



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 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 23rd Day of September, 2021.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

A. Roll Call

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

Also in attendance:

Mark R. Cross, Superintendent of Schools, Christine Marcinkewicz, Cass Junior High School Principal, Laura Anderson, Concord Elementary School Principal, Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

II. Welcome

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Camden welcomed the following guests: Krista Jamrose, Katie Summers, Katie Fujiura and Shelby Riha.

Secretary Esposito announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There were three FOIA requests that were fulfilled by the District FOIA Officer.

C. Public Comments

- Shelby Riha has two children at Concord and she wanted to extend her appreciation and kudos to the Concord staff including the math



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2021

interventionist. While her children have work to do, they have come so far already this year and she is very appreciative of the hard work the Concord staff is putting in to help students bridge the gaps.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the September 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the August 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the August 17, 2021 Closed Meeting Minutes**
- D. Approval of the September 7, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes**
- E. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- F. Approval of District Bills**
- G. Approval of the Request for Employee Leave of Absence**

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

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

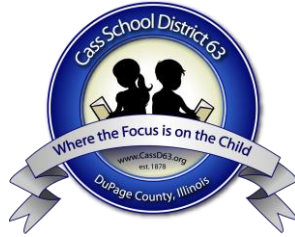
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

IV. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

- Christine Marcinkewicz shared that the start of school year has gotten off to a great start highlighting the September 11 activities and extended appreciation for the amount of students that were involved in the Darien Remembers activities. She added that the school is starting to get back to



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2021

normal with sports and activities being offered again along with academics and it is great to see.

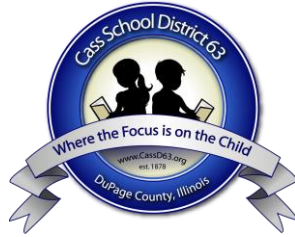
- Dr. Anderson stated that the school year has started off well at Concord. She did note that some of the younger students are struggling to adjust to being in school five days a week for full days. The staff anticipated that social emotional learning would be needed this year more than ever and they were prepared to address this. The math interventionist and reading specialist have been working with students and identifying and addressing potential deficits.
- Both principals mentioned the difficulties they have experienced due to a recent TikTok video encouraging vandalism in schools. The issues related to social media encouragement of misbehavior at school was discussed and Mr. Cross will address this with parents in his communications.
- Mr. Cross stated that over the last few days, he was attending the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) conference. This was his first experience with NAFIS and he would like to get more involved. Mr. Cross shared that he would like to do a presentation at an upcoming board meeting on how the unique funding works related to our federal impact aid. There are only eight school districts in Illinois and just over 200 across the United States that are a part of NAFIS and receive federal impact aid.

B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

Lana Johnson shared that CARE held its meeting on Monday, September 13. CARE recently held is Cass63 Dash that was successful and announced that the BBQ Bash is coming up on October 13. At the CARE meeting, Becky Kriz was awarded a CARE grant in the amount of \$1,400 to cover the cost of an accompanist for the Cass Junior High choir programs.

C. 2021-22 School Year Enrollment Update

Mr. Cross reviewed the current year's enrollment noting that the enrollment has held very steady from last year to this year.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2021

D. Annual Report on Contracts Exceeding \$25,000

Mr. Cross reviewed the contracts exceeding \$25,000. This report is available on the District's website.

E. Annual Report of Salary, Compensation and Benefits

Mr. Cross reviewed the salary compensation and benefits report. This report is available on the District's website.

F. Final Presentation of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended board policy updates. There have been no changes since last month when the policies were presented. He stated that most are routine in nature and recommended from the PRESS service.

G. Update and Discussion Regarding Goal Setting and Strategic Planning

Mr. Cross stated that he is working on the draft of the final strategic plan and will work to make it available for the Board to review. He reminded the Board that there is no timeline required for final approval and adoption, but regardless it should be complete this fall.

H. Presentation Regarding School Maintenance Matching Grant Application

Mr. Cross reviewed the maintenance grant and explained that the state offers this matching grant of up to \$50,000 to be used for specified maintenance projects. The district is applying for this grant to be used for HVAC needs at Concord Elementary. The district has two years to complete the work noted in the grant and reimbursement is generally fairly quick if the district is successful in obtaining funding.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2021

I. Update and Discussion Regarding Stay Healthy Stay Smart Back to School Plan

Mr. Cross shared that new health guidance was just received and he is using this to adjust our plan accordingly. One of the biggest adjustments will be that that test-to-stay option for students can now be decided upon by each school district and can be permitted under certain guidelines. The district is working with Northshore to prepare to begin implementation of testing for symptoms as needed, weekly screening testing, and now test-to-stay.

V. Recommended Action Items

A. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Member Johnson moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve Katie Robinson as contractual part-time school district nurse.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Member Wyent

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

B. Adoption of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to adopt the recommended board policy updates as presented.

Roll call

Aye

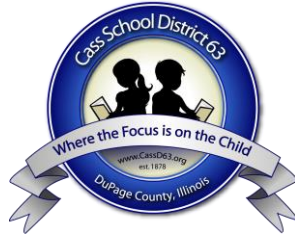
Nay

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2021

Member Wyent
Secretary Esposito
President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

C. Approval of School Maintenance Matching Grant Application

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the School Maintenance Matching Grant Application as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

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

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

D. Approval of Stay Healthy, Stay Smart Back to School Plan

Member Patel moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the updated Stay Healthy, Stay Smart Back to School Plan.

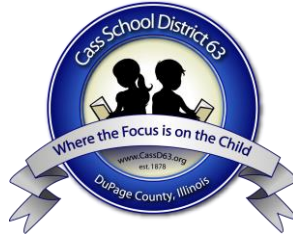
Roll call

Aye

Nay

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

Motion carried, 7 to 0.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2021

VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

- There was no public comment.

B. Board Member Comments

- Shelly Camden thanked administrators, teachers and staff for their hard work during this ever changing climate and continuing to make it all work on a daily basis.

Member Johnson moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to go into Closed Session at 8:08 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of information regarding the employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of school district employees.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

VII. Closed Session

Discussion of Information Regarding the Employment, Compensation, Performance, or Dismissal of School District Employees

VIII. Adjournment

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 23, 2021 at 8:34 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 7 to 0.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 23, 2021

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary