



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 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 December, 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, Secretary Urszula Tanouye and Members Chris Green, Katie Marinelli, Liz Mitha and Steve Wyent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross and Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Johnson welcomed everyone in attendance.

D. Public Comments

Parents Yolanda and Deon Berry shared with the Board their concerns about a serious bullying incident involving their child.

E. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

Mr. Cross verbally recognized speech pathologist Sharon Chacko, who was highlighted for her great work and flexibility while juggling two different districts and their varying student and building needs. Sharon is currently shared with Center Cass School District 66.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the December 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

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



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- D.** Approval of the District Bills
- E.** Authorization to Prepay December and January Bills
- F.** Approval of Resignations

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda, highlighting the additional bills, the request to preapprove additional December and January bills, and announced the resignation of Concord teacher assistant Tinesha Anderson.

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

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.

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Mr. Cross reviewed the principal's reports highlighting an Argonne Laboratories visit to Concord and recent holiday concerts.

Mr. Cross also discussed the final annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) which will be released next month and highlighted the need to continue to review bullying procedures and policies.

B. Presentation of the 2024 Tax Levy

Mr. Cross presented the 2024 tax levy which is unchanged from the tentative levy presented at the November meeting. The recommended levy is \$11,275,152 excluding debt service, compared to last year's extension of \$10,843,578, which is an increase of 3.98 percent. The taxes on an individual property could be higher or lower and depend on any changes in assessment of the individual property, as well as what other taxing bodies levy.

C. First Reading of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Mr. Cross presented the recommended Board policy updates. It was noted that the Board may be required to add a committee regarding community



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outreach. With these new policies, the district will need to take steps to ensure that it is not investing in any entities with an unsatisfactory financial rating. Mr. Cross noted that the District does not make any such investments, but will work on ways to ensure that it continues to be mindful of this moving forward.

D. Review of 2024 Joint Annual Conference Information

Mr. Wyent attended a session on school funding and shared information related to the management of district O&M funds. Mrs. Mitha added that she attended an excellent session regarding trust, and Mrs. Tanouye shared that at the delegate assembly a change was made from having a simple majority used to be the standard to have items heard to a two-thirds majority. She expressed a desire to see it changed back, and Mr. Cross said that he would look into the history and rationale for the change.

E. Update and Discussion Regarding Phase II Facility Planning

Mr. Cross updated the Board on recent planning with the architects as it relates to Phase II facility plans. The hope is that the District is able to complete as much of the work as possible in the summer of 2025, and is currently considering three distinct bid packages, including one for interior renovation, one for exterior renovations, and a third for needed site work. The Facilities Committee will review the options and prioritize projects in January.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Adoption of Resolution for Approval of the 2024 Tax Levy

Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to adopt the resolution for approval of the 2024 tax levy.

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.

B. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Property Tax Levy to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Outstanding Limited Bonds



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Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Property Tax Levy to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Outstanding Limited Bonds.

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.

C. Adoption of Resolution in Support of Illinois Vision 2030

Mr. Cross introduced a resolution in support of Illinois Vision 2030, which is a framework for the future of public education in Illinois, and has been put together from stakeholders from Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of School Boards, and various other education leadership organizations. This resolution is in follow up to Vision 2020, with the hope of providing a nonpartisan educational platform for Illinois for the coming years.

Member Mitha moved and Member Green seconded a motion to adopt the resolution in support of Illinois Vision 2030.

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

D. Approval of Geothermal HVAC Project Change Orders

Member Green moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve geothermal HVAC project change order four totaling \$176,841.17.

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.

E. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Mr. Cross recommended Michael DellaMaria as a special education driver. This hire allows the district to bring this route in district, which will be more cost effective for the district.



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Secretary Tanouye moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the recommended candidate Michael DellaMaria for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year.

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.

V. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

Mr. and Mrs. Barry added to their comments from earlier in the meeting regarding bullying.

B. Board Member Comments

There were no comments.

C. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of December 17, 2024 at 8:17 p.m.

Voice 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.

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary