



## **CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63**

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

# **Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

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 20th Day of May, 2025.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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, and Steve Wyent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross and Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson.

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

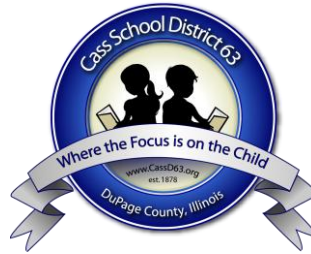
President Johnson welcomed the large crowd in attendance to celebrate our retirees and employee recognition for years of service. Mrs. Johnson shared the District received a FOIA request from Abbas Khan from Inovo AI LLC.

#### **D. Appointment of Candidate to Fill the Board of Education Vacancy**

Mrs. Johnson announced that Fiyaz Khan has been appointed by the Board to fill the seat that Liz Mitha resigned from in April after becoming a member of the Hinsdale District 86 Board. Everyone welcomed Mr. Khan, who will complete the remaining two years of the unexpired term.

#### **E. Oath of Office for Newly Appointed Member of the Board of Education**

Mrs. Johnson invited all the Board members to join Mr. Khan in taking the Oath of Office.



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#### **F. Student and Staff Spotlight – 2025 Retirees and Years of Service**

Mr. Cross verbally recognized the entire Cass 63 staff as we recently celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week. Additionally, he recognized Katie Beringer at Concord Elementary and Sarah Acitelli at Cass Junior High in honor of National School Nurse Day, and highlighted Julie Bartell who stepped into the role of interim assistant principal and has been great asset to the Concord staff. In honor of school lunch hero day, Mr. Cross thanked Just A Dash and their staff who work in our schools, including Francis and Rahila at Cass and Stephanie and Alexis at Concord, as well as Amanda who oversees our District.

Mr. Cross and Mrs. Johnson recognized Kristyn McElligott and Lia Lamb who have reached 10 years of service and Jane York who and Jim Bundy have reached 25 Years of service up to present them with a gift and thank them for their dedication and years of service in the District.

Mrs. Johnson then invited retirees Audrey Vaci, Jennifer Callahan, and Karen Hyder forward present them with a gift and to thank them for their service. All three retirees shared a few words and thanked the Board for their support during their time in the District. Retirees Laura Anderson, Becky Kriz, and Joe Messina were not in attendance, but were also recognized.

#### **G. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the April 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the May 13, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes**
- D. Approval of the May 13, 2025 Closed Meeting Minutes**
- E. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- F. Approval of the District Bills**
- G. Approval of Resignations**



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Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda announcing the resignations of Concord special education teacher Julia Holbert and Cass Junior High nurse Sarah Acitelli effective at the close of the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Cross then discussed the 2024-25 cash flow and at this time it is looking like we will end the fiscal year with a healthy fund balance, but noted that there are still some outstanding invoices from last summer's HVAC work.

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

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

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

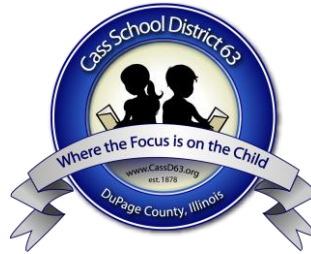
#### **A. Administrative Reports**

Mr. Cross gave a quick update on Concord and Cass highlighting the Jazz and Art Show, the CARE book fair at Concord, and the 8th grade Washington, DC trip our students are currently experiencing. He then announced that 8th grade student Skylar Herbert qualified to compete in three events at the IESA state track meet this upcoming weekend.

Mr. Cross reminded the Board that registration for the Joint Annual Conference is coming up on June 2, and shared that Darien Mayor Joe Marchese invited him to attend a recent Darien Business Alliance meeting. The DBA will replace the Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Cross stated that he feels it would be beneficial to the district to join the DBA.

#### **B. Presentation of Tentative Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025**

Mr. Cross presented a tentative amended budget for fiscal year 2025 to account for unanticipated transportation and planned capital project related expenses. There will be a public hearing regarding the amended budget on June 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.



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#### **C. Discussion Regarding Board Committees and Appointments**

Mrs. Johnson reviewed the Board committees and appointments and noted that most of the committees stayed the same except moving Katie Marinelli to the chair of the Teaching and Learning committee, and adding Fiyaz Khan to the Finance Committee as a Board Member.

#### **D. Discussion Regarding Board of Education Agreements and Protocols**

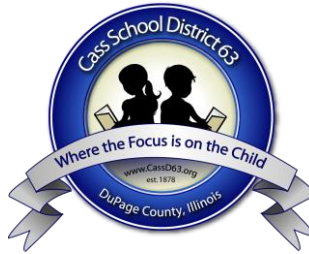
Mr. Cross briefly reviewed the current Board Agreements and Protocols that have been in place since 2021. He said the protocols have been a model for other districts and recommended that the Board continue with the same or very similar protocols going forward to memorialize the current successful practices that are in place. President Johnson agreed and asked if any Board members felt there needed to be any changes.

Board member Urszula Tanouye requested an agenda item be added as a discussion at a future meeting regarding establishing broader methods of community outreach and connection. A brief discussion provided feedback on the concept, members' understandings and opinions of their role and obligations, and a suggestion that this discussion might be best pursued first in a committee to clarify scope and goals.

#### **E. Presentation Regarding the Educational Benefit Cooperative**

Mr. Cross and Deb Dolehide have researched an insurance cooperative for the future of the district's Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance plan. There are a number of benefits to joining the Educational Benefit Cooperative and if the Board agrees to move forward, the process to join takes 18 months and the district would need to work with Gallagher as the new broker starting July 1, 2025. Nothing about the District's current coverage will change due to joining and Mr. Cross shared that the insurance committee was also very supportive of making the change.

Mr. Cross and Board member Steve Wyent also talked about the importance of longer-term stability with the EBC, which has been in existence since 1985 and includes approximately 130 school districts.



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#### **F. Update Regarding Summer 2025 Phase Two Facility Projects**

Mr. Cross stated that because the district is replacing flooring, existing materials were tested and confirmed that some asbestos abatement is required in specified areas. Our consultants at Midwest Environmental sought competitive bids and M & O had the low base and alternate bids at Concord Elementary totaling \$65,000 and Cass Junior High totaling \$31,200.

#### **G. First Reading of Recommended Board Policy Updates**

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended board policy updates which largely revolve around new recommended policy 7:255 *Students Who Are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence*. There are also some changes in regards to Artificial Intelligence and Title IX. The Board will be asked to approve the recommendations at the next meeting.

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

#### **A. Approval of the Tentative Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025**

*Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the tentative amended budget for fiscal year 2025.*

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

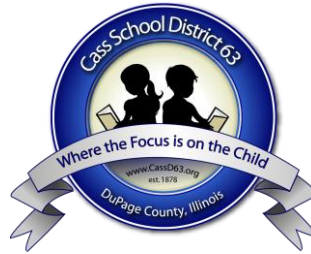
#### **B. Approval of Date, Time, and Location for the FY25 Budget Hearing**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve June 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the fiscal year 2025 budget hearing.*

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

#### **C. Approval of Board of Education Agreements and Protocols**

*Member Green moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to approve the Board of Education Agreements and Protocols.*



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

#### **D. Approval of Board of Education Committees and Appointments**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to approve the Board of Education Committees and Appointments.*

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

#### **E. Approval of Gallagher as Employee Health, Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Broker, Effective July 1, 2025.**

*Member Green moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to approve Gallagher as Employee Health, Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Broker, effective July 1, 2025.*

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

#### **F. Approval of Recommended Bids for 2025 Asbestos Abatement**

*Member Khan moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the recommended low base and alternate bids from M & O Companies for the asbestos abatement projects at Concord Elementary totaling \$65,000 and Cass Junior High totaling \$31,200.*

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

#### **G. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association**



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Mr. Cross explained that this Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted with the Cass Education Association (CEA) to accommodate an individual teacher's voluntary temporary reduction to part time status that was mutually beneficial and agreeable to the district.

*Member Green moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association.*

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

#### **V. Conclusion**

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

There was no public comment.

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

All Board members extended their welcome to Fiyaz Khan.

##### **C. Adjournment**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of May 20, 2025 at 9:33 p.m.*

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Khan, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, 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