



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

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 19th Day of January, 2021.

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: President Shelly Camden, Vice President Kent Absalonsen, Secretary Alice Esposito, Member Lana Johnson, and Member Rinku Patel. Member Michael Ockrim arrived at 7:56 p.m. and Member Jeff 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 Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Camden welcomed:

Matt Etherington
Urszula Tanouye

Kristyn McElligott

Katie Fujiura



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Secretary Esposito announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 and shared that the District received the following correspondence:

1. Freedom of Information request from LocalLabs

Superintendent Cross reminded the Board and audience that the Board is trying a change in format of meetings moving forward. When necessary, closed session will be held later in the meeting to allow for a consistent start time for the public meeting and posting. Any action items that need to wait will be acted upon immediately following closed session.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of December 15, 2020 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow and Investment Reports
- C. Approval of Payroll Reports
- D. Approval of District Bills
- E. Approval of Employee Request for Leave of Absence

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson 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 Johnson

Member Patel

Motion carried, 5 to 0.



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Reports, Updates and Informational Items

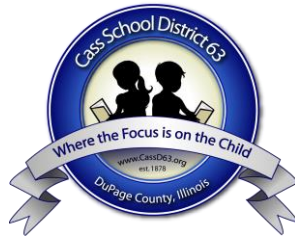
A. Administrative Reports

Principal Anderson stated that the staff was happy to have the students back in person after the brief holiday pause. Dr. Anderson verbally highlighted several takeaways from the recent NWEA test scores and shared that while it appears students are maintaining fairly well in reading, math scores are not where we would like them to be for many of our younger students. The administration is looking at ideas on how to address any regression in our math growth and will share any proposals for the Board to consider to help with this.

Principal Marcinkewicz added that most Cass Junior High School students NWEA math scores are holding steady and she feels that may be attributed to the fact that most Cass students are in a more advanced math curriculum, as well as the fact that the District has been able to offer the full curriculum with synchronous instruction. Principal Marcinkewicz shared that Band, Chess and Math Club are all participating in virtual events and competitions this year which has been a nice way to provide social interaction between students. Spring sports and activities are also being discussed.

Superintendent Cross stated that the District boundaries include just over 1,000 acres of federal land that is not taxable. The District is part of the NAFIS (National Association of Federally Impacted Schools) Program which helps advocate for impact aid funding for those districts losing out on tax dollars due to the large area of federal land that is not taxable locally. The District has already applied for and received Impact Aid funding for this year and the dollars received are a fraction of the funding the District would normally receive if it was taxable land. This is wonderful news for this year, but this program is always in jeopardy and the District continues to work to help ensure that the program remains intact. Mr. Cross plans to present more on this important program later in the spring.

Superintendent Cross shared that the Illinois Association of School Boards is hosting virtual informational webinars for school board candidates on February 11 and March 18. This information will be shared with all Board candidates.



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B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

Lana Johnson stated that there is no significant update for CARE this month. They are busy trying to find new and innovative ways to fundraise in the spring. The great news is that there are lot of people involved and lots of momentum for continuing forward.

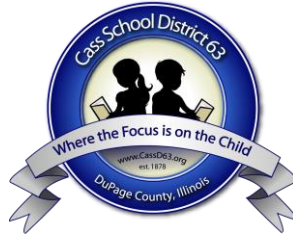
C. Presentation of Recommended Board of Education Policies – First Reading

Superintendent Cross presented the recommended Board of Education Policy updates for a first reading. In addition to the IASB recommendations which are pretty straight forward PRESS changes, the Administration is also proposing a change in policy 5:330 that better reflects our current practices and will also provide clarity and be fairer to our new employees as it relates to holidays and accumulated vacation time. Mr. Cross stated that he is happy to hold a Policy and Planning Committee meeting if Board members would like to review the policies in more detail prior to approval.

D. Update Regarding Health Guidance, Remote Learning and Return to Learn

Superintendent Cross stated that the District is happy to have our students back in the buildings after the holidays. The exciting news is the District is moving toward getting interested staff the COVID-19 vaccine. Educators fall into group 1b and it appears that the District does have a provider that may be able to provide about 1,800 vaccines out of the 2,600 needed not only for our staff in Cass School District 63, but also most of the staff at Hinsdale 86 and the other associated elementary school districts. We are currently waiting on DuPage County to open vaccines to group 1b before the vaccines can be coordinated and administered.

The question was asked as to whether the health and safety guidance is expected to change after vaccines roll out. Superintendent Cross answered that at this time the protocols will remain in place until the guidance changes.



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Closed Session

Discussion of Information Regarding the Employment, Performance, or Dismissal of Employees or District Legal Counsel

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to move into Closed Session to discuss information regarding the employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Member Patel

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

Return to Open Session

Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of Requests for Retirement

Member Ockrim moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the request for retirement from Bob Sniegowski as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

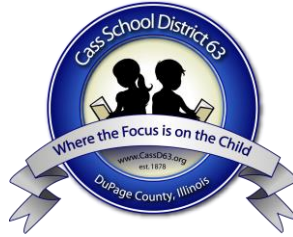
President Camden

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Member Patel

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

B. Consideration of Approval to Release Closed Session Minutes

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Absalonsen seconded a motion to maintain the status of closed session minutes and have them remain closed.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Member Patel

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

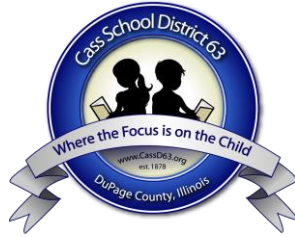
Conclusion

A. Public Comments

- There was no public comment.

Board Member Remarks

- Secretary Esposito thanked Superintendent Cross for his hard work and part in getting the vaccination process started for our area school districts.
- President Camden stated that the relationship with District 86 has been very positive and that this was a positive change that will be helpful going forward.



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Secretary Esposito moved and Member Ockrim seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 19, 2021 at 9:18 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 6 to 0.

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary