



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 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 18th Day of March, 2025.

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: 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, Principal Laura Anderson, Principal Christine Marcinkewicz, and Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson.

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Johnson welcomed everyone in attendance.

D. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

Mr. Cross verbally recognized social workers Dana Flutman at Concord Elementary and Bridget Gilmartin at Cass Junior High School in honor of the recent School Social Workers week. We also recognized Concord physical education teachers Craig Damrow and Greg Kirchen for their role in coordinating the Kid's Heart Challenge for the past 16 years, helping to raise over \$121,000 over the years for the American Heart Association.

The Board of Education then welcomed four 5th grade students who won in their respective categories in the recent wax museum project under the guidance of teacher Marie Musil. Sofia Schoper as Queen Elizabeth, Rhett Hofbauer as Steven Spielberg, Ada Shields as David Bowie, and Rayan Patel as Louis Armstrong came dressed as their characters and did an outstanding job sharing their project with the Board.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the February 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of the February 18, 2025 Closed Session Minutes

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

E. Approval of the District Bills

F. Approval of Resignations

Mr. Cross reviewed the consent agenda noting the additional bills and announcing the resignation of Concord 4th grade teacher Bridget Berger effective at the close of the 2024-25 school year.

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

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Marinelli, Member Wyent, Member Green, 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

Dr. Anderson gave an update on Concord highlighting the recent kindergarten roundup and preschool screening. At this time, we have 69 students registered for Kindergarten and 25 in preschool for next year.

Mrs. Marcinkewicz highlighted the eSports league started this year at Cass Junior High. Our team is currently ranked first in the country out of 600 schools and we also have a couple of students ranked in the top 20 in the nation.

Mr. Cross reminded the Board that April 22 is the reorganization meeting that is held every two years after the election. If Board member Liz Mitha wins a seat on the District 86 Board, there will be a need to hold a special meeting



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

to interview potential replacements. Mr. Cross gave an update on the upcoming Multicultural Celebration, scheduled for April 11.

B. Federal Impact Aid Advocacy and Funding Report

Mr. Cross shared that he just returned from Washington, D.C. to advocate with other impacted school districts for the continued funding of Federal Impact Aid. Despite the fiscal uncertainty at the federal level, he believes that the District should be in line to receive this year's impact aid funding. Because the funds are important to the district, he will continue to work on this effort with the other impacted districts to fight for the continuation of the program in fiscal year 2026 and beyond.

C. Review of Fine Arts and Special Area Curriculum Resources

Principals Anderson and Marcinkewicz reviewed recommended updates to curriculum, equipment, and resource materials for art, music, physical education, social and emotional development, and Spanish. Included in the recommendations are replacement physical fitness equipment including treadmills for the fitness room, band instruments, and the installation of a rock climbing wall in the Concord gymnasium. The grand total cost for all of the needs is approximately \$96,000, and much of what is being purchased will have an impact far beyond the normal five-year curricular cycle. The Board acknowledged the total cost, including that much of the needs is for the band and physical education equipment that will be utilized for years to come.

D. Review of Recommended Bids for Phase II Facility Projects

Mr. Cross reviewed the recommended bids for both the interior and exterior work proposed for the summer of 2025. After some discussion, the Board approved moving forward with the low bid of \$300,000 from R.L. Sohol of Plainfield for Concord exterior site work. The Board tabled approval of the low bid of \$1,485,000 from Reed Construction for interior renovation work at both schools. The Board set a tentative date and time of Wednesday, April 9, at 6:00 p.m. to hold a special meeting to determine if it is ready to move forward with the bid for the interior work after Mr. Cross gets more clarity regarding the specific amount and timing of the energy tax credit.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

- E. Update and Discussion Regarding Energy Tax Credit Funding Status**
Mr. Cross updated the Board on the district's prospects for receiving a federal energy tax credit for the recent geothermal project. With an estimated credit range of approximately \$2.3 to \$2.9 million, the Board discussed the timing of when the funds will be received to coincide with planned Phase II facility projects that are expected to be completed this summer.

IV. Recommended Action Items

- A. Approval of the Recommended Fine Arts and Special Area Curriculum Resources**

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the recommended fine arts and special area curriculum.

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.

- B. Approval of Recommended Bid for Summer 2025 Interior Renovation Work**

This action item was tabled until a future Board meeting.

- C. Approval of Recommended Bid for Summer 2025 Exterior Site Renovation Work**

Member Green moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the recommended bid of \$300,000 from R.L. Sohol for summer 2025 exterior site and drainage renovation work.

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.

- D. Employment of Recommended Personnel**

Secretary Tanouye moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve Rozie Hornig as the full-time social worker at Cass Junior High School effective at the start of the 2025-26 school year.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

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

E. Approval of Employee Requests for Retirement

Mr. Cross announced the retirement requests of Lisa Daly and Amy Underhill effective June 2027, Kristina Patrey and Pam Worth effective June 2029, and Christine Marcinkewicz effective June 2030.

Member Marinelli moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the retirement requests as presented.

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

F. Approval of Special Transportation Contract Extension

Mr. Cross explained that this contract is through SASSED and the District utilizes this service only when needed.

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the Special Transportation Contract Extension

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.

G. Approval of 2025-26 Federal Funding Consolidated District Plan

Mr. Cross stated that this for the annual federal grants the District completes and that requires Board approval before submission.

Member Wyent moved and Member Mitha seconded a motion to approve the 2025-26 federal funding consolidated district plan.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

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.

H. Approval of Recommended Bids for Mowing and Trimming Services

Mr. Cross announced that our current service provider is retiring so the District went out to bid. The lowest responsible bid was submitted by Tony's Lawncare.

Member Mitha moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the recommended bid for mowing and trimming services.

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.

I. Approval of 2025-26 Food Service Management Company Renewal Agreement

Mr. Cross explained that while we do have a multi-year agreement with Just A Dash, we are required to do an annual renewal to submit to the state.

Member Wyent moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the 2025-26 food service management company renewal agreement.

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

J. Resolution Approving DuPage West Cook Intergovernmental Agreement Amendments

Mr. Cross explained that this resolution is to eliminate the Board and create an oversight committee for DuPage West Cook, which is related to our special education cooperative. This resolution must be agreed to by each of the member districts so this is more of a formality and will not really affect our district in any way.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Secretary Tanouye moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to adopt the resolution approving the DuPage West Cook Intergovernmental Agreement amendments.

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

V. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

Megan Hofbauer stated the district her family moved from had a wide array of music instruments and she is happy to see our music program adding more. She added that she thinks the district should consider giving students rides home after sporting events. Mr. Cross explained the history of why this is no longer the case because most buses came back empty as kids rode home with their parents.

B. Board Member Comments

Liz Mitha thanked members Steve Wyent and Chris Green for sharing their knowledge regarding finance and construction as it helps shed understanding on subjects everyone is not an expert in.

Rinku Patel shared that he and Urszula Tanouye went to the DuPage IASB dinner meeting and he was very interested in the concepts that were presented related to post-graduation planning in regards to career planning and helping students find the right path to attain their individual goals.

Steve Wyent thanked Mr. Cross for bringing in the students to do the wax museum presentation.

C. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of March 18, 2025 at 9:32 p.m.



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Voice 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.

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary