



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

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 23rd Day of January, 2024.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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, Liz Mitha and Steve Wyent.

Also in attendance: Mark R. Cross, Superintendent and Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

There were no audience members.

President Johnson shared that the District had received FOIA requests from Lynn Sebold, Canon Solutions and Nathan Mihelich, Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the January 23, 2024 Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the December 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports

D. Approval of the District Bills

E. Approval of Employee Resignations



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Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda, highlighting January invoices, as well as a resignation from Concord Special Education teacher Jamie Tinucci.

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

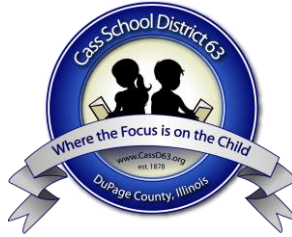
Mr. Cross reviewed the Principals' Reports highlighting upcoming events including prekindergarten screening and kindergarten round up.

Mr. Cross and the Board discussed the recent weather-related school closings. He reviewed the concerns with the idea of utilizing late start days instead of a full-day e-Learning Day, particularly with transportation and schedules that still require 5 clock hours of instruction. Mr. Cross also shared on the possibility of adding a baseball program for this fall at Cass Junior High, as well as an update on the progress made in researching options for the lunch program starting with the 2024-25 school year. Visits at local schools continue and he will be providing a survey to parents to get their feedback on quality and cost to help guide decision making.

B. Strategic Plan Progress Review

The Board of Education reviewed progress on the district's Strategic Plan. Adopted in 2021, the plan includes three pillars and 21 indicators of success to provide the leadership team and Board with an overview of progress made since the last update in June 2023.

Board members acknowledged the great progress that has been made over the last two years, with continued focus on specific areas for continued growth. Mr. Cross said that there is a rarely a time where all goals will be



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accomplished, as the focus should remain on continuous growth and improvement. He also pointed out several areas of the plan that will see significant progress in 2024.

C. Second Reading of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended policy updates highlighting several important changes. He will work with the district nurse and leadership team on implementation of the opioid antagonist program.

D. Update and Discussion Regarding Facility, Safety and Security Projects

Mr. Cross stated that with the digging of the wells is complete at the junior high and has commenced at Concord. He said his time and focus with the architect, engineer, and general contractor is on the summer of 2024. Meetings have been taking place every two weeks.

Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of Discussion of Information Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of District Employees and for the Review and Consideration of Release of Closed Session Minutes Held on the Following Dates as Noted in Minutes in Which the Need for Confidentiality Remains: August 22, 2023

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

IV. Closed Session

For the purpose of Discussion of Information Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of District Employees and for the Review and Consideration of Release of Closed Session Minutes Held on the Following Dates as Noted in Minutes in Which the Need for Confidentiality Remains: August 22, 2023



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V. Recommended Action Items

A. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Member Mitha moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve Julia Holbert for the position of special education teacher at Concord Elementary for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year, effective January 12, 2024.

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

Secretary Tanouye moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve Danielle Christiano for the position of teacher assistant at Concord Elementary for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year, effective January 24, 2024.

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

B. Approval of the 2024-25 School Year Calendar

Member Mitha moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the 2024-25 school calendar.

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

C. Approval of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Member Marinelli moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the recommended Board policy updates.

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



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D. Approval of Contract for Special Services Consultant

Mr. Cross recommended that the Board approve a temporary 15 day contractual position for Special Services Consultant Cathy Fisher. This position will provide a comprehensive review of special services to align multi-tiered systems of support, Section 504, and special education services, while seeking stakeholder input and providing compliance guidance as well.

Member Mitha moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve Cathy Fisher as a Special Services Consultant for a maximum of 15 days for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.

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

E. Approval to Release Closed Session Minutes with Exceptions as Noted

Member Marinelli moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the release of closed session minutes from August 16, 2023.

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

F. Authorization of Destruction of Verbatim Audio Records from Closed Sessions Held Prior to July 1, 2022

Secretary Tanouye moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to authorize the destruction of verbatim audio records from Closed Sessions Held Prior to July 1, 2022.

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



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VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

B. Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

VII. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of January 23, 2024 at 9:35 p.m.

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

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary