



## **CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63**

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

# **Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education of Cass School District 63, DuPage County, Illinois; held at Cass Junior High School at 7:00 P.M. on the 21st Day of January, 2025.

### **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **A. Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **B. Roll Call**

Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: President Lana Johnson, Vice President Rinku Patel, Secretary Urszula Tanouye and Members Chris Green, Katie Marinelli, and Liz Mitha. Steve Wyent arrived at 7:04 p.m.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross, Principal Christine Marcinkewicz, Assistant Principal Katie Doyle, and Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson.

#### **C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence**

President Johnson welcomed everyone in attendance.

#### **D. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **E. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition**

Mr. Cross verbally recognized Concord teachers Jessica Cahill and Kristyn McElligott for earning their Master's Degree in Teacher Leadership, and Jennifer Kirkpatrick for earning her Director of Special Education Licensure. Nominated by Keith Monaco was custodian Donna Gerren for her dedication and hard work at Cass Junior High School, and teacher Matt Etherington nominated assistant principal Michelle Roberts for all of her assistance, support, and work with the 504 program at Cass.



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#### **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the December 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- D. Approval of the District Bills**
- E. Approval of Resignations**

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda, noting that the District is half way through fiscal year 2025 and about where expected with planned expenditures and highlighting some expected larger invoices from the summer 2024 construction project. He reiterated the likelihood of a deficit at the end of the fiscal year and is closely monitoring the district's fiscal situation and planned budget deficit for FY25.

*Member Marinelli moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.*

*Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Marinelli, Member Green, Member Mitha, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.*

#### **III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items**

##### **A. Administrative Reports**

Ms. Doyle gave an update on Concord, sharing that NWEA testing took place right before winter break and ACCESS testing is occurring now. She added that the 2nd grade music program is next week and the Cass band and choir came to perform last week. Kindergarten Round Up is in February and 15 kids are already signed up along with 43 coming in from the Preschool program.

Mrs. Marcinkewicz shared that students recently took the MySABRs test at Cass, which helps identify students that may need more social emotional support. She further shared that she just attended an area wide school safety summit and she feels it was extremely beneficial. The Cass Spelling Bee is this Thursday, and she noted that Cass is adding eSports which will be competitive to get into because there are only 30 spots available. She finished up by giving an update on the transition from PowerSchool to Skyward.



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Mr. Cross announced that for purposes of general salary and local tax purposes, CPI has been established at 2.9 percent. He also provided an update regarding the fundraising for the playground, reviewed the enrollment report, and said that staff is going to fill about four tables at the upcoming trivia night. He then explained why the District chose not to close today for the cold weather. He is aware that some districts in DuPage chose to close, but Cass School District 63 and a number of other districts are following new National Weather Service extreme cold warning as the guidance.

#### **B. Strategic Plan Progress Review**

Mr. Cross gave a six-month review of the district's Strategic Plan. The plan includes three pillars and 21 indicators of success to provide the leadership team and Board with an overview of progress and growth. Mr. Cross shared that the mid-year review is typically incremental, and the larger progress is noted at the end of each school year. He emphasized the two major areas of focus continue to be facility planning and the district's work to develop and build systems and support in the areas of student services and multi-tiered systems of support.

#### **C. Student Learning and Academic Growth Presentation**

Principal Christine Marcinkewicz and Assistant Principal Katie Doyle shared information on our student growth from the district's Measure of Academic Progress assessment data. The MAP assessment is nationally normed and provides real time data for the teachers and administrators to monitor the academic growth and progress of our students. The Board asked questions and discussed the progress, and the leadership team will discuss methods to provide clear information for parents to interpret this data both for their own children, as well as school and district wide.

#### **D. Second Reading of Recommended Board Policy Updates**

Mr. Cross presented the recommended Board policy updates. Mr. Cross stated that there were no changes made to any of the policies since they were originally presented at the December 2024 Board meeting.



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#### **E. Update and Discussion Regarding Phase II Facility Planning**

Mr. Cross summarized the recent work of the Facilities Committee and possible plans for Phase II, which is expected to be completed at both schools in the summer of 2025. The preliminary grand total estimate totals approximately \$1.9 million, but the final cost will be determined after final project design and bidding. Several items included in the project include completion of ceiling replacement and LED lighting installation at Cass, renovation of the Cass gymnasium, and renovation of Concord restrooms.

#### **IV. Closed Session**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to enter closed session for the Open Meetings Act exceptions indicated on the meeting agenda.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Mitha, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0

#### **V. Recommended Action Items**

##### **A. Employment of Recommended Personnel**

*Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve Bridget Gilmartin as part-time social worker for the remainder of the school year at Cass Junior High School, effective January 22, 2025.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Vice President Patel, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.

##### **B. Approval of the 2025-26 School Year Calendar**

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended 2025-26 District Calendar noting that Parent-Student Orientation will take place on Tuesday, August 19, the first day for K-8 students will be Thursday, August 21, and Orientation Day will be held later in the day and with a slightly different format to better accommodate our families.



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*Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the 2025-26 school year calendar.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Mitha, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.

#### **C. Approval of Recommended Board Policy Updates**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the recommended board policy updates.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.

#### **D. Approval to Release Closed Session Minutes with Exceptions as Noted**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the release of closed session minutes from August 13 and September 17.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.

#### **E. Authorization of Destruction of Verbatim Audio Records from Closed Sessions Held Prior to July 1, 2023, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120Mr.**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the destruction of verbatim audio records from closed sessions held prior to July 1, 2023.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Mitha, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.



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#### **VI. Conclusion**

##### **A. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

##### **B. Board Member Comments**

There were no comments.

##### **C. Adjournment**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of January 21, 2025 at 10:02 p.m.*

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.

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Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary