



## **CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63**

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

# **Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

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 18th Day of May, 2021.

### **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

#### **A. Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **B. Roll Call**

Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: President Shelly Camden, Vice President Kent Absalonsen, Secretary Alice Esposito, Member Lana Johnson, Member Rinku Patel, Member Urszula Tanouye and Member Steve Wyent.

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

#### **C. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Cross requested that the Board approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

*Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion carried 7 to 0.*

#### **D. Recognition of 2020-21 Retirees and District Staff Years of Service**

The Board of Education, President Shelly Camden and Mr. Cross recognized staff members Maggie Adelman, Matt Etherington, Jeff Grand and Christine Marcinkewicz for reaching 10 years of service in the district. Also recognized was Mary Kate Favia and Ginny Hirhager for reaching 15 years of service and



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Kristie Miller, Susan Paszkowski and Amy Pollitz for 20 years of service to our students.

Also recognized at the meeting was Concord music teacher Angela Zurawski and former technology assistant Dana Dolehide for receiving the Those Who Excel awards through the Illinois State Board of Education.

Finally, the Board recognized retiring staff members Bob Sniegowski and Theresa Murphy. Mr. Sniegowski retired in January after nearly 41 years of service as custodian at Cass Junior High School, while Mrs. Murphy is retiring at the end of the current school year after 19 years as a speech pathologist at both schools.

The Board thanked and congratulated these dedicated employees of Cass 63.

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

President Camden welcomed:

Keith Monaco	Kristyn McElligott	Matt Etherington
Angela Zurawski	Joe Zurawski	Sue Lyons
Maggie Adelman	Filomena DeChiara-Manna	Bob Sniegowski
Katie Fujiura	Deb Dolehide	Mike McLean

Secretary Esposito announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There was one FOIA request from SMART Local 265.

#### **F. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of April 27, 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes**
- B. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- C. Approval of District Bills**

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



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

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

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

Principal Anderson stated that Concord has finalized their 4<sup>th</sup> grade clap-out plans which include a videographer to record the activities. She also noted that field day schedules have been finalized and the dance into summer tradition will continue. Teachers are planning for summer curriculum work and for the next school year. The math intervention team is ready and the District has purchased IXL to help with the math and reading intervention. IXL is a program that can help students of all skill levels as the program adjusts according to ability.

Principal Marcinkewicz shared that the staff is working hard to pull together the final details for a special graduation for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Mr. Cross announced that the Facilities Committee is meeting Thursday at 6:00 p.m. They will be discussing the proposed summer maintenance work and the direction the district is considering to address HVAC needs. He added that at the June board meeting, the fiscal year 2022 budget will be presented. He stated that as the district works toward its approach to be conservative and build fund balances, he does not expect the need for issuing tax anticipation warrants.

Mr. Cross then discussed the future of before and after school care in the district. After making every effort to identify staff to manage and run the



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program, the administration made the decision to meet with Ivy League Kids as a potential third party provided for before and after school care. This program, depending upon the hours utilized, may end up being less expensive than the previous BASE program.

Member Wyent stated that he likes the idea of an independent group running the before and after school program. Member Patel noted that on the price list there is a "drop-off" price quoted and he asked what a drop off is. It was explained that Ivy League Kids allows parents to drop off unregistered children, but the rate is much higher. Along with representatives of Ivy League Kids, Mr. Cross is planning to meet with parents to present information and answer questions. He hopes to make a final recommendation at the June Board meeting.

#### **B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding**

Lana Johnson stated that CARE held its last meeting of the school year on May 10. The officers were elected and meeting dates set for the 2021-22 school year.

#### **C. Updates Regarding Current Health Guidance and Planning**

Mr. Cross stated that there will be no changes to the mitigation rules in place between now and the end of the school year. He added that things are changing very quickly and staff remains hopeful that vaccines will be available for children under the age of 12 sometime over the summer. At this time, the state is saying that they do not want schools to offer remote instruction in the fall unless individuals meet very narrow criteria related to not being eligible for vaccinations and also being quarantined. The administration will work on this, possibly with a smaller version of the previous Return to Learn Committee when further guidance is provided and closer to the school year.

Member Tanouye expressed concerns for the cautious parents who would rather not send their kids or who choose to home school their kids. She wondered how would we accommodate those students when they return to in person school. Mr. Cross responded that he has spoken to some of those parents and their children would be treated as any other private school student returning to public schools. Regarding the guidance, he stated that it



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is not the district's intention to offer remote instruction unless health guidance requires the district to do so.

#### **D. Review of Recommended Summer 2021 Maintenance Projects**

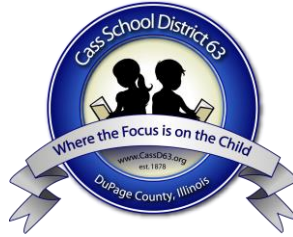
Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended summer maintenance projects which focused on immediate needs including roof shingle repair, rooftop unit repairs, refrigerator and water cooler replacement at Concord and door frame replacements, concrete and sidewalk repairs, thermostat replacement and boiler tube replacement at Cass. Mr. Cross added that between the funds still in the budget and the probability of grant funds coming through in the near future, we anticipate that we may be able to address some higher expense HVAC needs in 2022.

Member Tanouye asked if just the thermostats need to be replaced and it was explained that 17 thermostats need to be replaced and that Wayne Ostrowski will be installing them.

Secretary Esposito wondered if the district replaces the boiler tube, will that extend the life of the boiler and Mr. Cross stated that the engineer stated that with this and other routine maintenance, it will extend the life of the boiler by about 12 to 15 and possibly up to 20 years.

#### **E. Discussion Regarding Process for Goal Setting and Strategic Planning**

President Camden stated that it has been a long time since the Board went through this process and she and Mr. Cross discussed establishing Board goals. She asked if the Board was interested in developing a strategic plan and if yes, would the Board prefer to hire a facilitator to work with or to develop it more internally. After some discussion it was decided that the Board would like to develop the strategic plan internally and with less formality to create a functioning document to help the Board monitor progress toward goals, possibly seeking input from staff and community members through surveys. Mr. Cross shared some experiences as well and will provide more information and possible options at an upcoming meeting.



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#### **F. Presentation of Resolution Appointing School Treasurer & Surety Bonds**

Mr. Cross stated that this is a standard resolution required by law to help protect the district from financial fraud.

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

##### **A. Approval of Recommended Summer Maintenance Projects**

*Vice President Absalonsen moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the recommended summer maintenance projects as presented.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

##### **B. Approval of Special Education Student Transportation Services Contract**

*Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the recommended special education student services transportation contract as presented.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

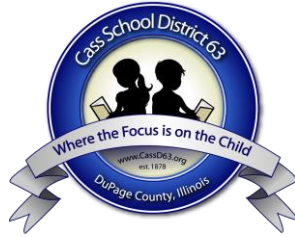
Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden



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Motion carried, 7 to 0.

**C. Approval of Resolution Appointing School District Treasurer and Surety Bond**

*Member Wyent moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the resolution appointing the school district treasurer and surety bond as presented.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Wyent  
Vice President Absalonsen  
Member Johnson  
Member Patel  
Member Tanouye  
Secretary Esposito  
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

**D. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for the Provision of Lunch Services**

*Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Center Cass School District 66 for the provision of lunch services as presented.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson  
Secretary Esposito  
Member Patel  
Member Tanouye  
Member Wyent  
Vice President Absalonsen  
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.



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#### **E. Employment of Recommended Personnel**

*Member Patel moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve Andrew Petigo as a physical education and health teacher and Caitlin Finan as kindergarten teacher effective the start of the 2021-22 school year.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Patel

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

#### **F. Acceptance of Resignations**

*Vice President Absalonsen moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Brad Cardott as a physical education and health teacher.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

#### **V. Conclusion**

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

There was no public comment.





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#### **B. Board Member Remarks**

Member Johnson thanked Mr. Cross and everyone else who worked to find a replacement option for a new before and after school care program. She then thanked the retirees and the staff members reaching milestone years of service for their dedication to Cass School District 63.

President Camden thanked the principals, teachers and staff for all their hard work this school year and noted that they have continued to meet the high expectations of the Board regardless of the difficulties of the school year.

Teacher Katie Fujaira thanked the Board on behalf of the teachers for all of their support getting through this school year and for allowing them to keep the remote Fridays for their planning throughout the school year.

#### **C. Adjournment**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 18, 2021 at 9:02 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 7 to 0.*

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Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary