



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 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 17th Day of September, 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: Superintendent Mark R. Cross, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant Gayle Wilson, and Cass Junior High School Principal Christine Marcinkewicz.

C. Introduction of New 2024-25 Faculty and Staff

Mr. Cross introduced new faculty and staff members to the Board of Education. The new staff are:

Employee	Position	Location
Sarah Acitelli	Nurse	Cass Junior High
Bridget Berger	4 th Grade Teacher	Concord Elementary
Sharon Chacko	Speech Pathologist	Cass Junior High
Jeanne Erickson	Language Arts & Social Studies	Cass Junior High
Cathy Fisher	Director of Special Services	District Office
Alex Gula	4 th Grade Teacher	Concord Elementary
Julia Holbert	Special Education Teacher	Concord Elementary
Jenny Kirkpatrick	Special Education Teacher	Concord Elementary
Bryan Koh	Teacher Assistant	Cass Junior High
Sarah Leganski	Occupational Therapist	Cass and Concord



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Clair Monroe	Math Teacher	Cass Junior High
Megan Newton	Science Teacher	Cass Junior High
Sally Oakes	Permanent Substitute	Concord Elementary
Monica Rothbard	Kindergarten Teacher	Concord Elementary
Kali Sheldon	Music Teacher	Concord Elementary
Lauren Slomski	Teacher Assistant	Concord Elementary

D. Recognition of Audience, Announcements, and Correspondence

Board President Lana Johnson welcomed our new employees, recognized the audience and announced that the Board received one FOIA request from Thomas Ferguson with Canon Solutions.

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the September 17, 2024 Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the August 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the August 13, 2024 Closed Minutes**
- D. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- E. Approval of the District Bills**
- F. Approval of Employee Resignations**
- G. Approval of Requests for Leaves of Absence**

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda, including the resignations of Cass Junior High Permanent Substitute Mary DeGroot and Concord Teacher Assistant Rebecca Kondrisack, as well as the leave request for Kindergarten Teacher Monica Rothbard.

Member Green moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call 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.



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III. Public Presentation and Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Member Marinelli moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to open the Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.

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

Mr. Cross reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget. He said there were no changes with the budget that was originally presented last month. Excluding planned capital facility expenditures of \$8.1 million, budgeted expenditures for FY25 are just over \$15.6 million, while revenues are projected at just over \$15 million, resulting in a total budget deficit of approximately \$600,000. Discussion was held about the deficit, which Mr. Cross expected will not be as much as shown in the budget based on the conservative numbers used.

Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Roll Call 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.

IV. Reports, Updates, and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Mrs. Marcinkewicz stated that the school year has started off great and that baseball, softball, and cross country are going well. She noted that student council has gone through some positive changes and there are about 40 students interested in participating this year.

Ms. Doyle, Concord Assistant Principal, gave an update for Concord and shared that the year has started off very well and that teachers and staff believe the lingering negative impact of COVID on students is finally behind this age level of students. Ms. Doyle complimented the teachers for having everything ready for such a positive start to the year.



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Mr. Cross stated that the start of the school year has gone very well, considering the incredible work it took to have everything ready as the summer geothermal and HVAC project concluded. He thanked Keith Monaco, Wayne Ostrowski and all of our custodians for the hard work they put in to make sure the buildings were put back together and ready for staff and students to come back on time for school to start, as well the teachers for getting their rooms ready with the tight timeline.

Mr. Cross also shared the petition filing process and deadline for the April election, reviewed update CPI trends, and referenced the Fall IASB DuPage Division Meeting scheduled for October 30.

B. 2024-25 Enrollment Update

Mr. Cross reviewed a preliminary enrollment report with about 800 students to start the year, down from last year's 830. He noted that we have a very small kindergarten class this year and last year's 8th grade class was one of the largest. Additionally, the district is down two SASSED classrooms this year.

C. 2024-25 Lunch Program Update

The lunch program is off to a solid start, and Just A Dash is working to complete the needed staffing, getting all ingredients posted, and hopefully adding more entrée items soon. The quality of the food provided is greatly improved over last year, and Mr. Cross said that he has received positive feedback from both students and staff.

D. Second Reading of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended Board updates and noted that any substantive changes are due to Title IX law changes. The rest are largely minor updates or five year reviews.

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

Mr. Cross shared that Phase I of the planned facility projects are wrapping up with some remaining HVAC and punch list items remaining to be resolved. The



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systems are working well, although there are several rooms that still need to be regulated. The focus this fall will shift to Phase II planning.

Mr. Cross expressed how thankful the staff is to the Board and community at large for their support in allowing the district to make these updates, and he looks forward to planning for future improvements as well.

V. Recommended Action Items

A. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the fiscal year 2025 budget.

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

B. Employment of Recommended Personnel

There were no employment recommendations.

C. Approval of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Member Marinelli moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the recommended Board Policy updates as presented.

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

D. Approval of District Concussion Oversight Team Members

Mr. Cross explained that per Board Policy 7:305, we are required to annually appoint Concussion Oversight Team members. The recommended membership is:

Katie Beringer, Concord Nurse
Christine Marcinkewicz, Principal
Mark Cross, Superintendent

Sarah Acitelli, Cass Nurse
Dr. Rinku Patel, Medical Community
Landon Mitchell, Coach



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Amy Pollitz, Athletic Director

Secretary Tanouye moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the concussion oversight team members.

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

VI. Closed Session

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of district employees.

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

VII. 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 Vice President Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of September 17, 2024 at 9:47 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