



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

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 21st Day of October, 2025.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: President Lana Johnson, Secretary Urszula Tanouye, and Members Chris Green, Katie Marinelli, and Steve Wyent. Vice President Rinku Patel and Member Fiyaz Khan were absent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross, Cass Junior High Principal Christine Marcinkewicz, Concord Elementary Principal Katie Doyle, and Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson

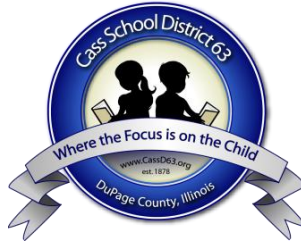
C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

Mrs. Johnson welcomed guests to the meeting and shared that the district received and fulfilled one FOIA request.

D. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

Mr. Cross announced that this week is American Education Week and along with teachers and staff, we also recognize our school board members for School Board Members Day. Mr. Cross shared appreciation of our Board and our staff not only this week, but throughout the year.

Mr. Cross then invited cross country coach Scott Kondraschow to introduce the cross country athletes who recently finished a great season. He noted that this team achieved six wins in the regular season and one member qualified to run in the state meet. He noted that this team works extremely well together and he looks forward to what the next season brings them.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. Cross added that since the last meeting, we have recognized Christine Marcinkewicz and Katie Doyle in honor of Principal Appreciation Day, Sara Zimmerman in honor School Psychology Awareness Week, and Sarah Leganski in honor of World Occupational Therapist Day. Additionally, teachers Mary Carlo and Jenny Kirkpatrick were both recognized by colleagues for their exceptional teaching.

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the November 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the October 21, 2025 Regular and Closed Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the November 5, 2025 Special and Closed Meeting Minutes**
- D. Approval of the November 6, 2025 Special and Closed Meeting Minutes**
- E. Approval of the November 12, 2025 Special and Closed Meeting Minutes**
- F. Approval of Personnel Recommendations**
- G. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports**
- H. Approval of the District Bills**

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda items, including the FMLA leave of Cass Junior High science teacher Christa Romaniszak through March 10, 2026.

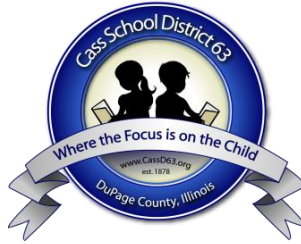
Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 5 to 0.

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Ms. Doyle highlighted Concord Elementary events including the character assembly on Halloween as well as the recent 2nd grade concert. She thanked CARE for approving a grant for the library to add books, and the Board for the American Education Week lunch that the staff greatly appreciated.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mrs. Marcinkewicz celebrated the Cass Junior High cross country team, shared about the Halloween dance and thanked our parent volunteers. She noted that our student council has planned some great new opportunities this year.

Mr. Cross provided an update on federal impact aid and stated that as of today, the government is proposing that the program be shifted from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor, but noted that this is a quickly changing environment and we can expect more changes to come. The 2027 application is opening soon and he plans to get this completed and submitted as quickly as possible. Mr. Cross reviewed the recent history of CPI trends and how these correlate with compensation increases for staff.

B. Presentation of 2025 School Report Cards

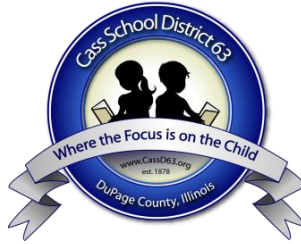
Mr. Cross provided a brief presentation on understanding proficiency on the recently released Illinois School Report Cards. This included an explanation of the difference between proficiency and grade level, noting that the two are unrelated. Proficiency is a construct that compares a student's performance to a fixed standard, while grade level compares a student's performance to what is typical at a particular grade level.

The other important consideration is the significant variation in the rigor of the Illinois Assessment of Readiness across grades and subjects. Across the state, the national percentiles range from the 45th to 69th. Statistical data also shows that most school districts have a steady drop in math proficiency from grade 3 to grade 8 that is unrelated to student, school, or district performance, and most also show significantly higher proficiency in ELA compared to math.

Both Concord Elementary and Cass Junior High Schools were noted as commendable, but ISBE is planning to change the school rating system next year. Mr. Cross and the principals will share a more detailed overview of the 2025 school report card data at the December Board meeting.

C. Presentation of the Tentative 2025 Tax Levy

Mr. Cross presented the tentative 2025 tax levy. The recommended levy of \$11,588,849 excluding debt service, compared to last year's extension of \$11,216,462, is an increase of 3.32 percent. The final amount of taxes on an individual property could be higher or lower and will depend on any changes



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

in assessment of the individual property, as well as what other taxing bodies levy for taxes. The proposed levy is well under the 105 percent threshold for the need to hold a truth in taxation hearing, which Mr. Cross explained as part of his annual Questions and Answers about Local Property Taxes report. The final levy will be presented for formal adoption at the December 16 meeting.

D. Review of the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit and Annual Financial Report

Mr. Cross reviewed the audit and annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. He noted that the auditor once again had no findings, and praised the continued improvement of the district's financial position.

E. Discussion Regarding 2025 IASB Resolutions Committee Report

The Board expressed no concerns about the recommendations contained in the 2025 Resolutions Committee Report, which is mostly related to constitutional changes this year. The Board gave delegate Urszula Tanouye the go ahead to vote as needed during the delegate assembly.

F. Update and Discussion Regarding Phase III Facility Planning

Mr. Cross noted that the district will be applying for the matching maintenance grant and at this time, he expects that the grant will go toward either flooring or LED lighting, but will bring the recommended grant to the Board in December, after more planning is completed with the architects.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of the Tentative 2025 Tax Levy

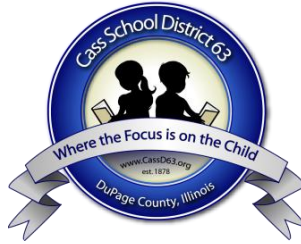
Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve the tentative 2025 tax levy.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Marinelli, Member Green, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 5 to 0.

B. Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Audit and Annual Financial Report

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the fiscal year 2025 audit and annual financial report.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 5 to 0.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

C. Approval of the School Maintenance Matching Grant Application

Action was tabled until the maintenance grant is finalized next month.

V. Closed Session

Member Marinelli moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussion information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of district employees at 8:28 p.m.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, Member Green, Member Wyent, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 5 to 0.

The Board returned from Closed Session at 9:03 p.m.

VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

B. Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

C. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of November 18, 2025 at 9:03 p.m.

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Secretary Tanouye, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____

Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary