



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Minutes of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Education Of School District 63, DuPage County, Illinois; Held At Cass School District 63 At 7:30 P.M. on the 25th Day of August, 2020.

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: President Shelly Camden, Vice President Kent Absalonsen, Secretary Esposito, Member Brad Carrino, Member Lana Johnson, and Member Michael Ockrim (arrived at 7:37 p.m.). Member McCollian was absent.

Also in attendance:

Mark R. Cross, Superintendent of Schools

Laura Anderson, Concord Elementary School Principal

Christine Marcinkewicz, Cass Junior High School Principal

Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

Superintendent Cross requested that the Board approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Camden welcomed:

Sonali Patel
Megan Legan

Rinku Patel
David DeRousse

Fiyaz Khan

Secretary Esposito stated that the Board of Education received one FOIA Request that was fulfilled.



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Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of June 16, 2020 Board of Education Closed Session Minutes
- B. Approval of June 16, 2020 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of August 4, 2020 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
- D. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow and Investment Reports
- E. Approval of Payroll Reports
- F. Approval of District Bills

Secretary Esposito moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include Additional Bills as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Carrino

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

Reports, Updates and Informational Items

- A. Administrative Report

Principal Anderson stated that the first Staff Institute Day was held on Monday and went well. Orientation day was held today and new students, Prekindergarten and Kindergarten students attended in person according a schedule spacing



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students out through the day. Students in 1st through 4th Grades attended Zoom introductions with their teachers.

Principal Marcinkewicz gave an overview of the first staff institute day and talked about today's orientation day which had 5th grade and new students attending in person according to a schedule throughout the day.

Superintendent Cross added that it was great to be in the District and be able to see the kids and watch the buildings come back to life for orientation day. He also commended the leadership team, teachers and staff for the hard work in preparations for making remote learning successful. Superintendent Cross also commented on the 16 new staff who were present for New Staff Orientation this past Friday, of which 14 are new employees to the school district.

B. CARE Reports and Updates

Lana Johnson stated that CARE is off to a great start with tons of volunteers. CARE is working to adapt to fundraising in the current environment. To that end, there is a fundraiser on Friday, August 28 at the Dairy Queen in Willowbrook.

C. Update and Discussion Regarding the Proposed Return to Learn Framework

Superintendent Cross gave an overview of the new Remote Learning Plan which is an evolution of the first Return to Learn Framework. He explained that the decision to go full remote was based on two things: (1) IDPH guidance that was released on August 12 and has been updated multiple times since, and (2) Staff, Administration and Board discussions to see if the District could meet the guidelines that the state has put forth. Under the Remote Learning Plan, students will attend school during their normal school hours but it will occur via Zoom and will be cognizant of time spent in front of a screen so that significant breaks are worked into their schedule.

The Board asked if any audience members had questions or comments:



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- Mr. Khan questioned what the District's timeline would be to return to school. Superintendent Cross responded that the guidance keeps changing and so it would be difficult to give an accurate response. The most challenging component of the guidance is in relation to staff who may be sick or exposed and making sure we have proper coverage for their classrooms should they need to be out.
- Mr. DeRousse asked about schedules and how much time there would be between classes. Principals Marcinkewicz and Anderson reviewed what the school day would look like in each building.
- Mr. Patel asked about whether or not textbooks would be made available to help avoid too much screen time. It was explained that most textbooks will be online and although the District will have physical books available there are not enough for all students and so they will need to be shared following state guidelines.
- Superintendent Cross expressed the desire of the district and staff to have the kids back in school and explained more of the criteria for getting to that point. He stated that district administrators and the Return to Learn Committee will continue to work on how to get to that point after getting the year started successfully with remote learning. He thanked the guests for their questions and the conversation.

D. Presentation of Amended 2020-21 District Calendar

Superintendent Cross presented the proposed amended 2020-21 School Year Calendar. The changes include a shift in the first day of school to August 31, 2020, and an extension of the last day of school to Monday, June 7.

E. Presentation of Recommended Board Policy Updates – First Reading

Superintendent Cross presented and reviewed the recommended Board Policy Updates which are largely regarding Title IX. These policies will be presented to the Board of Education at the September 15, 2020 meeting for consideration of



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adoption.

F. Presentation of Recommended Board Policy Updates – Second Reading

Superintendent Cross presented Board Policy 4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management and Recovery for the Board's review.

Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of Recommendations for the Updated Return to Learn Framework

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the Cass School District 63 Remote Learning Plan as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Carrino

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

B. Approval of the Amended 2020-21 District Calendar

Secretary Esposito moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the Amended 2020-21 District Calendar as presented. Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion carried 6 to 0.

C. Approval of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the recommended board policy update as presented.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Carrino

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

D. Acceptance of Resignations

Superintendent Cross presented resignations that have been submitted:

1. Katie Kafer, Permanent Substitute Teacher at Cass Junior High
2. Alyce Lucas, School Psychologist
3. Blair Thompson, Social Worker
4. Kylie Tunk, Teacher Assistant at Cass Junior High

Member Johnson moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to accept the resignations as presented. Voice Vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 6 to 0.

E. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Superintendent Cross presented recommendations to hire the following individuals for the 2020-21 School Year:

1. Kathryn Marks, School Social Worker

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the employment recommendation as presented.

Roll call



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Aye

Nay

President Camden
Vice President Absalonsen
Secretary Esposito
Member Carrino
Member Johnson
Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

- F. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association

Superintendent Cross presented the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association in regards to remote learning.

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden
Vice President Absalonsen
Secretary Esposito
Member Carrino
Member Johnson
Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

Conclusion

- A. Public Comments



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- Parent Dave DeRousse thanked the Administration and staff for all their hard work in creating a Remote Learning Plan.
- Teacher Megan Duffy-Legan thanked both the Administration and the parents for their patience as the District navigates their way through the remote learning planning.

Board Member Remarks

- Secretary Esposito stated that the next Regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
- President Camden stated that the Board and Administration appreciates parents questions to help them clarify information that families are receiving. She further thanked the teachers and administration for all of their hard work in navigating the start of this school year.

Adjournment

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Ockrim seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of August 25, 2020 at 8:52 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 6 to 0.

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary