



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

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 18th Day of January, 2022.

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 Shelly Camden, Secretary Alice Esposito, Member Lana Johnson, Member Rinku Patel, Member Urszula Tanouye and Member Steve Wyent. Vice President Kent Absalonsen attended via telephone.

Also in attendance:

Mark R. Cross, Superintendent of Schools and Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

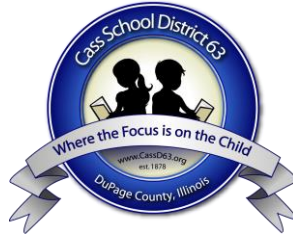
C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

Vice President Absalonsen welcomed the following guests: Pam Worth, Katie Fujiura and Summer Watkins

Secretary Esposito announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. There was one FOIA request that was fulfilled.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.



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

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Wyent

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

II. Closed Session

Discussion of Information Regarding the Employment, Compensation, Performance, or Dismissal of School District Employees and Review and Consideration of Release of Closed Session Minutes.

Upon return from Closed Session at 7:13 p.m.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow, Investments and Payroll Reports**
- D. Approval of Board of Education Conference Expense Reimbursements**
- E. Approval of District Bills**

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

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson



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Member Patel
Member Tanouye
Member Wyent
Vice President Absalonsen
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

IV. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Mr. Cross stated that Principals Anderson and Marcinkewicz are not in attendance at this meeting due to the recent workload. On their behalf, Mr. Cross shared that the chess team had their first meet today and they won 27-3. He then discussed the significant increase in COVID cases at school since the return from break. The school offices are working hard to quickly locate close contacts and help keep students and staff safe and in school.

B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

Lana Johnsen noted that CARE did not meet this month but that they are focused on recruiting new members and chairs for next school year.

C. Presentation of Recommended Board Policy Updates – First Reading

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended policies highlighting two new policies. One regarding a food waste management program. This new policy requires that we use any leftover food from school lunches to donate to a local food bank. The second is in regards to student appearance and ensuring that districts are not discriminating against any student whose appearance is tied to ethnic or racial background. Cass School District 63 has always practiced acceptance of any racial, ethnic or cultural traditions and the district welcomes this change as an official Board policy. He encouraged Board members to review the remaining Board policies and to contact him in the event there are questions or a need for a Policy Committee meeting.



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D. Presentation Regarding Federal Impact Aid in Cass School District 63

Mr. Cross stated that Cass 63 is one of eight school districts in Illinois and 1,100 across the country that receive funding through federal impact aid. Only Districts who have over 10 percent of their district boundaries that fall within a federally owned property qualify for this program. Impact aid is federal program that compensates the districts a small percentage of lost tax dollars that would be generated if residential or commercial properties stood on the federally owned land.

Argonne National Laboratory is federally owned property that has a huge impact. Of the district's 2,807 total acres, 1,026 acres are federal land as part of Argonne. This means that roughly 37 percent of the school district's total real estate is federally owned property, resulting in federal impact aid payments of approximately \$400,000 per year.

Mr. Cross said that unfortunately, this funding is critical even though it only covers about six percent of what the district would expect to generate if the same land was not federally owned. In comparison, the other 1,781 acres, or roughly 63 percent of the school district's taxable property, generates approximately \$9.6 million in local property taxes.

Mr. Cross is taking a more active role in our two national organizations that support the continued funding of federal impact aid. He stated that it is important that the districts stay engaged to ensure that funding for this program remains in place.

E. Review of Updated Health Guidance and the Stay Healthy Stay Smart Plan

Mr. Cross reviewed the updated health guidance highlighting the recent change in the reduction of the days of quarantine and isolation from 10 days to 5 days with certain conditions. Rinku Patel commended the District and stated that the Board should be proud of offering a vaccine clinic to our students aged 5-12 so quickly as this has helped to keep our students safe.



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F. Strategic Plan Pillar 3 Progress Review – Facilities Committee Report on Student Health and Safety, HVAC Needs and Long-Term Facilities Planning

The Facilities Committee is working with our school district architects and engineers to develop long-term plans for replacing the district's HVAC systems at Concord Elementary and Cass Junior High, which are inefficient, costly to maintain and largely past their life expectancy. The committee is also reviewing several key safety and security needs at both schools, including the fire alarm system, video surveillance and security systems.

Mr. Cross and committee members Shelly Camden and Urszula Tanouye reviewed the work of the committee, which identified the areas of focus as educational environment, indoor air quality, energy efficiency, maintenance costs, sustainability and any potential grant funding opportunities.

The Facilities Committee is taking the next steps in reviewing potential options to address these needs. Once the architects and engineer develop potential options for solutions and costs, the committee will meet to review this information and make recommendations for the Board to consider.

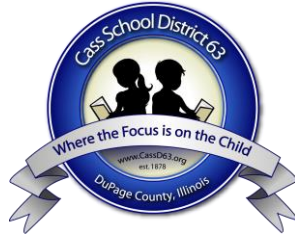
G. Discussion Regarding Funding Options for Student Safety and HVAC Needs

Once the Facilities Committee has narrowed down potential solutions and options to address the HVAC, safety and security needs, the Finance Committee will meet with the district's financial advisors to discuss funding options for the necessary work. The committee will make recommendations to the Board of Education at the February or March meeting.

V. Recommended Action Items

A. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve Sandy Leonard as Concord Elementary School administrative assistant.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Lana Johnson

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

B. Approval of Updated Stay Healthy, Stay Smart Plan

Member Patel moved and Member Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the updated Stay Healthy, Stay Smart! Plan as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Johnson

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

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

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to release the closed minutes from September 23, 2021 with exceptions as noted.

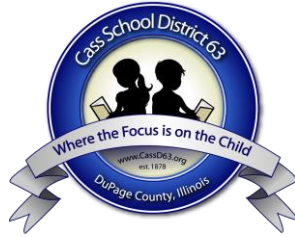
Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel



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Member Johnson
Member Tanouye
Member Wyent
Vice President Absalonsen
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

D. Authorization of Destruction of Verbatim Audio Records from Closed Sessions held prior to July 1, 2020 per the Illinois Open Meetings Action, 5 ILCS 120

Member Wyent moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to authorize the destruction of verbatim audio records from closed sessions held prior to July 1, 2020.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

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

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

- Pam Worth thanked the Board for all their time and hard work.
- Summer Watkins thanked the administration and Board for the effort throughout the pandemic.
- Katie Fujiura stated that speaking for her and she believes for the teacher as well, she is beyond grateful at how supportive the administration and Board has been. She noted that Mr. Cross is always so receptive and willing to listen to the concerns of the teachers.



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B. Board Member Comments

- Alice Esposito thanked the staff for all that they have done since returning from break.
- Shelly Camden stated that this is a team effort and we cannot do any of what we do without the teachers.
- Steve Wyent noted that the dedication to keeping the kids in school is apparent. As a parent he truly appreciates all the hard work.
- Urszula Tanouye added that she has trust in the administration in the decisions they have made and will continue to make moving forward.
- Mark Cross expressed his appreciation for the great teamwork and staff.

C. Adjournment

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 18, 2022 at 8:31 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 7 to 0.

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary