



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Minutes of the 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 19th Day of December, 2023.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: President Lana Johnson, Vice President Rinku Patel, and Members Chris Green, Katie Marinelli, Liz Mitha and Steve Wyent. Secretary Urszula Tanouye arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Also in attendance: Mark R. Cross, Superintendent and Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Johnson welcomed Scott Kondraschow.

President Johnson shared that the District had received FOIA requests from Patrick Lee, Illinois State Volunteer for Change and Katharine Casey, Science of Reading Illinois both of which were fulfilled. She added that the Board also received thank you notes from teacher Angela Zurawski and district grandparents Colleen and Tom Hayes.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the December 19, 2023 Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the November 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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



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D. Approval of the District Bills

E. Approval of Employee Resignations

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda, highlighting the financial reports, as well as a resignation from occupational therapist Samantha Cerven.

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Vice President Patel, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.

III. Public Presentation and Truth-in-Taxation Hearing for the 2023 Tax Levy

Member Green moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to open the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing for the 2023 Tax Levy.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Green, Member Mitha, Member Marinelli, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended 2023 tax levy, which is unchanged from the tentative levy that was presented in November. The recommended levy of \$10,934,124 excluding debt service is an increase of 5.88 percent over last year's actual extension of \$10,360,739. The Board discussed that the impact of the referendum bonds is already priced into the rate and that salaries are also largely tied to CPI. Mr. Cross shared the longer-term history of very modest EAV increases, and expects that next year's consumer price index number and tax levy will likely be more in the three percent range. There were no questions from the public.

Member Marinelli moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to close the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing for the 2023 Tax Levy.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Marinelli, Vice President Patel, Member Green, Member Mitha, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.



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IV. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Mr. Cross reviewed the Principals' Reports highlighting the visit from a scientist from Argonne at Concord Elementary, the Veterans Day activities at Cass Junior High and the holiday events at both schools.

Mr. Cross then gave a brief update on the lunch program plan for the 2024-25 school year, the enrollment projections for the 2024-25 school year and the possibility of changing the current STEM class to a more integrated digital art and STEM program at Cass Junior High. He said this was still in the early planning stages and shared how staffing could be impacted, but the Board expressed strong support for the changes and vision for what art, STEM and the integration of digital art could look like in the future. Mr. Cross said he and Mrs. Marcinkewicz would work with the staff and he will share any accompanying budgetary and facility needs at a later time.

B. Review of the 2023 Joint Annual Conference

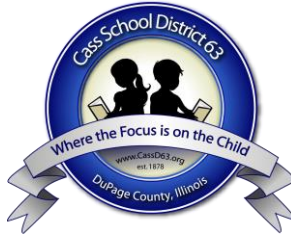
Mrs. Johnson shared that she attended a session on the status of the state's literacy scores and approach with a statewide model. Mrs. Mitha attended a session on how to be an effective Board member and Mrs. Tanouye attended the delegate assembly and a workshop on the importance of the student voice with the Board. Mrs. Tanouye shared in depth on both topics, including her involvement separately in the discussions related to zoning around schools.

Member Chris Green left the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

C. First Reading of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended policy updates highlighting some important changes including the requirement for the District to have opioid antagonists and oxygen tanks available in the District.

Mr. Cross is still reviewing the changes as well before the Board is asked to consider the recommendations for approval at the next meeting. He said some policies may require a more in depth review or discussion.



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D. Update and Discussion Regarding Facility, Safety and Security Projects

Mr. Cross shared that the geothermal well boring process is progressing well, although a little slower than originally planned. He said the digging will move to Concord in January and that the phase one asbestos abatement projects will be completed over winter break. Regular meetings with Reed Construction, the school district architects and Mr. Cross are also taking place to plan in depth for the summer HVAC projects.

V. Recommended Action Items

A. Adoption of Resolution for Approval of the 2023 Tax Levy

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to adopt the resolution for approval of the 2023 tax levy.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Vice President Patel, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 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 Patel moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing a supplemental property tax levy to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding limited bonds.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Vice President Patel, Member Mitha, Member Marinelli, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

C. Adoption of Resolution Providing for the Issue of Not to Exceed \$8,310,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2024, of the District for the Purpose of Paying Certain Costs of Those Capital Projects Approved by Referendum at the November 8, 2022, General Election, Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to



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Pay the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds, and Authorizing the Proposed Sale of Said Bonds to the Purchaser Thereof

Mr. Cross and Board Member Steve Wyent discussed work with the district's financial advisors on how to cost effectively structure the second phase of debt following last November's successful referendum. With the Board's approval, the district will close on the second set of bonds and receive proceeds in early 2024. This second issuance of bonds allows for the next phase of facility improvements to be completed over the course of the coming year.

Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution Providing for the Issue of Not to Exceed \$8,310,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2024, of the District for the Purpose of Paying Certain Costs of Those Capital Projects Approved by Referendum at the November 8, 2022, General Election, Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to Pay the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds, and Authorizing the Proposed Sale of Said Bonds to the Purchaser Thereof.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

D. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Member Marinelli moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve Sarah Leganski for the position of occupational therapist effective January 8, 2024.

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Marinelli, Vice President Patel, Member Mitha, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Member Mitha moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve Alex Gula for the position of Cass Junior High teacher assistant effective January 8, 2024.



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Voice Vote – Aye: Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, Member Marinelli, Member Wyent, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

B. Board Member Comments

Mrs. Tanouye noted that District 86 is looking for Board Members if anyone knows of potential interest in the community.

Mrs. Johnson noted that it has been a great first half of the school year and wished everyone happy holidays.

VII. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of December 19, 2023 at 9:32 p.m.

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary