



## **CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63**

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

# **Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education of Cass School District 63, DuPage County, Illinois; held at Concord Elementary School at 7:00 P.M. on the 25th Day of April, 2023.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

#### **A. Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **B. Roll Call**

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

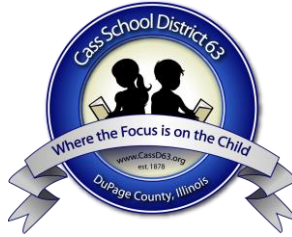
Also in attendance: Mark R. Cross, Superintendent, Laura Anderson, Concord Elementary Principal, Christine Marcinkewicz, Cass Junior High Principal and Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

#### **C. Special Recognition of Outgoing Board of Education Members**

Vice President Johnson stated that at tonight's meeting we will be saying goodbye to two fantastic Board members, Shelly Camden after 16 years of service and Alice Esposito after 6 years of service. Mr. Cross thanked both Alice Esposito and Shelly Camden for their support, and for all of their expertise that helped our Board and district over the years. He commended Mrs. Esposito for her financial expertise and Mrs. Camden for her legal expertise. The rest of the Board added their thanks and appreciation for both members.

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

Vice President Johnson welcomed guests Kristyn McElligott, Theresa West, Michelle Quillin, Anya Schlottmann, Kristen Kaplan, Karen Hyder, Amanda



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Esposito, Joe Esposito, Tim Stangarone, Jessica Ruiz, Katie Fujiura, Filomena DeChiara, Katie Doyle, Deb Dolehide, Jitan Patel and Ronda Cross.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the district had received two FOIA requests that have been fulfilled and one letter from Teacher Kristen Orr in support of the new Concord STEM classroom.

#### **E. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **II. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Approval of the April 25, 2023 Meeting Agenda**

#### **B. Approval of the March 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

#### **C. Approval of the March 21, 2023 Closed Meeting Minutes**

#### **D. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**

#### **E. Approval of the District Bills**

*Mr. Cross noted that he will likely be presenting an amended FY23 budget at the May meeting to account for the unusually high special transportation costs this year, as well as the addition of the Capital Projects Fund to account for revenues and expenditures related to safety, security, and HVAC work after the passage of the November referendum.*

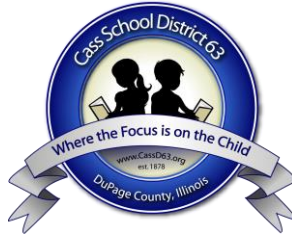
*Secretary Esposito moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.*

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

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

#### **A. Special Presentation on the Concord Elementary School STEM Program**

The Board and guests convened in the Concord STEM lab where Jessica Ruiz gave a presentation on the new Concord STEM program highlighting projects



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at each grade level. Ms. Ruiz invited students to share about projects they are working on and what they love about the program.

Mrs. Tanouye commented on how impressed she is by this program noting that it is not easy to plan different projects for multiple grade levels. Mr. Cross added his appreciation for the program and noted how much fun the kids are having while they learn. Mr. Wyent wondered if the STEM classroom lessons are tying into the classroom lessons and helping to support them. Many teachers responded that they are and that students are really enjoying the lessons. Mrs. Quillin noted that her daughter comes home from school and goes right to the basement to find something to create and build based on what she is learning in STEM.

#### **B. Presentation Regarding Recommended Science Curriculum and Resources**

Teachers Karen Hyder, Jessica Ruiz, Kristen Kaplan, and Principal Laura Anderson shared on the review and development of the recommended K-4 science curriculum and resources, and teachers Theresa West, Tim Stangarone and Principal Christine Marcinkewicz did so for the junior high. The science curriculum and resources have not been updated in 5 years and after a full year of research and study from the staff at both schools, the committees are recommending an investment of just over \$180,000 towards the various science curriculum, resources and material upgrades for the district.

#### **C. Principal Reports**

Dr. Anderson and Mrs. Marcinkewicz gave quick updates on the end of the year activities at Concord Elementary and Cass Junior High.

#### **D. Superintendent's Reports**

Mr. Cross shared that the week of May 8 is Teacher Appreciation Week. Both CARE and the school district will be providing lunches. He announced that the CARE golf outing is June 2 and encouraged registration for this event. He also reviewed some recent communication he has shared with parents regarding social media safety awareness and cyber safety resources as part of the district's bullying prevention efforts.



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**E. Update Regarding 2023-24 School District Food Service Program Planning**

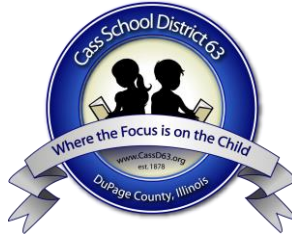
Mr. Cross stated that the District has narrowed down options focusing on a final food service program provider to consider for the coming school year. This vendor comes highly recommended and visits are being arranged and plans worked through. He will update the Board at the May meeting.

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

After significant planning for the replacement of the phone system, video surveillance, and the BluePoint security system as well as the replacement of lunchroom tables, Mr. Cross reviewed recommendations for Board consideration. Discussion was held about the phase in process for the video surveillance with the timing of the HVAC work over the coming year. He also pointed out that pricing shown for the phones is a maximum and he and the staff are working on the final details. Board approval will allow a timeline for ordering and implementation, with some final details still to be arranged.

**G. Update and Discussion Regarding the Proposed 2023-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Cass Education Association**

Mr. Cross announced that a new five-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Cass Education Association has been ratified by the CEA and approved by the Board and administration collective bargaining team. The Board's team of Shelly Camden, Lana Johnson, Mark Cross, and Deb Dolehide met with the teachers over the spring and recommend approval of the contract. Should it be later approved by the Board, the new contract will go into effect July 1, 2023. In addition to settling on details related to salary and benefits, much language was cleaned up, clarified, or eliminated if unnecessary in the new contract. It was shared that the bargaining process was a collaborative effort with open communication and the highest professionalism displayed by everyone involved throughout the process.



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#### IV. Recommended Action Items

##### A. Acceptance of Resignations

*Member Wyent moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to accept the resignation of John Monahan at the Close of the 2022-23 school year.*

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Secretary Esposito, Member Green, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent, and Vice President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

*Member Patel moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Tammy Kohout at the Close of the 2022-23 school year.*

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Patel, Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Tanouye, Secretary Esposito, and Vice President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

*Member Green moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Mary Skrzypczynski at the Close of the 2022-23 school year.*

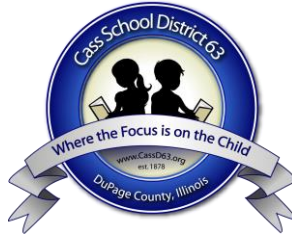
Voice Vote – Aye: Member Green, Member Wyent, Member Patel, Member Tanouye, Secretary Esposito, and Vice President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

*Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Kayla Briant effective April 20, 2023.*

Voice Vote – Aye: Secretary Esposito, Member Patel, Member Green, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent, and Vice President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

##### B. Employment of Recommended Personnel

*Member Patel moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve Bella Dahlheimer for the position of Cass Junior High social worker effective at the start of the 2023-24 school year.*



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

*Member Wyent moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve Elizabeth Saucedo for the position of Cass Junior High Spanish and ELL teacher at the start of the 2023-24 school year.*

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

#### **C. Approval of MetLife Employee Assistance Program**

*Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the MetLife Employee Assistance Program.*

Voice Vote – Aye: Secretary Esposito, Member Patel, Member Green, Member Tanouye, Member Wyent, and Vice President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

#### **D. Approval of the 2023-24 SASSED Classroom Lease Agreement**

*Member Patel moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the SASSED Classroom Lease Agreement for the 2023-24 school year.*

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

#### **E. Approval of Recommended Science Curriculum and Resources**

*Member Tanouye moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the recommended science curriculum and resources.*



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

**F. Approval of Recommended Proposal for Replacement of Phone Systems**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the proposal of \$65,950.78 from Heartland Business Systems to replace the district phone systems at Cass Junior High and Concord Elementary Schools.*

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

**G. Approval of Recommended Proposal for Replacement of Lunchroom Tables**

*Member Green moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the proposal of \$70,950.00 from Larson Equipment for replacement of lunch tables at Cass Junior High and Concord Elementary Schools.*

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

**H. Approval of Recommended Proposal for Purchase and Installation of Integrated Video Surveillance and Blue Point Security System**

*Member Patel moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the proposal from Seconds Matter Safety Solutions for the installation of the video surveillance systems for \$199,947.00 and the Blue Point security systems for \$111,430.00 at Cass Junior High and Concord Elementary Schools.*

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





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#### **I. Approval of the 2023-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Cass Education Association**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the teacher contract agreement with the Cass Education Association.*

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

#### **V. Organization of the Board of Education**

##### **A. Presentation of Certified Results of the April 4, 2023 Election**

Mr. Cross stated that the certified election results were available just this morning and congratulations to Chris Green for winning the unexpired two-year term and Lana Johnson, Rinku Patel, Katie Marinelli, and Liz Mitha for each winning four-year terms.

##### **B. Appointment of President Pro-Tempore and Secretary Pro-Tempore**

*Member Wyent moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve a motion to appoint Mark Cross as President Pro-Tem and Gayle Wilson as Secretary Pro-Tem.*

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Secretary Esposito, Member Green, Member Patel, Member Tanouye, and Vice President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

##### **C. Adjourn Sine Die**

*Secretary Esposito moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to adjourn sine die and officially conclude the business of the current Board of Education.*

Voice Vote – Aye: Secretary Esposito, Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Patel, Member Tanouye, and Vice President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.





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#### **D. Roll Call of the Board of Education**

Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: Chris Green, Lana Johnson, Katie Marinelli, Liz Mitha, Rinku Patel, Urszula Tanouye, and Steve Wyent

Also in attendance: Mark R. Cross, Superintendent, Laura Anderson, Concord Elementary Principal, Christine Marcinkewicz, Cass Junior High Principal and Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

#### **E. Oath of Office for Board of Education Members**

In support of the newest Board of Education members, the entire Board took the Board of Education Oath of Office together.

#### **F. Election of Board President**

*Member Patel moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to elect Lana Johnson as Board President.*

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

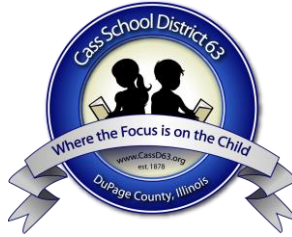
#### **G. Election of Board Vice-President**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Tanouye seconded a motion to elect Rinku Patel as Board Vice President.*

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

#### **H. Appointment of Board Secretary**

Discussion was held on the consideration of maintaining a Board member as the official Board Secretary and maintaining Gayle Wilson as Recording Secretary, or appointing Gayle Wilson as the Board Secretary. Mr. Cross shared that the potential benefit is more one of practicality and convenience



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with the maintenance and signing of certain documents, and it was truly a Board preference. He checked with areas districts to compare practices and it is a fairly even split as to their models. After a brief discussion, Urszula Tanouye and Chris Green stated their preference to maintain an elected Board Secretary and the remainder of the Board agreed.

*Member Green moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to elect Urszula Tanouye as Board Secretary.*

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

#### **I. Appointment of Board Treasurer**

*Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to appoint Mike McLean as Treasurer.*

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

#### **J. Establishment of 2023-24 Board Meeting Dates, Times and Locations**

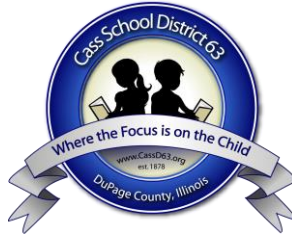
*Member Green moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the 2023-24 Board meeting dates, times and locations as presented.*

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

### **VI. Conclusion**

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

Katie Fujiura thanked the Board for the work, effort and approval of the new contract between the Board and the Cass Education Association.



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

Mr. Wyent expressed his happiness with the way the contract wrapped up and he was encouraged by how well it all progressed and that we have a five-year contract. It is a testament to the school district. He then welcomed Katie Marinelli and Liz Mitha to the Board.

Dr. Patel added his welcome to Mrs. Marinelli and Mrs. Mitha and stated that he is very happy we were able to move the science curriculum forward as it is so important to begin learning about science at a young age.

Mrs. Mitha shared that she is very happy to join the Board and that she is an educator herself and knows how much time and effort goes into planning and she wants the teachers to know that they are supported.

Mr. Cross noted that there are one or two meetings that always stand out every year and tonight's meeting certainly did with saying goodbye to two great Board members and welcoming two new ones, seeing the fantastic progression of the science and STEM program, and approving the CEA contract. The relationships and respect we have for each other in this district have made it all possible.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

*Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of April 25, 2023 at 9:23 p.m.*

Voice 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.

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Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary