



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 17, 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 17th Day of May, 2022.

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: Vice President Kent Absalonsen, Secretary Alice Esposito and Members Lana Johnson, Rinku Patel, Urszula Tanouye and Steve Wyent. President Shelly Camden arrived at 7:46 p.m.

Also in attendance: Mark R. Cross, Superintendent, Laura Anderson, Concord Elementary School Principal and Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

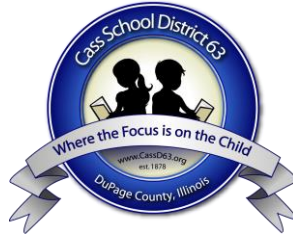
Vice President Absalonsen welcomed the following guests: Matt Etherington, Yvonne Ilko, Beth Dooley, Katie Fujiura, Wayne Ostrowski and Katie Doyle

The Board received thank you notes from teacher Angela Zurawski and from Liz Eberhart with Our Lady of Peace.

D. Recognition of 2022 Retirees and District Employee Years of Service

The Board of Education and Superintendent Mark Cross recognized the following individuals for achieving milestones of dedicated service to the district, as well as one retiring staff member.

10 Years of Service – Beth Dooley, Katie Doyle and Mike McLean



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- 15 Years of Service – Dr. Laura Anderson, Filomena Manna-DeChiara and Amy Underhill
- 20 Years of Service – Helen Park
- 25 Years of Service – Yvonne Ilko and Wayne Ostrowski
- 30 Years of Service – Jen Callahan, Karen Hyder, Kristen Orr and Angela Zurawski
- 2022-23 Retiree – Yvonne Ilko

The Board thanked these individuals for their service and dedication to the students of Cass School District 63.

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the May 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the April 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the April 27, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes**
- D. Approval of Request for Employee Leaves of Absence**
- E. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- F. Approval of the District Bills**

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

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Secretary Esposito, Member Patel, Member Johnson, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent and Vice President Absalonsen

Nays: None

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Dr. Anderson reviewed the end of the year activities for both Concord and Cass highlighting a 4th grade trip to The Forge. The students and staff alike



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thought this was a great experience that they would like to do each year moving forward.

Dr. Anderson then shared that we are developing a new mentoring program that will allow for new teachers to acquire enough professional development hours to renew their license in four years. The state of Illinois has stopped funding the mentoring programs but we feel this is an important program for our new teachers and we are excited to offer this support to our new teachers as they are coming out of school.

Mr. Cross highlighted the recent 1st Annual Art and Jazz Show that was a huge success, thanked Lana Johnson and the parents for organizing the 8th grade dance and shared with the Board several other end of the year activities, including the upcoming 8th grade graduation details.

B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

Mrs. Johnson shared CARE has elected their new Board and it has a great mix of parents from both Concord and Cass. CARE is getting ready for 8th grade graduation and they are planning fundraisers for the 2022-23 school year, including a trivia night in October and possible the return of the golf outing next spring.

C. Discussion on Strategic Plan Pillar 1 Progress Review

Mr. Cross shared a report to assist the Board in monitoring progress toward the Vision 2025 Strategic Plan. In the short time since its adoption, much progress has been made, particularly as it relates to long-term facility planning, adjustments to the student grading system, curriculum development and staffing needs. Mr. Cross will provide the Board with a quarterly progress review and adjustments will be made when needed or as goals are accomplished. The strategic plan web page will also be updated to reflect progress as well.

D. First Reading of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended Board policy updates, highlighting a policy regarding public participation in Board meetings. Assuming a committee meeting is not necessary, language will be developed and the policies will be recommended for adoption at the June meeting.



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E. Updates and Discussion Regarding Proposed Academic Grading System

Mr. Cross and Dr. Anderson updated the Board on work that is taking place with the district's grading system. He said this work stems from Pillar 1, Indicator A of the strategic plan which is to "Evaluate current progress reporting to determine if there are more effective methods for communicating academic and behavioral progress to parents." This was a result of significant feedback from graduate and parent surveys in particular.

Mr. Cross shared the work that has been done with Principals Laura Anderson and Christine Marcinkewicz, while relying on feedback and suggestions from the teachers. Much work remains over the summer to prepare for the transitions, but the changes will be implemented with the start of the 2022-23 school term. Mr. Cross will communicate a summary of the changes to parents and the school community. Board members praised the staff for their effort in improving and clarifying the expectations, while maintaining the strengths of the current system.

F. Update and Discussion Regarding Proposed Staffing Recommendations

Mr. Cross reviewed with the Board recommendations for staffing beginning with the 2022-23 school year. The recommendations include hiring a full-time occupational therapist due to rising needs within the District. If the district were to hire its own occupational therapist rather than contract with SASSED to supply this position, it will save the district approximately \$15,000 per year.

The administration would also like to hire a STEM teacher at Concord in accordance with Strategic Plan Pillar 1-A which states "Research and evaluate current data and needs to determine recommendations regarding curriculum, materials and resources for the Mathematics, Science and STEM, Social Sciences, Reading and English Language Arts and special curriculum areas." Mr. Cross and Dr. Anderson discussed details of the position and the potential to create excitement regarding science and STEM in our younger students.

The final recommendation would be to secure the full-time school nurse position as the District has some students with significant health issues that



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is best addressed by a qualified nurse. The district filled this contractually for the current school year, which validated the need for a full-time position.

The Board expressed their support for all of these recommendations, particularly for the STEM program for Concord Elementary School.

G. Updates and Discussion Regarding Long-Term Facility Plans for Safety, Security and Replacement of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems

Mr. Cross stated that there are two more community facility meetings coming up virtually on May 23 and in person on May 25. He plans to also record a meeting that can then be placed on the District's website for anyone to view at their convenience. Mr. Cross also shared additional information provided by the engineer to help explain the geo-exchange heating and cooling system. He said the feedback he has received from the community on the geothermal approach has been very positive.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Member Wyent moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve Samantha Cerven for the position of occupational therapist effective at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Member Wyent, Member Patel, Member Johnson, Member Tanouye, Secretary Esposito, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve Katie Beringer for the position of district nurse effective at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Member Johnson, Secretary Esposito, Member Patel, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None



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Motion carried, 7 to 0.

Member Patel moved and Member Tanouye seconded a motion to approve Kayla Briant for the position of Concord Elementary teacher assistant effective at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Member Patel, Member Tanouye, Member Johnson, Member Wyent, Secretary Esposito, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve Carolyn Rundell for the position of Cass Junior High teacher assistant effective at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Secretary Esposito, Member Patel, Member Johnson, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

B. Approval of Final 2021-22 School Year Calendar

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the 2021-22 school year calendar to reflect final days of attendance.

Roll Call Vote

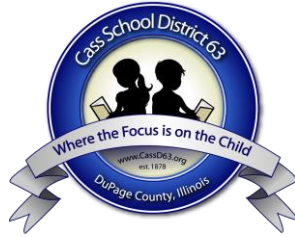
Ayes: Secretary Esposito, Member Patel, Member Johnson, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

C. Approval of Recommended 2022-23 Employee Salaries

Member Johnson moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the recommended 2022-23 employee salaries.



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Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Member Johnson, Member Patel, Member Wyent, Member Tanouye, Secretary Esposito, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

D. Approval of Recommended Summer Maintenance Projects

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve Maul Paving for parking lot resurfacing at a total cost of \$15,679.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Member Johnson, Secretary Esposito, Member Patel, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

E. Approval of Fiscal Year 2023 School District Treasurer Surety Bond

Member Wyent moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the 2023 school district treasurer surety bond.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Member Wyent, Member Johnson, Member Patel, Member Tanouye, Secretary Esposito, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

F. Approval of 2022-23 Special Education Transportation Contract with Sunrise

Member Patel moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the special education transportation contract with Sunrise.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Member Patel, Secretary Esposito, Member Johnson, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.



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G. Approval of 2022-23 Food Service Agreement with Center Cass School District 66

Member Tanouye moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the 2022-23 food service agreement with Center Cass School District 66.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Member Tanouye, Member Patel, Member Johnson, Member Wyent, Secretary Esposito, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

V. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

- Teacher Matt Etherington thanked the Board for their continued dedication and support of the students and staff of the district.

B. Board Member Comments

- Lana Johnson noted all the staff being recognized for years of service collectively have 265 years of service to the District.
- Shelly Camden said how wonderful it was to see the pictures from the 8th grade dance as well as the trip to Washington, D.C. and all the other field trips happening after a two-year absence.

VII. Adjournment

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 17, 2022 at 10:01 p.m.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Secretary Esposito, Member Patel, Member Johnson, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent, Vice President Absalonsen and President Camden

Nays: None

Motion carried, 7 to 0.



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Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary