



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Minutes of The Regular 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 17th Day of August, 2021.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: Vice President Kent Absalonsen, Secretary Alice Esposito, Member Lana Johnson, Member Rinku Patel, Member Urszula Tanouye and Member Steve Wyent. President Shelly Camden was absent.

Also in attendance:

Mark R. Cross, Superintendent of Schools, Christine Marcinkewicz, Cass Junior High School Principal, Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to go into Closed Session.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

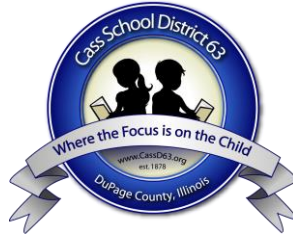
Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.



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II. Closed Session

Review and Consideration of Release of Closed Session Minutes Held on the following dates with Exceptions as Noted in Minutes in Which the Need for Confidentiality Remains

III. Welcome (*Upon return from Closed Session at 7:11 p.m.*)

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

Vice President Absalonsen welcomed the following guests: Caryn Alavi, Katie Fujiura, Shelby Riha and Jiten Patel.

Secretary Esposito announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There were two thank you cards to the Board.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the August 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of the August 3, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

D. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports

E. Approval of District Bills

Mr. Cross highlighted a change to the payroll report explaining that the report would now include year to date as well as current month totals.

Mr. Cross then reviewed the bills with the Board explaining the reason for several of the invoices.

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include additional bills.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

V. Public Presentation and Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Member Johnson moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to open the Public Presentation and Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

Mr. Cross and Mrs. Dolehide reviewed the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. Aside from the final ending fund balances from FY21, nothing has changed from the tentative budget presented in June. Mr. Cross emphasized the importance of being conservative with expenditures and building fund balances to make it possible to better address the district's HVAC and other facility needs.

Member Wyent complimented Mr. Cross and Mrs. Dolehide on how thorough they were in the budget process and feels confident in saying that it is an honest budget.



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Mr. Cross stated that they will present a report at the end of each quarter which will outline where the district is in comparison to the budget.

Mr. Wyent added that there are some unknowns coming this year including the unknown adjustment in expense for health insurance, which will be reviewed when the renewal is provided for the new year starting January 1.

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to close the Public Presentation and Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

VI. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Dr. Anderson stated that Concord has eight new employees and they have been working to get ready for the school year. The 3rd grade class has grown by 15 new students this year which will require a fourth section to accommodate the students. They have also been working on their math intervention over the summer to help bridge any recent learning gaps.

Mrs. Marcinkewicz stated summer has been busy with focus on building of the special education classroom at Cass. Band Camp is going on this week and we are in the middle of holding softball tryouts.

Mr. Cross stated that in total we have 14 new staff members this school year and new staff orientation is this Friday, August 20.



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Mr. Cross then thanked Mrs. Marcinkewicz for her work on the bus routes which she created for both Cass and Concord. Mr. Cross noted that we have some gaps in special education transportation because of lack of drivers. The lack of drivers is not just this district but everywhere and the district will continue to work on solutions to address this issue.

B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

The first CARE meeting for the 2021-22 school year is Monday, August 23.

Dr. Anderson shared that CARE has been beyond supportive during the pandemic and have adjusted some of their events accordingly which the district greatly appreciates.

C. Presentation of Recommended Board Policy Updates

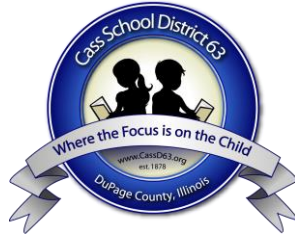
Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended policy updates stating that there is nothing to highlight as most of the updates are routine. He stated that if the Board Policy Committee finds no reason to meet, these will be recommended for final approval next month.

D. Update and Discussion Regarding Goal Setting and Strategic Planning

Mr. Cross thanked the Board for their hard work and collaboration at the first strategic planning meeting. The next step will be to create surveys for parents, graduates and staff to present to the Board for review before distribution. The feedback will be gathered and presented at the next Strategic Planning meeting scheduled for September 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

E. Update and Discussion Regarding Stay Healthy Stay Smart Back to School Plan

Mr. Cross updated the Board on the Stay Healthy, Stay Smart! Back to School Plan highlighting the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) guidance that has recently has shifted. The DCHD has stated that the test-to-stay option is not available at this time, even though it is by IDPH.



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Mr. Cross hopes that the DCHD will allow this in the future and the District is prepared if they do. He discussed the partnership with Northshore Clinical Labs to evaluate the test samples and they will also be training some office staff to administer the tests for symptoms should test to stay be allowed. There will be no cost to the District or the families for these tests if and when we are able to use them, although insurance information will be required.

Additionally, the state has mandated that all individuals in the school district must wear a mask. Mr. Cross also stated that live synchronous instruction will not be offered this school year. Discussion about how we address quarantined students without live instruction is ongoing.

There were many questions about the testing program, including what will be required to participate and who will be able to take advantage of the testing options. The question of surveillance screening was brought up and some thought it was a great idea while others thought it best stick to the test to stay program once it is available. Mr. Cross reminded that we have a small staff and surveillance screening could be more than the staff can handle, but he will continue to look at this option if it will help keep students safe. Mr. Cross closed by stating that the district has been receiving positive feedback on the Stay Healthy, Stay Smart! plan.

VII. Recommended Action Items

A. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to adopt the fiscal year 2022 budget as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

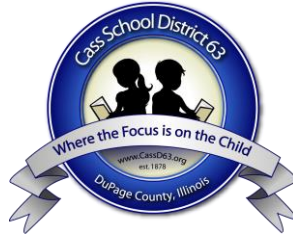
Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen



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Motion carried, 6 to 0.

B. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Member Johnson moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve Brynn Alexander as the full-time 3^d grade teacher at Concord Elementary for the 2021-22 school year.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Member Wyent

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

C. Approval of the Stay Healthy, Stay Smart Back to School Plan

Member Patel moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Stay Healthy, Stay Smart back to school plan.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

D. Approval of COVID-19 Testing Agreement with Northshore Clinical Labs

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the testing agreement with Northshore Clinical Labs as presented.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

E. Approval to Release Closed Session Minutes with Exceptions as Noted

Member Johnson moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to release closed session minutes with any exceptions as noted for meetings on October 27, 2021, November 2, 2020, January 19, 2021 and March 16, 2021.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Member Wyent

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

F. Authorization of Destruction of Verbatim Audio Records from Closed Sessions Held Prior to January 1, 2020 per the Illinois Open Meetings Action, 5 ILCS 120

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion authorize the destruction of verbatim audio records from closed sessions held prior to January 1, 2020 per the Illinois Open Meetings Action, 5 ILCS 120



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

VIII. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

- Shelby Riha asked why the district is not doing screening testing. She feels it is needs to be addressed and put out there for parents to understand why this district is not providing this option and asked the Board to continue to consider the option.

B. Board Member Comments

There were no Board Member comments.

C. Adjournment

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of August 17, 2021 at 8:48 p.m.

Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 6 to 0.

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest:

Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary