



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 19, 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 19th Day of March, 2024.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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, and Members Chris Green, Katie Marinelli, Liz Mitha, and Steve Wyent. Secretary Urszula Tanouye arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross, CEA President and teacher Scott Kondraschow, and Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant Gayle Wilson.

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements, and Correspondence

Board President Lana Johnson welcomed everyone in attendance. Mrs. Johnson shared that the we received a FOIA request from the Law Offices of John A. Krupa and a thank you note from the sister of our former bus driver Suzi Kopriva, Judy Kopriva.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the March 19, 2024 Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

D. Approval of the District Bills



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Katie Marinelli moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call 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.

III. Reports, Updates, and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Mr. Cross reviewed the principal reports highlighting the upcoming IAR testing, McTeacher Night, and possible staffing additions for next school year. He noted that Kindergarten numbers are still low but slowly growing. Currently we have 57 kindergarten students registered for the 2024-25 school year.

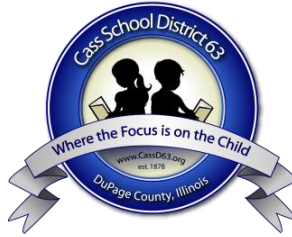
Mr. Cross then shared the results of the special services survey and how the special services team is using this information moving forward through seven goals. He noted that the assistance of Cathy Fisher has been a great help to the program and a time will be arranged for her to meet with all special services staff this spring. Teacher Scott Kondrashow added that Mrs. Fisher's input has had a very positive impact.

B. Federal Impact Aid Advocacy and Funding Report

Mr. Cross discussed his recent trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with various lawmakers including Representatives Bill Foster and Sean Casten to talk about Impact Aid and advocating for why the continued funding of the program is so important. The hope is that funding will be fulfilled for FY24, so the focus can continue for the FY25 budget.

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

Mr. Cross updated the Board on the geothermal well project, which is now completed at both schools, aside from sod that will be put in over the spring break and some finishing touches with concrete and asphalt. He also shared an update on plans related to the summer HVAC work and the related logistical planning underway. Mr. Cross and members Urszula Tanouye and Chris Green



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reviewed the Phase II facility recommendations that were discussed at the most recent Facilities Committee meeting. The Board expressed support for the list of items and planning after the summer 2024 project is complete and subject to available funding.

D. Update Regarding Food Service Program and 2024-25 Procurement Process

Mr. Cross reviewed the parent survey results and the recent onsite visits to area school lunch programs, and he recommended to the Board that the district move forward with the request for proposal process to secure a lunch program vendor for the 2024-25 school year. This RFP will be through an intergovernmental partnership with Center Cass District 66 and it will be distributed to all school lunch service providers after approval by the Illinois State Board of Education

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve Megan Newton for the position of junior high science teacher effective at the start of the 2024-25 school year.

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.

B. Approval of Employee Requests for Retirement

Secretary Tanouye moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the retirement of Deb Dolehide effective December 31, 2027.

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.



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Member Green moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the retirement of Filomena Manna-DeChiara effective at the close of the 2027-28 school year.

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.

Member Marinelli moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the change in retirement date of Becky Kriz from the end of the 2025-26 school year to the end of the 2024-25 school year.

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.

C. Approval of 2024-25 Non-Union Employee Salaries

Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve non-union employee salary increases as recommended for the 2024-25 year.

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.

D. Employment of 2024-25 Administrative Contracts and Salaries

Vice President Patel moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the contract for assistant principal Katie Doyle for the 2024-25 school year.

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

Member Green moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the contract for assistant principal Michelle Roberts for the 2024-25 school year.



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

E. Approval of 2024-25 Federal Funding Consolidated District Plan

Member Marinelli moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the 2024-25 Federal Funding Consolidated District Plan.

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.

F. Approval of 2024-25 Special Education Transportation Contract Extension

Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the special education transportation contract extension with Sunrise.

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.

G. Approval of Tri-Merit to Act as Consultants for Renewable Energy Tax Credits

Member Green moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to authorize the Superintendent to finalize a proposal from Tri-Merit for pursuing renewable energy tax credits for the geothermal HVAC project.

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

H. Approval of Boys' Baseball as an Interscholastic Activity for the 2024-25 School Year



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Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve boys' baseball as an interscholastic activity for the fall of 2025.

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.

I. Authorization to Develop and Release Food Services Management Company Vended Fixed Price Meal Contract Request for Proposals with Center Cass School District 66

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to authorize the administration to develop and release food services management company vended fixed price meal contract request for proposals with Center Cass School District 66.

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.

V. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

Scott Kondraschow thanked the Board for their ongoing support and for letting him participate as he learns how the Board does business.

B. Board Member Comments

Urszula Tanouye thanked Scott Kondraschow for his supportive words about Cathy Fisher and the impact she has had on the special education program.

Rinku Patel shared that there a lot of things that go on behind the scenes that most are not aware of, and that help the district run successfully, and he is proud to be a part of the Board and this District.

Mark Cross asked the Board if they have any objection to combining related action item motions such as for personnel to avoid multiple motions for similar items. The Board was supportive.



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VII. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of March 19, 2024 at 8:44 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.

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary