



# Cass School District 63

## Board of Education Meeting Briefs

### Highlights from the November 17, 2020 Meeting

*The following Board Briefs are highlights from the Board of Education meeting that was held on the date above. The purpose of the Board Briefs is to provide a timely summary to keep our staff, parents and public informed of the key items that were discussed or acted upon. More detailed information is available under the Board [Agendas, Meetings and Minutes](#) section of the District's website. Official minutes are not posted until approval at the following meeting. Please contact Superintendent Mark Cross or Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson with any questions or if you need additional information.*

#### **Key Discussion Items Were as Follows...**

- ✓ The Board appointed Dr. Rinku Patel to the Board of Education to replace Brad Carrino who recently resigned after moving out of state. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Patel and thanking him for his service to the students, staff and community of Cass School District 63.
- ✓ Superintendent Mark Cross recognized that this is American Education Week and thanked the staff for all they are doing to educate our students, especially during this difficult time. He added that this week includes Board Member Appreciation Day and thanked the Board for all that they do to support the students, staff and Community of Cass School District 63.
- ✓ Mr. Cross and Board Secretary Alice Esposito reviewed the Facilities Committee report from a meeting that was held on November 2. The report included a preliminary outline of the maintenance items at the two schools, including a plan for replacing HVAC equipment. The Board also discussed the pros and cons of competitive bidding versus performance contracting and stated that current and future costs can be compared. Mr. Cross recommended that the Board conduct its larger facility needs as part of a long-term strategic plan.
- ✓ The Board was presented with the tentative tax levy, which shows an anticipated increase in local tax revenue due in part to new commercial construction within District boundaries. The final tax levy will be presented for Board approval at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- ✓ Mr. Cross reviewed the employee health, dental and life insurance proposals, which include an actual reduction in premium costs for the 2021 insurance year.
- ✓ The Board and Mr. Cross reviewed recommendations from the administration regarding plans for in-person and remote instruction. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed with maintaining in-person blended instruction through the second week of December, changing to remote instruction for the one week prior and the two weeks after winter break. The district will then resume in-person blended instruction after the Martin Luther King Holiday. Mr. Cross will communicate the schedule details with parents and the school community.

#### **In Key Action Items, the Board of Education...**

- ✓ Approved the tentative 2020 tax levy.
- ✓ Approved the employee health, dental and life insurance proposals.
- ✓ Approved a contract amendment with ARAMARK Food Service.
- ✓ Approved the employment of Kayla Briant as a long-term substitute 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and Justin Iglesias as a Cass Junior High School teacher assistant.

#### **Cass School District 63 Board of Education**

Shelly Camden, President  
Kent Absalonsen, Vice President  
Alice Esposito, Secretary  
Lana Johnson, Jeff McCollian, Michael Ockrim and Rinku Patel

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