



## **CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63**

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

# **Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

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 20<sup>th</sup> Day of February, 2024.

### **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, Secretary Urszula Tanouye and Members Chris Green, Katie Marinelli, Liz Mitha and Steve Wyent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross, Cass Junior High Principal Christine Marcinkewicz, Concord Principal Laura Anderson, Concord Assistant Principal Katie Doyle, CEA representative and teacher Lauren Holder, and Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant Gayle Wilson.

#### **C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements, and Correspondence**

Board President Lana Johnson welcomed everyone in attendance. There was no Board correspondence this month.

#### **D. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **II. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Approval of the February 20, 2024 Meeting Agenda**

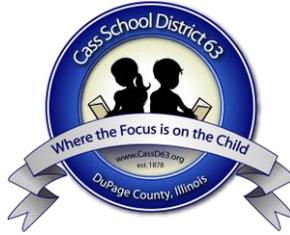
#### **B. Approval of the January 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

#### **C. Approval of the January 23, 2024 Closed Session Minutes**

#### **D. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment, and Payroll Reports**

#### **E. Approval of the District Bills**

#### **F. Approval of Employee Resignations**



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Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda items, which included a resignation from teacher Tim Stangarone effective at the close of the 2024-25 school year.

*Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.*

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

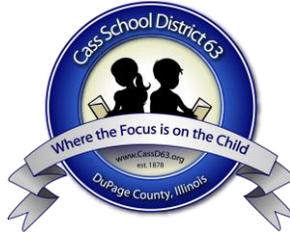
### **III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items**

#### **A. Administrative Reports**

Dr. Anderson gave an update on Concord Elementary highlighting Kindergarten round-up and the upcoming prekindergarten screening. She also noted that due to the geothermal well work for the upcoming HVAC upgrades, one of the playgrounds is off limits to students. As all students cannot fit on the remaining play areas at the same time, for safety reasons recess had to be adjusted through the end of the school year allowing students to go outside for recess only every other day when weather allows. The district will communicate to parents on this topic.

Mrs. Marcinkewicz highlighted recent events happening at Cass Junior High, including the annual spelling bee which went on for 3½ hours ending with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student winning. The conference chess meet was hosted at Cass Junior High, and some of our students were also invited to participate in Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day at Argonne.

Mr. Cross reviewed the enrollment report noting very little fluctuation from month to month. He noted that the district closed on the second bond issuance of just over \$9 million. He also announced that Katie Doyle and Craig Damrow will go through the same ALICE training that he and the principals have already completed and shared an update on the Rotary Literacy Project he is leading.



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#### **B. Federal Impact Aid Advocacy and Funding Report**

Mr. Cross updated the Board on our involvement in two organizations that advocate for federal impact aid funding to help offset the loss of local tax revenues, since 37 percent of the district's land is the federal government owned Argonne National Laboratory. Since federal property is not taxable, this puts our school district at a disadvantage in terms of our local tax base.

Cass School District 63 receives approximately \$400,000 per year in federal impact aid funding. Unfortunately, that funding could be in jeopardy due to the current budget issues in Congress. Mr. Cross will provide an additional report after he attends the NAFIS Conference in Washington, DC in March.

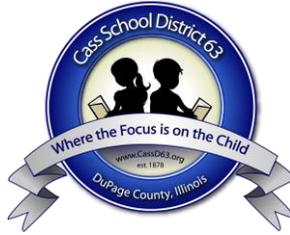
#### **C. Presentation Regarding Student Learning and Academic Growth**

Concord Assistant Principal Katie Doyle provided an overview of our student academic growth data from the NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. Our 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are assessed three times each year in the fall, winter, and spring to measure academic growth, as well as identify specific areas of concern as well as areas of strength.

Unlike the state's Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) which is taken once and doesn't provide data until the following school year, results from the MAP assessment are available immediately to inform instruction, provide interventions, and to identify needed academic support programs, such as IXL. The MAP assessment is nationally normed, and our students show growth well above the national average. Board members asked questions and expressed appreciation for the update on our local assessment data.

#### **D. Update Regarding Food Service Program Planning and Procurement**

Mr. Cross reviewed the parent lunch program survey and identified areas the district wants to target while making decisions about the lunch program moving forward. The concerns most often mentioned were quality and healthy choices. Additionally, he, along with Gayle Wilson and Amy Underhill are continuing to meet with area school districts to review their lunch programs and options. In the absence of any other options as the last area visits are finalized, the next step will be going through the ISBE procurement process.



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#### **E. Update and Discussion Regarding Facility, Safety and Security Projects**

Mr. Cross reported on the progress with the installation of geothermal wells, which is now complete at Cass Junior High and well over halfway done at Concord. Discussion was held on the impact this has with recess at Concord, since the grassy area adjacent to the playground is currently taken up with the project. The Board reviewed a draft of "Phase II" projects, which would be prioritized and potentially completed in 2025 and beyond, after the large summer 2024 HVAC work is complete. The Facilities and Finance Committees will review this in more depth to help prioritize the work.

#### **IV. Recommended Action Items**

##### **A. Approval of the 2024-25 School Year Registration Fees**

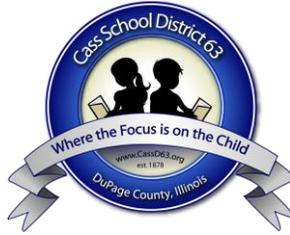
Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended 2024-25 school year fees, with a recommendation to leave the fees unchanged for the fourth straight year at \$325 at Cass Junior High and \$275 at Concord Elementary. The proposal was also to eliminate the preschool registration fee and leave tuition unchanged for those who do not qualify for free preschool under the Preschool for All grant. For those interested in using district transportation, the fee will increase to \$275. Mr. Cross noted that our registration fees in District 63 are all inclusive, as the district does not charge additional fees for technology, music, activities, or athletics, as some districts do in addition to their registration fees.

*Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the 2024-25 school year registration fees.*

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

##### **B. Employment of Recommended Personnel**

*Member Mitha moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve Alex Gula for the position of 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for the 2024-25 school year.*



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

*Member Marinelli moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve Clair Monroe for the position of junior high mathematics teacher for the 2024-25 school year.*

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

*Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve Julia Holbert for the position of elementary special education teacher for the 2024-25 school year.*

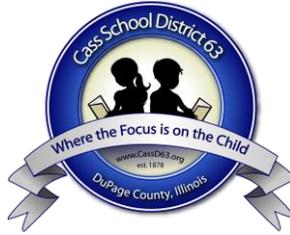
Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Mitha, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.

*Member Marinelli moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve Jennifer Kirkpatrick for the position of elementary special education teacher for the 2024-25 school year.*

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

*Member Green moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve Kali Sheldon for the position of elementary music teacher for the 2024-25 school year.*

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



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*Member Mitha moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve Jeanne Erickson for the position of junior high language arts and social studies teacher for the 2024-25 school year.*

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

*Member Green moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve Kelly Glimco for the position of Concord teacher assistant effective March 4, 2024.*

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

#### **V. Conclusion**

##### **A. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

##### **B. Board Member Comments**

Katie Marinelli asked about the Darien Police Department's commitment to walking the buildings to continue to learn the layout as part of the district's effort to improve safety and security. Mr. Cross shared that he emphasizes the importance of this with the leadership at the department, and will continue to communicate this and emphasize that the district welcomes the police presence at school at all times.

Lana Johnson thanked Katie Doyle for the very informative presentation and kudos to all the teachers for all the work they have done to get all the kids back on academic track since the pandemic.



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#### **VII. Adjournment**

*Member Green moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of February 20, 2024 at 9:00 p.m.*

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

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Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary