



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 16, 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 7:00 P.M. on the 16th Day of March, 2021.

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 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

Closed Session

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

Member Johnson moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing information regarding the employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of school district employees.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

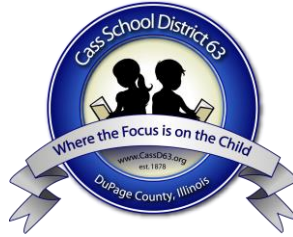
Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Motion carried, 5 to 0.



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Return to Open Session

Open Session returned at 7:46 p.m.

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:

Megan Duffy-Legan
Christy Sells
Urszula Tanouye

Matt Etherington
Courtney Cozzolino
Thomas North

Steve Wyent
Fiyaz Khan

Secretary Esposito announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 and shared that the District received the following correspondence:

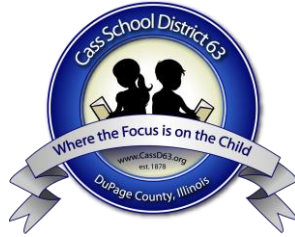
1. Freedom of Information request from Vince Espi
2. Thank you note from the family of Mary Kay McSheffery

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of February 16, 2021 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



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E. Approval of Request for Employee Leave of Absence

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito 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.

Reports, Updates and Informational Items

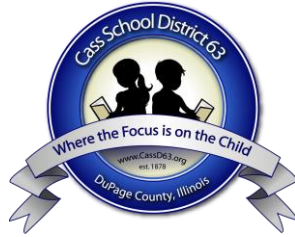
A. Administrative Reports

Dr. Anderson stated that Concord is making final preparations for all students to come back next week.

Principal Marcinkewicz shared that scholastic bowl is currently taking place and that soccer tryouts and track and field will be starting soon.

Mr. Cross discussed Board Committees with the idea of establishing new committees immediately after the new Board is seated. Mr. Cross would like to hold a Finance Committee meeting as soon as possible to review the FY22 budget.

Mr. Cross shared that while the district would like to begin offering B.A.S.E. again in the fall, the administration does not have enough interested staff to run the program. The administration has been working at trying to find a solution including the possibility of bringing in an outside company to run the program. Mr. Cross will also seek community assistance and will keep the Board updated on the status of the B.A.S. E. program for next year.



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Finally, Mr. Cross shared that over the past few days he has been participating in Impact Aid conferences along with the District's Impact Aid consultant Terry Tamblin and learning about NAFIS (National Association of Federally Impacted Schools). Normally the conference is held in Washington, D.C. but this year the conference is virtual. Mr. Cross will share more with the Board at a later date regarding the district's reliance on federal impact aid.

B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

Lana Johnson stated that this is the time of year that CARE is trying to recruit new Board Members for the coming school year. If anyone is interested they should reach out to CARE.

C. Presentation of 2021-22 School District Fees

Superintendent Cross presented the proposed 2021-22 school year fees. The recommendation is to lower Cass Junior High School fees and raise Concord Elementary School fees to make the fees more consistent between the buildings. Bus fees are recommended to be lowered as well. In effort to control cost and focus resources where needed the most, the administration is recommending that the activity bus at Cass Junior High be eliminated but the early morning Encore program bus will remain. Buses to and from extracurricular events at other schools would remain.

D. Presentation Regarding Student Learning and Academic Growth

Principal Anderson, along with teachers Courtney Cozzolino and Christy Sells discussed student learning and academic growth highlighting reading and math deficits and the challenges in trying to gauge the progress of our Kindergarten students stating that it is hard to truly evaluate Kindergarten student's progress when they are unable to play, interact or share. The teachers believe that even with the challenges this school year has presented, Kindergarten students will be ready for first grade in terms of reading.



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In reviewing math scores, students, while largely holding strong with reading despite the pandemic, have taken more of a hit at the lower grade levels in particular. As a result and after much discussion and planning, the district plans to reassign staff internally to provide direct math interventions to our younger students at Concord Elementary beginning this fall. With the upper-level math scores, we expect a drop from elementary to junior high as we “skip” one year to accelerate our students. By the time our students are in high school, they are a step or two ahead as a result.

The next step is to look at the NWEA test scores in May which will help us understand where the students are, where they are struggling and what they have mastered so appropriate planning for the coming school year can take place.

E. Presentation Regarding the School Reimagined 3.0 Return to Learn Framework

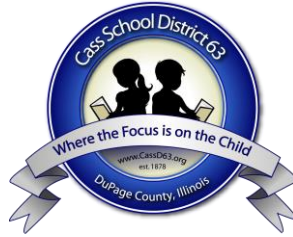
Superintendent Cross reviewed School Reimagined 3.0 highlighting the challenges with creating the bus routes and planning for lunches. He noted that Cass Junior High has added more plexiglass shields to help assist with keeping students distanced during lunches in certain areas. Additionally, windows will be opened during lunch as feasible to allow circulation, students will eat outside whenever possible and students must face forward. As soon as students finish their lunches, masks must be put back on.

Regarding spring break, families are asked to be forthcoming if they took a high risk vacation and remain at home to quarantine before returning to in-person learning. Finally, families should make note that beginning on April 12, if a student is an in-person student, they will no longer be able to opt to remain at home on a given day and attend through remote learning unless they are quarantined.

Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of the 2021-22 School District Fees

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the 2021-22 school district fees as presented.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Motion carried, 5 to 0.

B. Approval of the School Reimagined 3.0 Return to Learn Framework

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the School Reimagined 3.0 Return to Learn Framework as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Motion carried, 5 to 0.

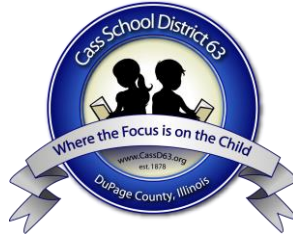
C. Acceptance of Resignations

Member Patel moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the resignations of Teacher Melissa Patterson, Teacher Rebekah Weglarz and Teacher Assistant Megan Sandrik effective at the close of the 2020-21 school year as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay



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President Camden
Vice President Absalonsen
Secretary Esposito
Member Johnson
Member Patel

Motion carried, 5 to 0.

D. Approval of Requests for Retirement

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the retirement requests of teachers Jen Callahan, Karen Hyder and Audrey Vaci effective at the close of the 2024-25 school year.

Roll call

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
President Camden	
Vice President Absalonsen	
Secretary Esposito	
Member Johnson	
Member Patel	

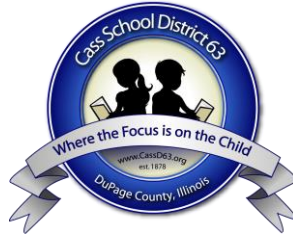
Motion carried, 5 to 0.

E. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Member Johnson moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the employment of Deysi Miranda as Cass Junior High School Custodian and Alexandra Gula as Cass Junior High School Teacher Assistant as presented.

Roll call

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
President Camden	
Vice President Absalonsen	
Secretary Esposito	



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Member Johnson
Member Patel

Motion carried, 5 to 0.

F. Approval of 2021-22 Assistant Principal Contracts

Member Patel moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the one year contracts for Concord Elementary School Assistant Principal Doyle and Cass Junior High School Assistant Principal Michelle Roberts as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden
Vice President Absalonsen
Secretary Esposito
Member Johnson
Member Patel

Motion carried, 5 to 0.

G. Approval of 2021-22 Employee Salaries

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the support staff salary increases for the 2021-22 school year.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden
Vice President Absalonsen
Secretary Esposito
Member Johnson
Member Patel

Motion carried, 5 to 0.



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H. Authorization to Establish an In-District Multi-Needs Special Education Program

Member Johnson moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the authorization to establish an in-district multi-needs special education program for the 2021-22 school year.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Motion carried, 5 to 0.

Conclusion

A. Public Comments

- Urszula Tanouye stated that she is concerned that removing the 5:00 p.m. activity bus at Cass Junior High may discourage participation. She then suggested that the District consider offering a math camp. Mrs. Tanouye questioned the criteria that would be considered to allow students to stay home or attend school virtually. It was explained that the District is looking to stop the "back and forth" out of convenience with home learning so that there is consistency based on health needs and science, rather than personal preference. She also asked about the special education classroom and it was explained that the District is planning to bring some of the students who are currently outplaced back into the District to be educated. Mr. Cross added that the district will look for ways to assist families if participation is impacted, but most districts do not provide an activity bus for daily practices.



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Board Member Remarks

- Kent Absalonsen inquired regarding the approximately \$200,000 in ESSER II funding allocation the District could be receiving. Superintendent Cross responded that the allocation is being treated as a grant and are reviewing the rules and how to best and most efficiently utilize the funding, potentially in conjunction with other grant funding that could be available to the district. The administration has been discussing this allocation along with other funding that could be forthcoming that can be used to offset staffing costs such as to cover the cost of the math interventionist in the short-term, as well as possibly addressing HVAC issues in the longer term. Mr. Cross will share more details regarding work the district is doing with our architect, engineer and district staff to map our plans and priorities related to HVAC needs and costs.
- Superintendent Cross announced that at the April 27, 2021 meeting we will be honoring outgoing board members Jeff McCollian, Mike Ockrim and Brad Carrino.

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of March 16, 2021 at 9:31 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 5 to 0.

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary