



# CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63 NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Shelly Camden**, *President*

**Kent Absalonsen**, *Vice President*

**Alice Esposito**, *Secretary*

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Jeff McCollian and Michael Ockrim**

## ADMINISTRATION

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**Laura Anderson**, *Concord Elementary School Principal  
& District Director of Teaching & Learning*

**Christine Marcinkewicz**, *Cass Junior High School Principal  
& District Director of Technology*

**Leland Wagner**, *Assistant Principal*

**Robert Strande**, *District Director of Fiscal Services*

## Board of Education Highlights

*At the June 18, 2019 Board of Education Meeting, the Board:*

### 2019/20 Tentative Budget Presented

District Director of Fiscal Services, Robert Strande, presented the tentative 2019/20 Budget to the Board of Education. The Tentative Budget is balanced. The Final Budget will be presented to the Board of Education for adoption at the September 17, 2019 Board of Education meeting and is available for viewing at any time at the Cass School District 63 District Office or on the District Website at [2019/20 Tentative Budget](#).

### In other action, the Board

- Approved the 2019/20 Food Service Contract
- Approved a four-year Financial Auditor Contract.
- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with DuPage/West Cook Regional Association
- Approved a 2019/20 ISBE Consolidation Plan
- Approved a Resolution Expressing Official Intent Regarding Certain Capital Expenditures to be Reimbursed from Proceeds of an Obligation to be Issued by School District 63
- Approved Board of Education Policy updates.
- Reviewed possible Fall dates to conduct Superintendent Search

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*Cass School District 63  
8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333  
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
331/481-4000 • Fax*

## *At the August 20, 2019 Board of Education Meeting, the Board:*

- Approved a Resolution Providing For The Issue Of Not To Exceed \$2,600,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds For The Purposes Of Increasing The Working Cash Fund And Refunding Outstanding Bonds, Providing For The Levy Of A Direct Annual Tax To Pay The Principal And Interest On Said Bonds, And Authorizing The Execution Of A Bond Purchase Agreement With Raymond James & Associates, Inc., In Connection With The Proposed Sale Of Said Bonds.
- Approved a Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Execution of an Escrow Agreement in Connection with the Issue of Taxable General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding School Bonds

❖  
*The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 7:30 p.m. at the District Administrative Office 8502 Bailey Road in Darien, Illinois.*  
❖

## **Administrators' Addendum**

Dear Cass School District 63 Families:

Welcome to the 2019/20 school year. The start of a new school year is a very exciting time at school and I hope that this year begins smoothly for your child(ren). If you encounter any challenges to the start of the year, please let us know so we can work together to ensure your child(ren) have a successful school year.

As some of you might have already seen, we are completing a new roof at Concord Elementary School. This work will continue into the first part of the new school year, with any significant work on the roof being done after school hours, weekends and, if needed, during breaks. After the roof is complete, we will begin our next project; rooftop solar panels at both Concord Elementary School and Cass Junior High School, which will run well into the fall. As a school district, we will continue to closely monitor these projects and work with all contractors to ensure our school environments remain safe for all, inside and out.

At the start of any school year, bus transportation to and from school will be a little slower as the drivers and students adjust to the new routes. The District's new Director of Buildings, Grounds and Transportation, Rosa Ordaz, has been working diligently over this summer with the Administrative Team to get to know the District's bus routes and drivers to ensure that we have the smoothest start to the school year possible.

We hope that the efforts over the summer by our staff to enhance curriculum, programs and facilities support and enrich your child(ren)'s experience this year at Cass School District 63. One of the biggest enhancements is the District's new website, which was developed by Mr. Matt Etherington, Cass Junior High School Art Teacher and District Webmaster. If you have not yet, please take a look at our new site and consider subscribing to the District Calendar, so all school and District events can be downloaded to your personal digital calendar. Please note, from time to time, dates and times change for school and District events. This calendar on our website, will always have the most current and up to date information.

Our school curriculum nights are right around the corner. We hope you are able to attend as these evenings will give you valuable insight into your child(ren)'s classroom(s) and the year ahead. We also hope that you stay actively involved in your child(ren)'s educational process throughout the year. We believe that students with parents/guardians who are actively involved in their educational process, consistently demonstrate greater levels of academic success. Please help us to provide your child(ren) will every opportunity for educational success.

In regards to getting involved, some of our most active parents/guardians are members of **CARE – CA**ss Resource for **En**richment ([www.D63care.org](http://www.D63care.org)). Please consider getting directly involved with CARE, or if you cannot get directly involved with CARE, please continue to support their efforts and consider joining their membership as they are a large part of the reason Cass School District 63 is a very special place for the children of our community.

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**Administrators' Addendum** (Cont. from page 2)

Finally, but most importantly, safety is always the number one priority in our school district. Please do your part and remember safety first when it comes to driving in or around our school facilities. It is critically important that you follow the posted rules for drop off and pick up, use good driving common sense, as well as respect the property and rights of our neighbors at each of our schools. Collectively, let us ensure by our daily actions that all of the children and adults of our school community are safe. Additional information on this topic is contained within this newsletter issue.

In closing, it is our goal to ensure that you and your child(ren) experience the very best school year possible. Please never hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or comments you may have and help us to meet that goal.

*Kerry J. Foderaro  
Laura Anderson • Christine Marcinkewicz  
Leland Wagner • Robert Strande*

## Do Not Forget

- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**  
Kindergarten through Grade Eight  
Thursday, August 22, 2019
- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**  
Prekindergarten  
Wednesday, August 28, 2019
- CURRICULUM NIGHT**  
Cass Junior High School, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, August 28, 2019
- PREKINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM NIGHT**  
Thursday, August 29, 2019, 6:30 p.m.  
Concord Elementary School
- THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM NIGHT**  
Thursday, August 29, 2019, 7:00 p.m.  
Concord Elementary School

- FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM NIGHT**  
Thursday, August 29, 2019, 7:30 p.m.  
Concord Elementary School
- NO SCHOOL**  
Labor Day  
Monday, September 2, 2019
- KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM NIGHT**  
Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 6:30 p.m.  
Concord Elementary School
- FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM NIGHT**  
Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m.  
Concord Elementary School
- SECOND GRADE CURRICULUM NIGHT**  
Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 7:30 p.m.  
Concord Elementary School
- EARLY RELEASE DAY**  
Friday, September 13, 2019  
Concord Elementary School, 11:15 a.m.  
Cass Junior High School, 12:00 p.m.

## Things You Should Know



### Bus Etiquette

A reminder to all parents and students about the following bus rules:

None of the following are allowed on the buses under any circumstances:

- a. Disrespect to Others
- b. Disrespect to Property

- c. Profanity
- d. Eating
- e. Drinking
- f. Gum Chewing

If your child is found to be vandalizing a bus, the repair costs will become the responsibility of the school family and the student could be permanently removed from the bus.

Rules that apply while in school also apply on the buses. If rules are disrespected on the bus, the same disciplinary protocols will be followed as if the student were standing in the school.

Please review these rules with your child(ren) so that everyone is aware of the behavioral expectations both on the buses and in school.

Thank you.



**Reminder About Drop Off And Pick-Up Procedures At The Schools**

During drop-off/pick-up traffic around Concord Elementary School and Cass Junior High School can get extremely congested and we need to be very mindful of following proper procedures. The safety of our students; your children, depend upon it, especially during winter months when roads are slick and site lines are even more limited than usual.

If you are under a time constraint and do not have the necessary time available to move through the drop-off/pick-up procedures properly, we suggest you consult with the building and/or district administration.

It is also imperative that we maintain respect for our community members at all times. Please do not block their driveways in any way and/or use



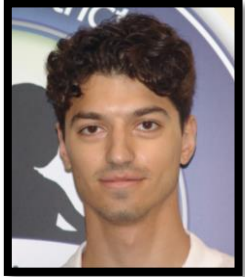

them to turn around. Please refrain from parking on the street to run in and pick your child up. This slows traffic patterns as well and causes frustrations to those around you who follow the proper procedures. As not all cars on the road are waiting to get into our schools, please also, whenever possible, move as far right on the road as possible. This will allow thru traffic to get by on your left.






If protocols and procedures are not followed there is a possibility that we will restrict a violator's access to the schools by personal vehicle. Finally, please remember that the law prohibits the use of hand held cell phones in school zones for any reason, including talking and texting.






Thank you for partnering with the School District in keeping the safety of our students the top priority by taking the time to follow District procedures which can be found on the District Website under [Transportation Services](#).







## NEW STAFF MEMBERS 2019/20

NEW STAFF MEMBER	POSITION	LOCATION	
Mrs. Deborah Athy	Teacher Assistant	Concord Elementary School	
Ms. Mary Carlo	First Grade Teacher	Concord Elementary School	
Mr. Petar Cirjakovic	Teacher Assistant	Cass Junior High School	
Ms. Sierra Desiderio	Special Education Teacher	Concord Elementary School	

<p>Mrs. Lindsey Hemmesch</p>	<p>Long Term Substitute First Grade Teacher</p>	<p>Concord Elementary School</p>	
<p>Ms. Amy Hennessy</p>	<p>Teacher Assistant</p>	<p>Concord Elementary School</p>	
<p>Ms. Ashley Howard</p>	<p>Fourth Grade Teacher</p>	<p>Concord Elementary School</p>	
<p>Ms. Alina Kloss</p>	<p>Kindergarten Teacher</p>	<p>Concord Elementary School</p>	
<p>Mr. Ryan Kristufek</p>	<p>Student Counselor Intern with Helen Park</p>	<p>Concord Elementary School</p>	

Ms. Alyse Lucas	School Psychologist	District Office	
Ms. Belle Marien	Art Teacher	Concord Elementary School	
Mr. Landon Mitchell	Physical Education Teacher	Cass Junior High School	
Ms. Linda Murphy	Health and Administrative Assistant	Concord Elementary School	
Ms. Marie Musil	Language Arts/Social Sciences Teacher	Cass Junior High School	

Ms. Jacqueline Olsen	Student Teacher	Concord Elementary School	
Ms. Rosa Ordaz	Director of Buildings, Grounds and Transportation	District Office	
Ms. Rhena Patacsil	Teacher Assistant	Concord Elementary School	
Mrs. Cinda Rokicki	Second Grade Teacher	Concord Elementary School	



Ms. Lauren Sanchez	English/Language Arts Teacher	Cass Junior High School	
Mrs. Terri Sasnau	Math Teacher and Teacher Assistant	Cass Junior High School	
Mr. Mitchell Schwarzkopf	First Grade Teacher	Concord Elementary School	
Ms. Jamie Tinucci	District Coordinator of Special Services and Special Education Teacher	District Office Concord Elementary School	

*Have a wonderful 2019/20 School Year!*