



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 19, 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 19th Day of November, 2024.

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 Rinku Patel, Secretary Urszula Tanouye and Members Chris Green, Katie Marinelli, Liz Mitha and Steve Wyent. President Lana Johnson was absent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross, Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson, and staff members Christine Marcinkewicz, Laura Anderson, Katie Doyle, Michelle Roberts, Cathy Fisher, and Krista Jamrose.

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

Vice President Patel welcomed everyone in attendance, and shared a communication from the DuPage Foundation regarding a music grant that music teacher Daniel Murphy applied for and was awarded.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

E. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

Mr. Cross recognized staff celebrating various appreciation days and weeks during the month, including American Education Week and School Board Members Day. Mr. Cross stated that he has invited staff to recognize their peers and among those recognized this month were teachers Kristyn McElligott and Amy Gorzkowski.



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II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the November 19, 2024 Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the October 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports**
- D. Approval of the District Bills**
- E. Approval of Employee Resignations**

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda, reviewing the additional bills and announced the resignations of Cass Junior High social worker Bella Dahlheimer and Cass Junior High teacher assistant Jenny Amezquita.

Member Mitha moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Mitha, Member Marinelli, Member Green, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye and Vice President Patel. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Dr. Anderson gave an update on Concord Elementary highlighting the fall parties, the CARE funded 4th grade symphony field trip, and the book fair.

Mrs. Marcinkewicz gave an update on Cass Junior High highlighting the Veterans Day assembly and the mock election that was conducted by the 6th grade class for all students to participate in.

Mrs. Fisher stated that all is going well with student services and a lot of progress has been made this year.

Mr. Cross reviewed the lunch participation report noting that Cass participation is up a bit this year, while Concord's is down slightly. He added that *US News and World Reports* recently released their school rankings list and both Concord and Cass ranked high in the report.



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B. Presentation of the Tentative 2024 Tax Levy

Superintendent Mark Cross presented the tentative 2024 tax levy. The recommended levy of \$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 final amount of taxes on an individual property could be higher or lower and will depend on any changes in assessment of the individual property, as well as what other taxing bodies levy for taxes. The final levy will be presented to the Board for consideration of approval at the December 17 meeting.

C. Update and Discussion Regarding Phase II Facility Planning

Mr. Cross reviewed the potential Phase II facility priorities that were recently reviewed and reprioritized by the Board Facilities Committee with the school district architects. The plan includes 10 items that are planned for inclusion in a potential bid package for work to be completed in the summer of 2025, as well as a number of stand alone projects that are expected to be completed over the course of 2025 and 2026, subject to the availability of funding. Mr. Cross also reviewed potential plans for updating the Concord playground through a partnership with CARE. The Board discussed items in the listing and expressed support for moving forward with the architects.

D. Discussion Regarding 2024 IASB Resolutions Committee Report

The Board reviewed the resolutions committee report and the Board representative on the committee, Ms. Tanouye, stated that the only issue of note was regarding an individual district's right to decide whether or not its buildings should be used as polling places. The Board agreed that due to safety concerns, they did not want district facilities to be used as polling places.

E. Review of the Employee Health, Dental & Vision Insurance Proposal

Mr. Cross presented the health insurance proposal which reflects an increase of 12.21 percent. The district's vision coverage is locked in until 2026 and our dental insurance renewal is 6.00 percent if the Board approves a change in providers to Sun Life. He stated that it was a deep discussion with the district insurance committee, but in the end the agreement was to remain with Blue Cross Blue Shield for the coming year, but to learn more about other options next fall prior to the health insurance renewal.



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F. Review of the Property, Liability, and Worker Compensation Insurance Renewal

Mr. Cross reviewed the property, liability, and worker compensation insurance renewal which is 11.1 percent. This increase was expected due to the installation of the geothermal HVAC equipment, and it still falls below industry standard premium increases.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of the Tentative 2024 Tax Levy

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the tentative 2024 tax levy.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye and Vice President Patel. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

B. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Member Marinelli moved and Member Green seconded a motion to employ recommended teacher assistant candidate Zainab Tapal for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Marinelli, Member Green, Member Mitha, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye, and Vice President Patel. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

C. Approval of Principal Employment Contract

Member Mitha moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the three-year principal contract for Katie Doyle effective July 1, 2025.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Mitha, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye and Vice President Patel. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.



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D. Authorization to Pursue Bidding for Phase II Facility Planning

Member Green moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to authorize the superintendent to pursue bidding for Phase II Facility Planning.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye and Vice President Patel. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

E. Approval of the School Maintenance Matching Grant Application

Member Mitha moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the 2025 school maintenance matching grant application as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Mitha, Member Green, Member Marinelli, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye and Vice President Patel. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

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

Member Marinelli moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the employee health, dental and vision renewals.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Marinelli, Member Wyent, Member Green, Member Mitha, Secretary Tanouye, and Vice President Patel. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

G. Approval of Property, Liability, and Worker Compensation Insurance Renewal

Member Green moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the property, liability, and worker compensation insurance renewal.

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Green, Secretary Tanouye, Member Marinelli, Member Mitha, Member Wyent, and Vice President Patel. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.



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H. Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Audit and Annual Financial Report

Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the fiscal year 2024 audit and annual financial report.

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

I. Approval of Skyward Student Information Systems Agreement

Member Wyent moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve Skyward for the district's student management system.

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

V. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

Laura Anderson shared that Katie Marinelli, Liz Mitha, and Urszula Tanouye are always volunteering at Concord and the staff is so appreciative of their time and efforts.

B. Board Member Comments

Rinku Patel stated that is what makes our Board unique and special is their commitment not only on the Board, but as parents and community members.

The Board members all congratulated Katie Doyle on her upcoming principalship and wished her well through the transition process.

C. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of November 19, 2024 at 8:30 p.m.



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

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary