staff and I know they appreciate the dinner as much as we enjoy providing it.

On a closing thought, we should all be aware by now that our District's tax referendum did not pass. Regardless of what our thoughts are on the subject, the fact remains that the District now faces tough decisions and many challenges in the upcoming months. In terms of the PTC, it is my vision that we continue to operate in the capacity that we have always functioned and that is to provide programs, activities and donations that benefit the teachers and children of our District.

In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity
Albert Einstein

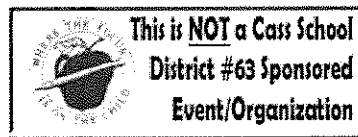
Respectfully,
Lisa Anderson President
Landerson5@comcast.net
Carolyn DiFiglio Co-President
Debbie Gillespie Vice President
Anna Cepeda Treasurer
Natalie Balzano Secretary

We Think You'd Like to Know

- On December 1, 2006, the District closed the schools due to the inclement weather. Pending board approval, the school year will now be extended by one day to June 1, 2007 to make up for the unexpected day off.
- For emergency closing days such as our recent snow day, the school district has several ways to inform our families. The primary source of information comes from a phone message sent to all district families at the same time. The information can also be obtained by calling 630-972-7402 where a message will be left as to whether or not school is in session.

On that note, it has come to the District's attention that some families did not receive the phone message. We do know that there was a problem with the program itself and we are working with Premier Global Services to correct those problems. However, following are several other reasons you may not have received the message:

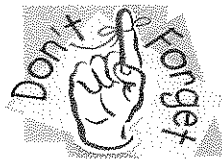
1. If you have Privacy Manager on your phone, you will not get the message. Please be sure to inform the school office (Concord Elementary/968-3026; Cass Junior High/985-1900) if you have privacy manager on your phone. If you do, we have another avenue in place to contact you.
 2. If your contact information has changed since the beginning of the school year and you have not yet informed us, please make sure to do so right away so we are able to get in touch with you in case of an emergency.
- If you are interested in distributing a flyer in the District Note Totes, there is a protocol that must be followed. Following are the necessary steps:
 1. All flyers must be approved for distribution through the District office. Please provide a copy of your flyer by email to gwilson@cassd63.org, by fax at 630-985-0225 or you can drop it off at the District office.
 2. Before you present the flyer for approval, please be sure that your flyer includes the following disclaimer.



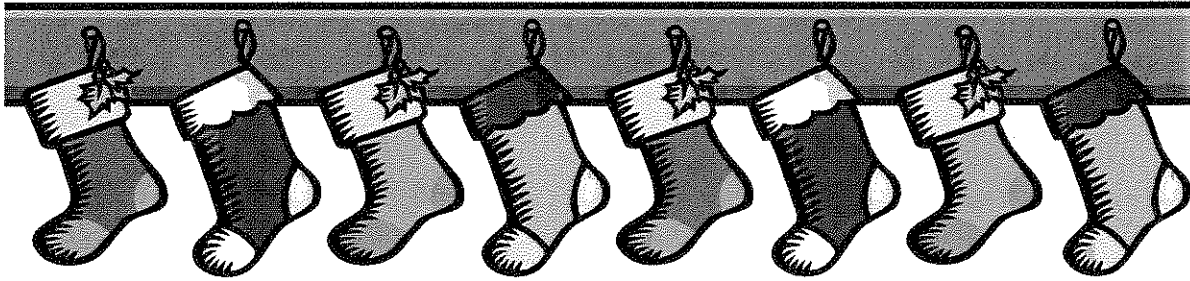
With the exception of flyers distributed by one of the schools, by the District, the PTC, the Fine Arts Boosters or Cass 63 Foundation for Educational Excellence, all flyers must include this disclaimer. For everyone's convenience and for the sake of consistency, the disclaimer can be located on the District Website under the Administration, Cass Junior High School and Concord Elementary School portions of the website. Look for the button that says "Flyer Disclaimer". You will be able to copy and paste the disclaimer directly into your document.

3. Gayle Wilson, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, will contact you to let you know when your flyer has been approved.
4. Once approved, you should make your copies and deliver them directly to Gayle Wilson at the District Office. We appreciate that you want to be helpful and deliver the flyers yourself, however, we require that the flyers come through the District Office before being distributed to the respective school offices.

As always, we thank you for your continued cooperation with district policies.



- WINTER BREAK – Monday, December 25th through Friday, January 5, 2007
 - NO SCHOOL - Monday, January 15^h
Martin Luther King's Birthday Observance
 - EARLY DISMISSAL – Friday, January 19^h
Students dismissed at 1:00 P.M. for Staff Professional Development.
 - Market Day Pick-Up, Tuesday, January 23rd
2:45 – 5:00 P.M. at Cass Junior High School
- **Please note that the District Calendar has an incorrect date listed for Market Day Pick-up.



Looking for that One special gift for the kids ?
Need to give a creative gift idea to the Grandparents ?
Buy 1 subscription for the ENTIRE family !!!

Bring Cosmeo "Home for the Holidays"

Cosmeo is the new online homework helper offered by



The Cass District 63 Foundation would like to extend this Holiday Special to all families within our district. ~~For only \$50.00~~ (normally \$100.00), you can sign up your entire family for a one year subscription to this fantastic online homework helper. Your family will enjoy:

- 30,000 Educational videos
- 20,000 Images and clipart animations
- 27,000 full-text articles
- Interactive Media to reinforce learning
- Over 200 brains games, teacher approved trusted web links and step by step WebMath Solver
- Parental control setting available
- Subjects incl: Math, Social Studies, English, Science and Health

Simply complete the attached form and send it to:

**Cass District 63 Foundation / Attn: Cosmeo Subscriptions
8502 Bailey Road / Darien, IL 60561**

OR

call Steve @ 630-542-0205 and complete the form over the phone !!!



Bring Cosmeo ‘Home for the Holidays’

SUBSCRIPTION FORM - AGREEMENT

Date: _____ Name of Family: _____

I hereby consent to CASS 63 Foundation for Educational Excellence providing the information set forth below (including my credit card information) to Discovery Education, Inc. Discovery Education may charge the below credit card for an annual subscription to Discovery Education's online service Cosmeo (www.cosmeo.com) in accordance with Cosmeo's terms of use. I have read and agree to the terms of use for Cosmeo, which are located at www.cosmeo.com and www.cosmeo.com/terms.cfm.

First and Last Name:

Home Phone _____

Email Address:

Billing Address:

Credit Card Information (Number, type, expiration date):

Circle One: MasterCard Visa American Express

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature *X* _____

PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE WITH CREDIT CARD ONLY – CHECKS NOT ACCEPTED
