



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 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 14th Day of December, 2021.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

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

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

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

Also in attendance: Mark R. Cross, Superintendent of Schools, Christine Marcinkewicz, Cass Junior High School Principal, Laura Anderson, Concord Elementary School Principal, Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Camden welcomed the following guest: Katie Fujiura

Secretary Esposito stated there was one thank you note from teacher Angela Zurawski and announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

D. Approval of District Bills



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Member Wyent moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include additional bills as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Secretary Esposito

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Dr. Anderson talked about the Concord holiday events for the week and extended an invitation to the Board to attend Concord's holiday lunch to be held on Wednesday, December 15. She then stated that Concord will be piloting a new math program starting in January and that Cass has narrowed down to two possible math programs to consider.

Dr. Anderson anticipates that she will be bringing the Board a recommendation for new math curriculum in April or May. Dr. Anderson noted that in February she and Mrs. Marcinkewicz will be giving a presentation to the Board highlighting academic progress as well as a review of the NWEA scores.

Mrs. Marcinkewicz shared holiday events happening at Cass Junior High including a door decorating contest and a band concert. She then highlighted the many things Cass students did to honor veterans on Veterans Day, which included a letter writing assignment and a drive to collect items to send to soldiers in Iraq.



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Mrs. Marcinkewicz then announced that four students have already completed reading all of the Mock Newbery books and that students are once again participating in math team and chess. She closed with sharing that the new EPIC special education program at Cass Junior High has been very successful. Mrs. Csuk is doing a great job planning a comprehensive curriculum for each student and their varying needs.

Mr. Cross stated that during the strategic planning process, we discussed sharing more data with the Board and as a result, the administration plans to give presentations to the Board in February and June with academic growth data from the middle and end of year. It is also the intention of the administration to create and post on the district's website a dashboard that will include additional data. This will be developed when time allows.

B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

CARE is continuing to work on fundraisers for the new year. They are also beginning work on a succession plan as there are several Board members who are completing their terms at the end of this school year. CARE activities for the remainder of this year will be dependent on health conditions.

C. Update and Discussion Regarding Long-Term Facilities Planning

Mr. Cross reviewed with the Board long-term facilities plan options that were created in consultation with the district's architect, engineer and financial expert, with a focus on the district's significant needs with an aging and costly to maintain HVAC system across most of the district.

After significant discussion, the Board was in full agreement to move forward with the architect, engineer and Facilities Committee, which was recently expanded to include more parent and community representation. Member Wyent noted that he reviewed numbers and the District is spending a significant amount of money working to keep the current system operational and this is very likely not a cost effective approach.

Mr. Cross will provide the Board with a status update at the January meeting.



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D. Presentation of the Recommended 2021 Tax Levy

Mr. Cross noted that the tax levy is completely unchanged from the tentative tax levy that was presented to the Board at the November Board meeting and will recommend that Board approve this as presented.

E. Review of the Resolutions Related to the Supplemental Property Tax Levy and Transfer of Funds and Tax Abatement to Pay Debt Service on Certain Bonds

Mr. Cross reviewed the two resolutions. The supplemental tax levy is actually zero for this year, however next year will include the supplemental amount the district needs to capture as CPI grows. In the absence of this resolution for the supplemental levy, the district would lose any dollars generated as the CPI increases in future years.

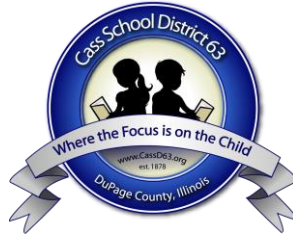
The second resolution is to acknowledge that part of the bonds are being paid out of the Operations & Maintenance budget and the dollars must be transferred into the O&M fund to pay the debt. This resolution allows us to transfer the necessary funds to pay this debt.

F. Review of Teachers' Retirement System Supplemental Savings Plan Agreement

Mr. Cross explained that the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System is now offering a supplemental retirement savings opportunity for members. While a number of our employees participate in their own 403(b) plans to supplement their required pension participation, this is another option for TRS member staff. There is no cost to the district to participate and he is recommending that the district offer this to our TRS member staff, which requires Board approval of the Supplemental Savings Plan Agreement.

G. Discussion Regarding Effective School Board Governance, Communication and Cooperation of Local School Districts

Mr. Cross reviewed the discussion from the November Board meeting regarding the possibility of approving a statement supporting best practices



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related to Board governance, particularly as it relates to communication between and among school districts at the Board level. After some discussion, the Board agreed with the concept and to approve the proposed statement.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Adoption of Resolution for Approval of the 2021 Tax Levy

Secretary Esposito moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve adopt the Resolution for Approval of the 2021 Tax Levy as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

B. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Property Tax Levy to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Outstanding Limited Bonds

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Property Tax Levy to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Outstanding Limited Bonds as presented.

Roll call

Aye

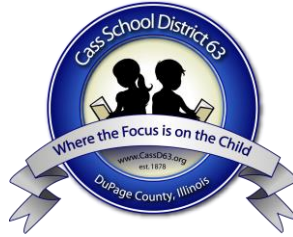
Nay

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye



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Member Wyent
Secretary Esposito
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

C. Adoption of Resolution Transferring Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund, and Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2021 to Pay Debt Service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016B

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution Transferring Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund, and Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2021 to Pay Debt Service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016B as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito
Member Patel
Member Johnson
Member Tanouye
Member Wyent
Vice President Absalonsen
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

D. Approval of the TRS Supplemental Savings Plan Employer Participation Agreement

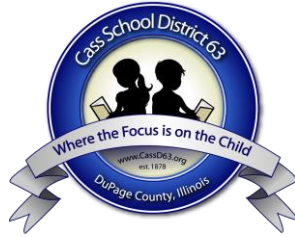
Member Johnson moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the TRS Supplemental Savings Plan Employer Participation Agreement.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson



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Member Wyent
Member Patel
Member Tanouye
Secretary Esposito
Vice President Absalonsen
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

E. Approval of Statement Regarding Effective School Board Governance, Communication and Cooperation of Local School Districts

Member Patel moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the Statement Regarding Effective School Board Governance, Communication and Cooperation of Local School Districts. Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried 7 to 0.

F. Acceptance of Resignations

Member Johnson moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Mark Blend.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson
Member Patel
Member Tanouye
Member Wyent
Secretary Esposito
Vice President Absalonsen
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

Member Tanouye moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Maggie Skurzewski.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Tanouye

Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

G. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve Kayla Briant for the position of long-term substitute 1st grade teacher.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

V. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

- Katie Fujiura thanked the Board and administration for their support and wished everyone a happy holiday.



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B. Board Member Comments

- Member Tanouye thanked all the staff who helped with the pediatric vaccine clinics. She then shared that at the Joint Annual Conference she attended a session that discussed the emotional difficulties some students face and how unsure some of them are about how to ask for help. She felt this was an important topic and wanted to ensure that our students' emotional health is being considered and addressed.

- Member Patel added that the hospital is seeing an uptick in children struggling emotionally at both the high school level and at younger ages that he feels is a combination of the negative effects of social media as well as the fallout from COVID.

- Mr. Cross expressed that this is something the school district sees as well and meeting our students' social and emotional needs is a huge priority that the district has and will continue to put significant resources toward.

VII. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of December 14, 2021 at 9:23 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 7 to 0.

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary