



## **CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63**

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

# **Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

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 16th Day of November, 2021.

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

Also in attendance:

Mark R. Cross, Superintendent of Schools, 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**

Vice President Absalonsen welcomed the following guests: Katie Fujiura and Kristyn McElligott

Secretary Esposito stated that there were two FOIA requests that were fulfilled by the District FOIA Officer. She then announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **D. Public Comments**

- There were no public comments.



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#### **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the October 19, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- D. Approval of District Bills**
- E. Approval of the Request for Employee Leave of Absence**

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

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

#### **III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items**

##### **A. Administrative Reports**

- Dr. Anderson gave an update on Concord Elementary School highlighting the recent prekindergarten screening which added 16 new students to the program. Both Dr. Anderson and Mrs. Marcinkewicz discussed the math curriculum update that is currently being considered for all grade levels. Updating curriculum has become more cyclical than ever before due to it being largely online with more of a subscription approach. Because of this, deciding to push back a curriculum update to defer cost is no longer a viable option. This is also impacted by recent decisions at Hinsdale Township High School District 86, so that the curriculum is aligned for our students as they enter high school. Work continues with this across the district, with a significant amount of teacher input into the process.



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- Mr. Cross announced American Education Week this week and extended his appreciation to all staff for their hard work and dedication and sharing that the Board provided staff with lunch from Buona on Tuesday and treats from Nothing Bundt Cakes on Thursday.
- Mr. Cross thanked Board members Rinku Patel and Urszula Tanouye along with Dr. Anderson, Ms. Doyle, Mrs. Wilson and the Cass 63 staff who was able to volunteer at the recent pediatric vaccine clinic. Over 200 of our students ages 5-11 were among the first to be vaccinated.

#### **B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding**

CARE is working on the fundraisers for the new year. Mr. Cross shared that there was a discussion about the district reinstating some form of the family directory. After getting some input and doing some research, Mr. Cross and Mrs. Wilson are going to investigate an app that parents would have on their phones, and parents would be allowed to opt out. Mr. Cross will update the Board on this at a later time.

#### **C. Presentation of Tentative 2021 Tax Levy**

Superintendent Mark Cross and Fiscal Services Director Deb Dolehide presented the tentative 2021 tax levy, including the Questions and Answers about Local Property Taxes document Mr. Cross provided to explain the property tax and extension process. While the overall levy proposal is a 4.1 percent increase, the school district's extension is limited to the Consumer Price Index which will be 1.4 percent, in addition to the ability to tax any new construction within the district. Mr. Cross expressed budgetary concern for the next fiscal year with significant inflationary costs and significant facility needs while the district's largest source of revenue will be very limited.

It is estimated that the total extension will be just under \$10.2 million, compared to last year's total extension of just over \$10 million. Since the proposed levy is less than a 5 percent increase, a public hearing is not necessary. Mr. Cross and Mrs. Dolehide do not anticipate changes between now and adoption of the final tax levy at the December 14 Board meeting.



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#### **D. Review of Proposed Strategic Plan, Mission, Beliefs and Values**

Mr. Cross presented the final recommended Vision 2025 Strategic Plan, which includes the proposed Mission and Core Beliefs and Values to the Board for consideration. The creation of this plan comes after over three months of meetings, surveys and discussion, including two special meetings of the Board. The areas of Academic Growth and Achievement, Student Services and Support and Student Health and Safety are the three pillars of the plan and each pillar includes seven underlying indicators.

Board members expressed excitement about the plan and felt that it captured the collective vision and where the Board and district needs to move forward. After the plan is formally approved, Mr. Cross will update the Board, staff and school community periodically on the progress of the plan and keep it in front of the staff and Board whenever needed as decisions are made.

#### **E. Discussion Regarding 2021 IASB Resolutions Committee Report**

Mr. Cross reviewed the Illinois Association of School Boards Resolutions Committee Report and process and stated that he feels it is important to appoint a delegate to the committee to be able to act on the resolutions that dictate what IASB lobbies for on behalf of school boards.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to appoint Kent Absalonsen as delegate and have individual members share directly with him if there is concern with any recommendations outlined in the Resolutions Report. It was also suggested that as members read through the resolutions to keep in mind that they are not specific to our district, but rather to all districts in the state.

#### **F. Presentation of Employee Health, Dental and Vision Insurance Proposals**

Mr. Cross and Mrs. Dolehide reviewed the insurance proposals which include a 15.33 percent increase in premiums to stay with the current plan. He explained that while this is a high increase, the district has not realized any substantive net increase in premiums in over four years, and last year was a net decrease of about two percent. This proposal, along with other options,



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were presented to the insurance committee and the committee was in consensus that they would like to keep the current plan. Mrs. Dolehide added that they did look at other insurance carriers and some were a bit lower but felt that the lower bids would come back next year with a larger increase.

#### **G. Discussion Regarding Effective School Board Governance, Communication and Cooperation of Local School Districts**

Mr. Cross stated that some elementary school districts in the area are approving a statement or resolution supporting best practices related to Board governance, particularly as it relates to communication between and among school districts at the Board and district level. One concern was having Board members from the high school district acting on behalf of the district in communication with other Board members of the elementary districts.

After some discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Cross would draft a formal statement prior to any recommendation for Board approval at the December 14, 2021 meeting.

#### **IV. Recommended Action Items**

##### **A. Employment of Recommended Personnel**

*Member Wyent moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve Amber Hanke as Concord Elementary teacher assistant effective November 15, 2021.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Wyent

Member Johnson

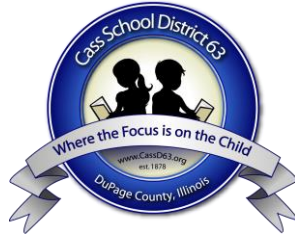
Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.



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*Member Patel moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve Lisa Daly as Concord Elementary long-term half-time special education substitute teacher effective January 3 through April 1, 2022.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Patel

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

*Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve Michelle Carter as long-term prekindergarten substitute teacher effective January 3 through April 1, 2022.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Secretary Esposito

Member Patel

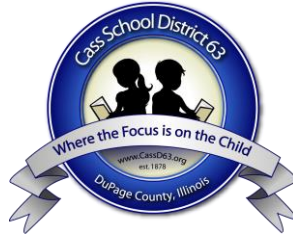
Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

*Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve Janet Miller as long-term second grade substitute teacher effective March 14 through the end of the school year.*



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito  
Member Patel  
Member Johnson  
Member Tanouye  
Member Wyent  
Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

### **B. Approval of the Tentative Tax Levy**

*Secretary Esposito moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the tentative 2021 tax levy as presented.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito  
Member Wyent  
Member Johnson  
Member Patel  
Member Tanouye  
Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

### **C. Adoption of the Cass School District 63 Vision 2025 Strategic Plan**

*Member Patel moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to adopt the Vision 2025 Strategic Plan as presented.*

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Patel  
Member Johnson



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Member Tanouye  
Member Wyent  
Secretary Esposito  
Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

#### **D. Appointment of Representative to the 2021 IASB Delegate Assembly**

*Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve appointing a delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly. Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried 6 to 0.*

*Member Johnson moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to appoint Kent Absalonsen to the 2021 IASB Delegate Assembly. Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried 6 to 0.*

#### **E. Approval of Updated Board Committee Membership and Assignments**

*Member Tanouye moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to appoint Elizabeth Mitha, Steve Leopoldo and Rick Gawel to the Board Facilities Committee. Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried 6 to 0.*

#### **F. Approval of the Employee Health, Dental and Vision Insurance Renewal**

*Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Employee Health, Dental and Vision Insurance Renewal as presented.*

Roll call

Aye

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Nay





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Member Tanouye  
Member Wyent  
Vice President Absalonsen

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

#### **G. Approval of Statement Regarding Effective School Board Governance, Communication and Cooperation of Local School Districts**

This item was tabled until the December 14, 2021 Board meeting.

#### **V. Conclusion**

##### **A. Public Comments**

- Katie Fujiura thanked the Board for approving the insurance recommendation as the staff appreciates not having to make a change during these times. She added her thanks to the Board for today's lunch.

##### **B. Board Member Comments**

- Kent Absalonsen thought the science fair was excellent and it was good to have another activity that was not limited by the pandemic.
- Steve Wyent added his appreciation for the science fair and also expressed his appreciation for the music concerts and ILMEA participation as well.
- Mark Cross announced that the Cass Junior High varsity girls' basketball team won their first playoff game and have had a successful season.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

*Member Johnson moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of November 16, 2021 at 8:54 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 6 to 0.*



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Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary