



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Minutes of The Regular Meeting of the Board Of Education of School District 63, DuPage County, Illinois; Held at Cass School District 63 at 7:30 P.M. on the 20th Day of October, 2020.

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: President Shelly Camden, Secretary Alice Esposito, Member Lana Johnson and Member Michael Ockrim. Vice President Kent Absalonsen and Member McCollian were absent.

Also in attendance:

Mark R. Cross, Superintendent of Schools

Laura Anderson, Concord Elementary School Principal

Christine Marcinkewicz, Cass Junior High School Principal

Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

Superintendent Cross requested that the Board approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Member Johnson moved and Member Ockrim seconded a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Camden welcomed:

Katie Fujiura

Rebecca Kriz

Shafaque Khan

Megan Duffy Legan

Sonali Patel

Matt Etherington

Fiyaz Khan



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Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of September 15, 2020 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow and Investment Reports
- C. Approval of Payroll Reports
- D. Approval of District Bills

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include Additional Bills as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 4 to 0.

Reports, Updates and Informational Items

- A. Administrative Report

Principals Laura Anderson and Christine Marcinkewicz both shared that things have been going well and although hard, teachers have doing great at teaching students both online and in person.

Superintendent Cross stated that is has been wonderful having students back in school. The students seem to have adjusted very well and are doing great. He stated that there are many challenges to contend with, but he is proud of the teachers, administrators and staff.



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B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

Lana Johnson stated that CARE had their virtual dash and it went well. The Portillos's Fundraiser is this evening. CARE is continuing to come up with ways to raise money for the District during this difficult time, even though there is a limit on what activities that can be provided during the pandemic.

Superintendent Cross added that moving forward the Board will no longer need to formally approve CARE grants unless they are larger grants or it impacts the curriculum or programs. Grants will be filtered through the principals and the Board will continue to be aware of any grant funding.

C. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2020 Audit

Director of Fiscal Services Deb Dolehide presented the 2020 Audit and stated that it was a clean audit with no changes or adjustments needed and with revenues exceeded expenditures. The District ended the year with a roughly \$550,000 surplus. Superintendent Cross further highlighted several points within the audit.

He then stated that with Brad Carrino's resignation, Alice Esposito is the only Board Member on the Finance Committee if another Board Member is interested in serving on the committee.

Superintendent Cross closed by stating that it is his goal to help build fund balances so that the District can plan for capital improvements that need to be made. He believes a goal of 90 to 180 days of cash on hand is a prudent goal so that cuts are not necessary in the event of short-term revenue short falls.

D. Review of Property, Liability and Worker Compensation Insurance Renewal

Superintendent Cross compared the premium summary from the 2019-20 school year to 2020-21 school year. There was a less than 1% increase from one year to the next. He stated that Director of Fiscal Services, Deb Dolehide, has done a great job managing this program with our insurance agents.



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E. Update Regarding the School Reimagined – Return to Learn Framework

Superintendent Cross gave a brief review of the updated Return to Learn Framework. He talked about the cases in the District, how cooperative families have been about reporting, the number of people who are exhibiting symptoms or have been in close contact with confirmed or possible cases and the number of students staying remote as a precaution.

Michael Ockrim asked if the District should consider choosing a specific number of cases as a threshold to make a decision one way or another. It was explained that it would be difficult to determine that number. For instance, we may have four cases appear in one day but those may be all from one situation or timeframe, versus if the cases are not epidemiologically linked and come at different times. These scenarios would all be handled differently.

Cass School District is utilizing multiple metrics to make those decisions, weighing heavily on the internal District metrics along with the community data and our work with the DuPage County Health Department. The goal of Cass School District 63 is to avoid cases at school so the District can continue with the current hybrid plan for as long as possible. If families continue to report, we continue to follow guidelines while students are in school and our staff is able to remain healthy, it is the District's hope that the hybrid model remains sustainable.

Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Audit

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Audit as presented.

Roll call

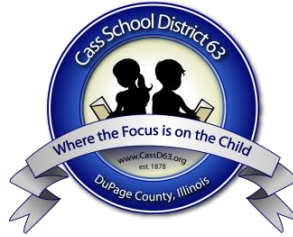
Aye

President Camden

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Nay



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Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 4 to 0.

B. Approval of Property, Liability and Worker Compensation Insurance Renewal

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the Property, Liability and Worker Compensation Insurance Renewal as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 4 to 0.

C. Approval of the School Reimagined Return to Learn Framework

Member Ockrim moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the School Reimagined Return to Learn Framework as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

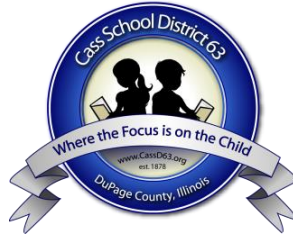
President Camden

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 4 to 0.



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D. Establishment of Date, Time and Location of Special Meeting

Superintendent Cross stated that the Board of Education is required to appoint a Board Member to replace Brad Carrino who resigned to move out of state in September. Superintendent Cross suggested the following dates to hold special meetings for interviews:

Tuesday, October 27, 7:15 p.m.
Monday, November 2, 6:30 p.m.

The meetings will take place largely in Closed Session.

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to set October 27 at 7:15 p.m. and November 2 at 6:30 p.m. as Special Meeting Dates for the purpose of interviewing potential Board of Education Members. Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried, 4 to 0.

E. Acceptance of Resignations

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Bus Driver Ken Brooks Effective October 30, 2020.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden
Secretary Esposito
Member Johnson
Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 4 to 0.



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F. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the recommendation to hire Jessica Scharf as .80 FTE School Psychologist effective October 26, 2020.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Motion carried, 4 to 0.

Conclusion

A. Public Comments

- Teacher Katie Fujiura asked for an explanation of epidemiologically linked. Superintendent Cross responded that if there were two or more related cases that manifested themselves at school, such as one student in a class tests positive and there was close contact at school which resulted in individuals having to quarantine and then one of the quarantined individuals ended up also testing positive, they may be classified as epidemically linked.
- Teacher Matt Etherington stated that he has been very impressed by the administration and staff in how they are dealing with all the moving parts that go into teaching during the pandemic.
- Member Ockrim asked what the sustainability of this is for teachers. Katie Fujiura responded that it is very challenging, but so far it is going well and that the teachers and Administration have been having very honest conversations which helps to work through any challenges that arise.



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- Member Johnson stated that the work and efforts that the teachers are putting in is not lost on the kids and the kids are excited to be back. Katie Fujiura responded that that is a large part of what is keeping teachers moving forward.
- Superintendent Cross added that this is difficult for everyone involved and he appreciates all that everyone is doing to make this work.

Board Member Remarks

- President Camden thanked the teachers and stated that we can't do this without them. She then thanked the Administration for all the hours they are putting in to make this all work.
- Secretary Esposito added her appreciation from both her role as a Board Member and as a parent.
- Secretary Esposito stated that the next Regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Member Johnson moved and Member Ockrim seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 20, 2020 at 8:39 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 4 to 0.

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary