



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Minutes of The Regular 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 15th Day of February, 2022.

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 Shelly Camden, Vice President Kent Absalonsen, Secretary Alice Esposito and Members Lana Johnson, Rinku Patel, Urszula Tanouye and Steve Wyent.

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

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Camden welcomed the following guests: Karen Hyder, Karen Mosquera, Anya Schlottmann, Jessica Ruiz, Lisa Hermer, Katie Fujiura and Amy Aydoner

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

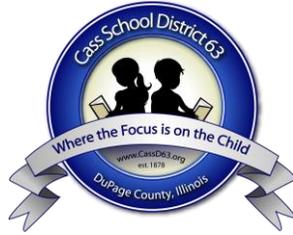
A. Approval of the February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of the January 18, 2022 Closed Meeting Minutes

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

E. Approval of District Bills



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

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Dr. Anderson announced that kindergarten round-up is coming soon and there are currently 63 students signed up to start kindergarten in the fall. Prekindergarten screening is also coming up soon. Field trips are being planned, including a trip to a Wolves's game for the 4th grade students.

Mrs. Marcinkewicz highlighted the Cass Junior High spelling bee and announced that the winner will compete in the regional spelling bee in Wheaton. The band recently participated in two events and the chorus is scheduled to perform at Papa Passero's as a part of a CARE fundraiser. Planning is also underway for 2022-23 school year registration. After some recent training, an updated online registration program is being developed that should be easier and more intuitive for parents.

Urszula Tanouye asked Dr. Anderson if there are plans to hold a 4th grade science fair this year. Dr. Anderson explained the rationale to not hold a science fair at this age level after considerable parent and teacher input.



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B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

Lana Johnson shared that at the most recent CARE meeting the focus was on fundraisers and planning for the coming school year. Mrs. Marcinkewicz extended thanks on behalf of the students and staff for the cookies that CARE provided to all students and staff including allergy safe alternative treats for those who needed them.

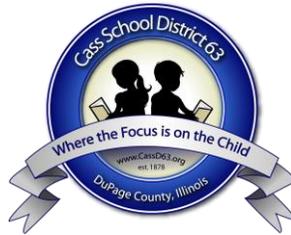
C. Presentation Regarding Student Learning and Academic Growth

Dr. Anderson provided an overview of student academic growth including Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) and NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing. She noted that the district does not use scores from the IAR testing as the results come in the school year following testing and there is no long-term trend data to help direct planning. The district does use MAP data as the scores are in real time, offer individual student data and allows teachers to plan instruction and interventions.

Math interventionist Karen Mosquera provided an overview of the new intervention program that was instituted this school year to help bridge some of the gaps created by the pandemic. She worked with teacher Jessica Ruiz to create this program by considering many different factors to determine which students needed what interventions and then creating plans for the varying student needs.

Teacher Karen Hyder noted that in all her years of teaching, this is the first year that she did not start off the school year with an advanced math class. Due to the math intervention program, by mid-year they were able to add 26 students to the advanced math class and she feels that students will get further into the 1st grade math curriculum than they originally thought that they would be able to accomplish.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the effort that has been made in the area of math, since this was identified as a need. Mr. Cross expressed his appreciation, and also thanked the Board for supporting the addition of the math interventionist role to support our students.



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D. Update and Discussion Regarding Long-Term Facilities Planning and Replacement Options for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems

Mr. Cross noted the enormous amount of work that the facilities and finance committees have completed to develop long-term, cost-effective solutions for the district's HVAC and safety needs. He reviewed in detail the three options that the architects and engineers presented to the 12-member facilities committee after the group had previously determined specific needs and provided feedback and direction.

Among key considerations were educational environment, indoor air quality, energy efficiency, sustainability, maintenance and life cycle cost and maximizing potential funding and grant opportunities. The geothermal option scored the highest across all key areas for both schools. This solution also has the lowest life cycle cost and will result in a substantial savings in annual energy costs for the school district.

The 12-member committee was unanimous in its recommendation to pursue a geothermal system at each school. Board and facility committee members Shelly Camden and Urszula Tanouye shared that the committee carefully considered the various costs and benefits of each option, but the committee unanimously supported the geothermal HVAC option as their recommendation for both Concord Elementary and Cass Junior High Schools.

Finance committee members Alice Esposito and Steve Wyent and Mr. Cross then reviewed the funding options to address these needs after the finance committee had met to review the facilities committee recommendations. Member Esposito noted that the life cycle of the geothermal HVAC system is twice the life span of the next longest option. The committee also reviewed how to manage any acquisition of debt to limit the long-term impact on local taxpayers. The key for this area was also limiting life cycle costs and maximizing energy savings for years to come.

The finance committee was also unanimous in pursuing the bond options, which would require approval from the voters in an upcoming election. Members Esposito and Wyent emphasized that the bonds could only be used



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for the purpose of safety and security and the HVAC updates and refinancing an old bond at a lower interest rate and nothing else. The funds may not be used for salaries, benefits or other costs unrelated to the final approved projects. Mr. Cross will continue to work on final cost estimates and is working with committee members to identify any grant funding options.

E. Update and Discussion Regarding Status of Current Statewide Litigation and Potential Changes in Health Guidance and the Stay Healthy, Stay Smart Plan

Mr. Cross reviewed the transition plan to move to masks recommended based on school and community metrics. He noted that there are strong feelings on both sides of this issue but we want to do what is best for the health of our students and staff. The plan presented allows for both masks recommended as well as a plan to return to masks should this become necessary. It was further noted that our testing program will continue through the end of the school year.

There were some concerns from the Board that maybe we were removing masks a bit too soon, however the Board acknowledged that mitigations are changing everywhere and suggested that the District wait for February 28th to implement the plan to coincide with the easing of the state mandates.

Shelly Camden closed by noting that we need to be prepared that this metric may change again at any time and at the end of the day, our job it to ensure an education to our children in a safe and healthy manner.

F. Presentation of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Mr. Cross briefly reviewed the recommended Board policy updates that were first presented to the Board at the January 18, 2022 meeting. No need for a policy committee meeting was brought forth, and Mr. Cross recommends adoption of the policies as presented.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Acceptance of Resignation



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Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to accept the resignation of teacher Lauren Hodge effective at the close of the 2021-22 school year.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

B. Approval of 2022-23 School Year Fees

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the 2022-23 school year fees as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

C. Approval of 2022-23 School Year Calendar

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the 2022-23 School Year Calendar as presented.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Wyent

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

D. Approval of Recommended 2022-23 Employee Salaries

Member Johnson moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the 2022-23 employee salaries as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Wyent

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Secretary Esposito

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

E. Approval of Recommended Board of Education Policy Updates

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the recommended Board of Education policy updates as presented.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

F. Approval of Recommended Updates to the Stay Healthy, Stay Smart Plan

Member Wyent moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the recommended updates to the Stay Healthy, Stay Smart plan as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Wyent

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

G. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association for a One-Year Collective Bargaining Agreement Extension

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association for a one-year collective bargaining agreement extension as presented.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Wyent

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

H. Approval to Cancel the March 15, 2022 Board of Education Meeting and Establish a New Board of Education Meeting to be held on March 22, 2022

Member Tanouye moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to cancel the March 15, 2022 Board of Education Meeting and Establish a New Board of Education Meeting to be held on March 22, 2022.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Tanouye

Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

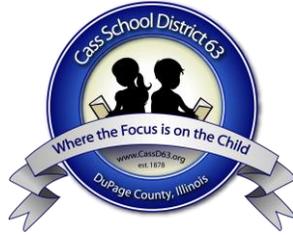
Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

V. Conclusion

A. Public Comments



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- Amy Aydoner thanked the Board and administration for all they do and she is looking forward to a time where we do not have to have conversations about the pandemic any longer.
- Katie Fujiura extended her appreciation to Mr. Cross for his support of the students and staff in a difficult time. His leadership has been wonderful through out this challenging time and it is appreciated by the staff.

B. Board Member Comments

- Shelly Camden, in response to Katie Fujiura's comments, said that this work goes both ways and the Board appreciates both the leadership from the district and the CEA for working so proactively as a team.
- Urszula Tanouye stated that she has watched many Boards tackle the same topics from this meeting and it is incredible that everyone can come and respectfully discuss difficult topics together.
- Lana Johnson complimented Mr. Cross for coming up with a detailed transition plan. That is not easy and she appreciates his plan and that it is not based on politics or emotion but on metrics that make sense. She praised the leadership team, teachers and staff.
- Steve Wyent said that the most important thing we are going to do over the next few months is try to explain to our community and taxpayers why a bond is necessary and all should be proud as we have been going about the planning and researching in all the right ways.

VII. Adjournment

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 15, 2022 at 10:27 p.m.
Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 7 to 0.

Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary