



## **CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63**

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

# **Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 18, 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 18th Day of February, 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, Secretary Urszula Tanouye and Members Chris Green, Katie Marinelli, Liz Mitha, and Steve Wyent. Vice President Rinku Patel was absent.

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

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

President Johnson welcomed everyone in attendance.

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

Mr. Cross verbally recognized school counselors Lia Lamb and Helen Park in honor of National School Counseling Week, school psychologist Sara Zimmerman was recognized by peers for her knowledge, and also for her kind, friendly, and helpful demeanor toward students, staff, and parents. Also recognized were teachers Jeff Grand, Audrey Vaci, Taylor Dazzo, and Marie Musil for their hard work orchestrating and executing the recent Spelling Bee, and Marie Musil for creating engaging learning experiences including the recent Wax Museum Biography project, which was a huge success.

#### **E. Public Comments**

Parents Yolanda and Deon Berry shared with the Board their continued concerns about a bullying incident involving their child and the disciplinary action they believe should be taken beyond how it was handled.



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#### **II. Closed Session**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli 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 Marinelli, Member Green, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

#### **III. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the February 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the January 21, 2025 Closed Session Minutes**
- D. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- E. Approval of the District Bills**
- F. Approval of Resignations**

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda noting the additional bills and announcing the resignations of Concord teacher assistant Kerry Glimco and bus driver Michael Dellamaria.

*Member Mitha moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.*

*Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Wyent, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.*

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

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

Dr. Anderson noted that CARE recently planned and hosted the friendship parties and the kids had a great time. Kindergarten round up is happening soon and we have 68 kids signed up to date. CARE is hosting Bingo on March 7, and the Kids Heart Challenge is happening later in the week.



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Mr. Cross updated the Board on the PowerSchool data breach and the transition from Powerschool to Skyward. He also announced that the Darien Rotary Club recently completed 500 more literacy bags that were shared with our district, as well as Districts 61 and 66. Mr. Cross then introduced recommended Concord Assistant Principal Megan Conlin, who briefly introduced herself to the Board.

#### **B. Federal Impact Aid Advocacy and Funding Report**

Superintendent Mark Cross shared his concerns about the future of federal impact aid funding, a unique and important source of revenue for the school district, noting that federal property is not taxable and this puts our school district at a disadvantage in terms of our local tax base.

Federal impact aid payments to the district are approximately \$400,000 per year, which is only 7 percent of the funding the district would expect to receive if it were taxable real estate. Nevertheless, it is a key source of revenue that the district needs, and the concern is that it could be significantly reduced or eliminated completely.

Mr. Cross will continue to keep the Board apprised of any action from Washington, DC, and will continue to work with federally impacted school districts around the country and members of Congress to maintain this critical funding source for District 63.

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

Mr. Cross shared several updates related to Phase II facility planning. Final details are getting pinned down with the architects and the expected timeline is to hold a bid opening on March 12. The Board will be presented with potential recommendations for approval at the March 18 meeting. Mr. Cross expressed concerns regarding the district's funding source for the project, which is the federal energy tax credit. He will keep the Board updated on the status of both the funding and the bidding process.



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

##### **A. Approval of the 2025-26 Registration Fees**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the 2025-26 registration fees as presented.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Mitha, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

##### **B. Employment of Recommended Personnel**

*Member Green moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve Megan Conlin as assistant principal at Concord Elementary School effective July 1, 2025.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

##### **C. Approval of 2025-26 Assistant Principal Contracts**

*Member Mitha moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the assistant principal contracts for Michelle Roberts and Megan Conlin for the 2025-26 school year.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Mitha, Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

##### **D. Approval of the 2025-26 Non-Union Employee Salaries**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the 2025-26 non-union employee salaries as presented.*

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.



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#### VI. Conclusion

##### A. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

##### B. Board Member Comments

Lana Johnson welcomed Megan Conlin and thanked the search committee for their hard work in securing our new assistant principal.

##### C. Adjournment

*Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of February 18, 2025 at 8:35 p.m.*

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

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Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

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