



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

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 14th Day of November, 2023.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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, Christine Marcinkewicz, Cass Junior High School Principal, Laura Anderson, Concord Elementary School Principal and Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Johnson welcomed Karen Hyder.

President Johnson shared that the District had received FOIA requests from Herbert Smith from CCC Holdings, Clarice Dionela from Dodge Construction, Gerardo Mendez from Indiana, Illinois and Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting, Michael Rost from Allium Data, Rhonda Norris from Proven IT, Bo Kim from Union Bids and Meghan Scholnick. All FOIA requests were fulfilled.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the November 14, 2023 Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the October 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes



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- C. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- D. Approval of the District Bills**
- E. Approval of Employee Resignations**

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda, highlighting the financial reports, as well as resignations of program assistant Tina Nure and substitute administrative assistant Dana Dolehide.

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

Dr. Anderson gave a brief update on Concord Elementary highlighting the recent prekindergarten screening and the number of English Language Learners (ELL) students in the program.

Mrs. Marcinkewicz gave an update on Cass Junior High highlighting the 7th grade Springfield trip and the 8th grade science fair.

Mr. Cross reviewed the enrollment report and discussed the lunch program and the efforts being made to decide the direction the lunch program will go starting in the 2024-25 school year.

B. Presentation of the Tentative 2024 Tax Levy

Mr. Cross presented the tentative 2024 tax levy. The recommended levy of \$10,934,124 excluding debt service, compared to last year's actual extension of \$10,360,739, is an increase of 5.88 percent. The final amount of taxes on an individual property could be higher or lower and will depend on any changes in assessment of the individual property, as well as what other taxing bodies levy for taxes. After some discussion, the Board approved the tentative



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levy and established a public truth-in-taxation hearing on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

C. Presentation of the 2023 Illinois School Report Cards

Mr. Cross and Principals Christine Marcinkewicz and Laura Anderson provided an in depth review of the 2022-23 Illinois School Report Cards. In addition to reviewing the data, Mr. Cross explained some of the changes that ISBE has implemented with reporting which affect how well our students appear to be performing, and the Board discussed the clarifications of how ISBE defines "proficiency", which is a much higher bar than actual "grade level". Mr. Cross said that this report will be posted on the website and also shared with parents. A review of local data is planned for the February board meeting.

D. Discussion Regarding 2023 IASB Resolutions Committee Report

Mr. Cross reviewed the resolutions committee report and the Board representative on the committee, Ms. Tanouye, noted that there is one resolution regarding industrial construction near schools that although the IASB is recommending not to support, she would like to support it. After a discussion, it was decided to support Ms. Tanouye's recommendation.

E. Review of the Health, Dental and Vision Insurance Renewal

Mr. Cross presented the health insurance proposal which reflects an increase of 4.05 percent, which is very low comparative to the increases many are seeing. The district's vision coverage is locked in until 2026 and our dental insurance renewal is 5.69 percent if the Board approves a change in providers to Ameritas. Additionally, Mr. Cross proposed that the Board extend the \$50,000 life insurance benefit to all employees, regardless of their salary status. The district insurance committee has also reviewed the plan and is very supportive of approval as well.

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

Mr. Cross shared that the geothermal HVAC project has officially begun with a ground breaking ceremony earlier today. He congratulated the Board on a job well done. The 500 foot wells at Cass Junior High are being dug over the



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next few weeks and once complete the digging will move over to Concord Elementary. These wells are being dug in preparation for the biggest part of the project that will take place as soon as school lets out for the summer.

G. Review of Recommended Bid for the HVAC Asbestos Abatement Project

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended bids for the asbestos abatement at both schools. After reviewing and vetting the bids presented, he is recommending that the Board approve the lowest bidders Valor Technologies for the abatement at Concord Elementary and Husar Abatement for the abatement at Cass Junior High.

H. Presentation and Review of School Maintenance Matching Grant Application

Mr. Cross presented the school maintenance grant for the Board's review. He is recommended that the grant be requested to cover part of the cost of the asbestos abatement.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of the Tentative 2024 Tax Levy

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the tentative 2024 tax levy.

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.

B. Adoption of Resolution Establishing a Public Truth-in-Taxation Hearing

Vice President Patel moved and Member Green seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution Establishing a Public Truth-in-Taxation Hearing on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



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

- C. Approval of Employee Health, Dental and Vision Insurance Renewal**
Member Marinelli moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the employee health, dental and life insurance renewal.

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

- D. Approval of Recommended Bid for the HVAC Asbestos Abatement Project**
Member Green moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the recommended low bid of \$61,045 from Valor Technologies for the abatement project at Concord Elementary School.

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

Member Green moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the recommended low bid of \$88,880 from Husar Abatement for the abatement project at Cass Junior High School.

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

- E. Approval of the 2024 School Maintenance Matching Grant Application**
Secretary Tanouye moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the 2024 school maintenance matching grant application as presented.



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

- F. Approval of the 2024-25 Board Meeting Dates, Times and Locations**
Member Marinelli moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the 2024-25 Board meeting dates, times and locations as presented.

Voice 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.

- G. Employment of Recommended Personnel**
Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve Cathy Fisher and Kristine Walsh as long-term substitute assistant principals from approximately November 1 through December 31, 2023 as well as any future leaves for the Cass Junior High Assistant Principal.

Voice 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.

Vice President Patel moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the contract with Social Butterfly to fill the part-time speech pathologist position at Cass Junior High.

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

V. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

There were no public comments.



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B. Board Member Comments

Mrs. Tanouye thanked the board for their support in the delegates assembly at the Joint Annual Conference.

VII. Adjournment

Vice President Patel moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of November 14, 2023 at 9:40 p.m.

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

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary