

CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 24, 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 24th Day of June, 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, and Members Chris Green, Fiyaz Khan, Katie Marinelli, and Steve Wyent. Secretary Urszula Tanouye attended the meeting by phone.

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

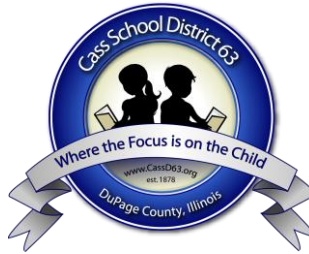
C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

There were no audience members present. Mrs. Johnson shared the FOIA request from CT Mills and thank you notes from Jennifer Callahan, Karen Hyder, Laura Anderson, Becky Kriz, Audrey Vaci, and Julie Bartell.

D. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

Mr. Cross congratulated former student Sam Johnson on successfully starting a free reading intervention tutoring service which now serves over 50 students and includes over 40 tutors.

Mr. Cross recognized Bridget Gilmartin for stepping into the interim social worker position to finish out the year at Cass Junior High, noting that she did an outstanding job filling this important position. He then acknowledged all of our administrative assistants and office staff in honor of Administrative Professionals Day stating how fortunate the District is to have some awesome people working in our school offices.



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E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the June 24, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the June 2025 District Bills**
- D. Approval to Prepay July 2025 District Bills**
- E. Approval of the Monthly Financial Reports**
- F. Approval of Personnel Recommendations**

Mr. Cross presented the following candidates for positions effective for the 2025-26 school year: 3rd grade teacher Jamie Adams, Concord special education teacher Jessica McGinness, and Cass Junior High nurse Amy Lesnicki.

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda announcing the resignation of Cass Junior High STEAM teacher Matt Etherington, who has accepted an assistant principal position in a neighboring school district.

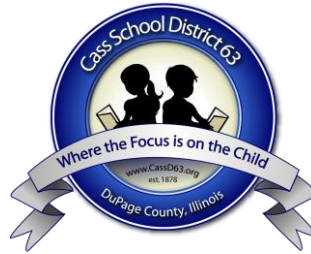
Mr. Cross stated that Scott Kondraschow has requested FMLA from September 3 to October 10 and Kristyn McElligott has requested FMLA from August 18 to November 21, 2025.

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

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

III. Public Presentation and Hearing for the Amended FY25 Budget

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to open the public presentation and hearing for the Amended FY25 Budget.



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

Mr. Cross presented an amended FY25 budget to account for unanticipated special transportation costs, as well as costs from Phase II facility updates. The total increase in budgeted expenditures is \$113,000 in the transportation fund and \$748,000 in the capital projects fund. There was an increase in revenue of \$2,865,042 from the recent award of the federal energy tax credit, as well as a matching school maintenance grant of \$50,000, both in the capital projects fund.

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to close the public presentation and hearing for the Amended FY25 Budget.

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

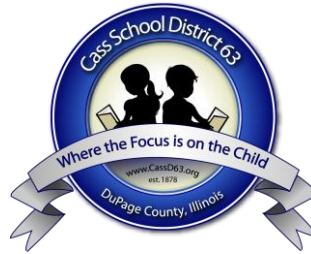
IV. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Mr. Cross shared that six of our seven board members are attending the Joint Annual Conference in November. He also shared the potential move to Board meeting document platforms to potentially consider, even though it may be prudent to wait until the new superintendent is hired to make that decision. Mr. Cross also shared an update on the transition to Skyward for student management and ParentSquare as our parent communication system. Parent Square works very well with Skyward and is a much more updated and flexible program that should be helpful in our communications with families.

B. Presentation of Strategic Plan Progress Review

The Board of Education reviewed progress on the district's Vision 2025 Strategic Plan. Adopted in 2021, the plan includes three pillars and 21 indicators of success to provide the Board with an overview of progress made since the last update in January 2025. Mr. Cross shared several updates, including significant growth on indicators 2A, 2F, 2G, 3C, and 3F.



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C. Federal Impact Aid Advocacy Funding Report

Mr. Cross noted that the District has received all expected Impact Aid for fiscal year 2025. At this time, we are uncertain about fiscal year 2026. Mr. Cross stated that he plans on continuing as the Impact Aid advocate as long as the Board and the new superintendent are supportive after he retires.

D. Second Reading of Recommended Board Policy Updates

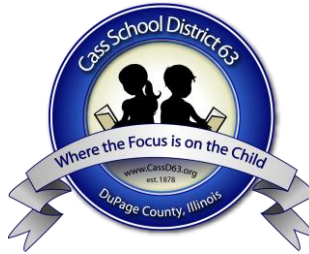
Mr. Cross reviewed recommended policy updates highlighting the artificial intelligence policy noting that the policy will likely intentionally remain vague for now as AI and how it will affect and change education is quickly evolving. The Board would like an agenda item for an upcoming meeting regarding the District's plan to begin implementation of AI.

E. Update Regarding Summer 2025 Phase Two Facility Projects

Mr. Cross gave an update on the summer renovation work including the Concord playground, the Cass Junior High gym, the music rooms, new flooring, full LED lighting at Cass, and plumbing issues discovered at Concord that will be resolved with a change order. He also formally announced that the District received a \$2.865 million energy tax credit for the geothermal work done last summer, with the intention of utilizing these funds for continued facility improvements and long-term energy savings. Mr. Cross commended the Board for the vision it has taken for the many improvements to happen.

F. Update and Discussion Regarding the Superintendent Search Process

Mrs. Johnson reviewed the recommended timeline for the search for the new superintendent with the plan to formally announce Mr. Cross's retirement on July 15 followed by the release of a survey for staff, families, and community members on July 31. This survey will help the Board develop the leadership characteristics and profile needed for the vacancy announcement. This is expected to be released in late August. The Board will meet the screening consultants at the August meeting, and special meetings for interviews have already been scheduled. It is anticipated that the new superintendent will be hired in December, and will transition with Mr. Cross over the following six months before officially taking over July 1, 2026.



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V. Recommended Action Items

A. Adoption of the Amended Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

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

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

B. Approval of 2025-26 School Lunch Prices

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the 2025-26 school lunch prices at \$4.00 per student lunch, \$4.50 for adult lunch, and .40 for reduced priced lunches.

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

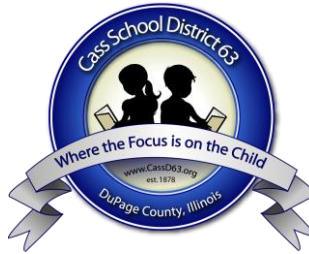
C. Approval of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Member Khan moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the recommended board policy updates.

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

D. Authorization of the Superintendent to Approve Summer 2025 Phase Two Project Change Orders Made in Writing, Per the Requirements of 720 ILCS 5/33E-9

Member Khan moved and Member Green seconded a motion to authorize the superintendent to approve summer 2025 phase two project change orders made in writing, per the requirements of 720 ILCS 5/33E-9.



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

VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

B. Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

C. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of June 24, 2025 at 9:33 p.m.

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Khan, Member Green, Member Marinelli, 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