



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Minutes of The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District 63, DuPage County, Illinois; Held at Cass School District 63 at 7:30 P.M. on the 16th Day of February, 2021.

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: President Shelly Camden, Vice President Kent Absalonsen, Secretary Alice Esposito, Member Lana Johnson, Member Jeff McCollian and Member Rinku Patel. Member Michael Ockrim arrived at 7:37 p.m.

Also in attendance:

Mark R. Cross, Superintendent of Schools

Laura Anderson, Concord Elementary School Principal

Christine Marcinkewicz, Cass Junior High School Principal

Gayle Wilson, Recording Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

Superintendent Cross requested that the Board approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Member Johnson moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Camden welcomed:

Scott Kondraschow

Kristen Orr

Katie Summers

Sonali Patel

Katie Fujiura

Filomena DeChiara

Krista Jamrose

Kelsey Daniluk

Fiyaz Khan

Melissa Patterson

Karen Hyder

Steven Wyent

Urszula Tanouye



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Secretary Esposito announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 and shared that the District received the following correspondence:

1. Freedom of Information request from the IRTA

Superintendent Cross mentioned that 8th Grade Graduation is scheduled for June 3, 2021. The exact plans are not set as of yet due to the pandemic and possible restrictions that may be in place at that time.

Public Comments

- Urszula Tanouye stated that she objects to Return to Learn 3.0. She doesn't feel enough has changed and that having the teachers vaccinated is not enough to warrant bringing students back in to school four days per week. She would like the District to continue it's blended model, which she feels is a great compromise to allow kids some contact with teachers and with peers.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of January 19, 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of January 19, 2021 Board of Education Closed Session Minutes
- C. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow and Investment Reports
- D. Approval of Payroll Reports
- E. Approval of District Bills
- F. Approval of Employee Request for Leave of Absence

Member Ockrim moved and Member McCollian seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll call

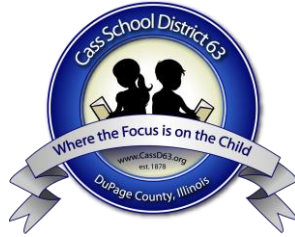
Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito



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Member Johnson
Member McCollian
Member Ockrim
Member Patel

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Principal Marcinkewicz shared that the Cass Junior High School Chess Team is currently in first place and also shared about the Mock Newbury program.

Principal Anderson stated that the staff is working on kindergarten roundup and numbers for next year, as well as preparing for more students to return to school.

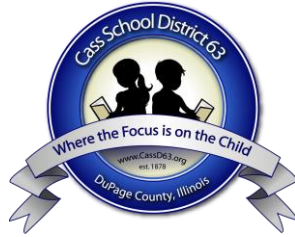
Superintendent Cross shared the excitement regarding the staff vaccinations as well as work in planning for the current school year adjustments but also for next year. The district has been reviewing the survey results and is working on plans for moving toward bringing students back to school in person four days each week.

B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

Member Lana Johnson stated that the CARE meeting was last week. They had some very successful dine out nights, which is wonderful. They also had 100 entries for the creative snowman contest. CARE continues to be strong despite the challenges this year has presented.

C. Presentation of 2021-22 School District Calendar

Superintendent Cross thanked Dr. Anderson and stated that the 2021-22 school year calendar follows the same pattern it has in recent school years. The only exception is that due to the second year of the high school construction projects, we are not able to exactly mirror the high school breaks like we have in the past.



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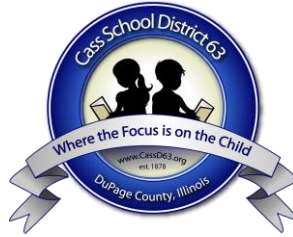
D. Presentation and Update Regarding Current Health Guidance, Parent Survey Results and the School Reimagined 3.0 Return to Learn Framework

Superintendent Cross reviewed the results of the School Reimagined 3.0 Survey and shared that 71.8% of families responded that they would like the kids back in school four days each week, 15 percent wanted to stay in the blended program and the remaining families wish to remain remote. Superintendent Cross added that of those families that stated they would like to maintain the blended model, 10% would opt for four days in person over remote learning. With these responses in hand, Superintendent Cross shared that the Administration is working on finalizing plans to bring interested 1st – 8th grade students back to school beginning on Monday, March 22 for four full days (Monday through Thursday) with a remote day every Friday. Prekindergarten students will also begin to attend four days per week (Monday-Thursday) but will remain ½ day and Kindergarten students will remain ½ day four days per week (Monday-Thursday).

Superintendent Cross, Dr. Anderson and Kindergarten teachers explained their strong preference to remain ½ days because Kindergarten students, by nature, need more movement and ability to stand up from their seats and move around and it would be difficult to allow this if there were more children in the classroom.

The question was asked, since more students will be in the building at one time, as to whether the District would consider testing students for COVID. Superintendent Cross responded that research is being done but at this time they do not believe the District would be doing this due to the effectiveness of the current mitigation efforts, including self-reporting. He stated that the gold standard of testing is the PCR test, which is not conducted on site. He stated that the current mitigation efforts have been very effective and research states that even when students are in school full time, COVID is not easily spread in the school setting. Furthermore, Cass 63 has had zero known instances of spread of COVID-19 so far throughout the 2020-21 school year.

E. Update and Discussion Regarding Bus Routes and Residency Requirements



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Superintendent Cross stated that the Administration would like to make adjustments to the bus routes that would change some of the stops and routes to allow for less time on buses and more efficient use of buses and staff. The Administration is currently working on a plan to condense stops and reduce the amount of time students are on a bus.

Superintendent Cross then shared that beginning with the 2021-22 school year the District will require proof of residency each year for each student and the proof will be uploaded through the PowerSchool Registration process. This is a common practice in most neighboring school districts.

F. Updates and Discussion Regarding Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Concerns and Long-Term Planning

Superintendent Cross stated that the District's HVAC challenges have been occurring more frequently and although we have been slowly addressing the issues, a long-term plan to address these needs is necessary. Over the next year, the Administration would like to develop a comprehensive plan that includes looking at cost comparisons from previous HVAC work the District has completed.

G. Presentation of Recommended Board Policy Updates – Second Reading

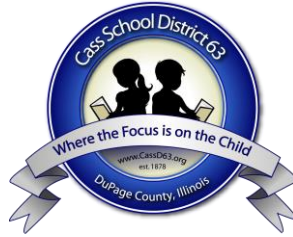
Superintendent Cross stated that there have been no changes to the policy recommendations from last month when they were first presented to the Board of Education and is asking the Board under the Action Items to approve the recommended policy updates.

Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of the 2021-22 School District Calendar

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the 2021-22 School District Calendar as presented.

Roll call



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Aye

Nay

President Camden
Vice President Absalonsen
Secretary Esposito
Member Johnson
Member McCollian
Member Ockrim
Member Patel

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

B. Approval of the School Reimagined 3.0 Return to Learn Framework

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the School Reimagined 3.0 Return to Learn Framework as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden
Vice President Absalonsen
Secretary Esposito
Member Johnson
Member McCollian
Member Ockrim
Member Patel

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

C. Adoption of the Recommended Board of Education Policy Updates

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to adopt the Board of Education Policy Updates as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay



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Member Patel

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

D. Approve the Personnel Recommendations

Member Johnson moved and Member McCollian seconded a motion to approve the employment of Jessica Andujar as a Speech Pathologist effective at the start of the 2021-22 school year.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden
Vice President Absalonsen
Secretary Esposito
Member Johnson
Member McCollian
Member Ockrim
Member Patel

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

Conclusion

A. Public Comments

- Urszula Tanouye spoke and strongly encouraging the district to consider using LAMP COVID testing for students. She added that as the District is reviewing



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HVAC needs, the District may need to examine how many times air is recycled through rooms due to COVID.

Board Member Remarks

- Secretary Esposito stated that the District should consider COVID air recycling recommendations when developing HVAC plans.
- Member Patel expressed his gratitude to the teachers and appreciates how thoughtful and purposeful the plan is for returning to school four days.
- Audience Member Sonali Patel added her appreciation to the Board for their hard work as she is aware that this is not easy. She offered her assistance to the District as they plan mitigation measures for bringing more students back into the buildings.
- Member McCollian announced that tonight will be his last meeting as his family is moving outside District boundaries. He thanked the Board and stated that this has been a great experience and he will miss being a part of the Board.
- Member Johnson stated that she feels the vaccine will be a game changer for not only teachers but for the community as it becomes more readily available.
- President Camden thanked everyone for coming and thanked the teachers for being at the meeting.
- Teacher Kristen Orr thanked the Board for their support.

Member Ockrim moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 16, 2021 at 9:31 p.m. Voice vote; All Ayes. Motion Carried, 7 to 0.



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Shelly Camden, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Alice Esposito, Board of Education Secretary