



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Cass School District 63, DuPage County, Illinois; held at Cass Junior High School at 6:30 P.M. on the 21st Day of February, 2023.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

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

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

C. Approval of the Special Meeting Agenda

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Johnson seconded a motion to approve the special meeting agenda.

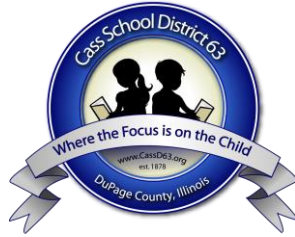
Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Vice President Johnson, Member Green, Member Patel, Member Tanouye and President Camden. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

D. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

There was no audience for the Special Meeting.

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.



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II. Public Hearing for the Purpose of Discussing the Potential Bidding for the Regular Student Transportation Services

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommendation to consider contracting regular student bus services and routes beginning with the 2023-24 school year. He stated that the primary issue driving this need is the lack of qualified drivers. As drivers retire or leave the district, it has become extraordinarily difficult to replace them and it is likely the district will lose several drivers over the next several years.

In addition to this, the district has an aging bus fleet that will need replacement at a significant cost to the district. The district lacks purchasing power of the bus companies. Also, the district is spending a disproportional amount of funds toward special transportation, an area in which costs have gone up significantly. Mr. Cross emphasized the district's intention to keep any drivers who wish to stay with the district for running special education routes in house. In the event there are not enough positions, under the law current drivers also have the option of driving for a new contractor at the same level of salary and benefits.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to it was best to move forward with the bid process and analyze the numbers prior to making a decision. Mr. Cross stated that if the bids come in at a reasonable cost, the district could be ready to move forward with a recommendation at the March 21, 2023 meeting.

III. Adjournment

Vice President Johnson moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to adjourn this Special Board of Education Meeting of February 21, 2023 at 7:08 p.m.

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

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary