



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 27, 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 7:30 P.M. on the 27th Day of April, 2021.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: President Shelly Camden, Vice President Kent Absalonsen, Secretary Alice Esposito, Member Lana Johnson, Member Michael Ockrim and Member Rinku Patel.

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

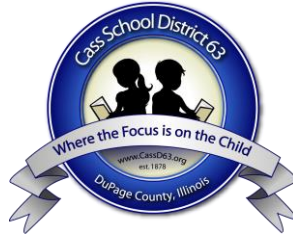
C. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

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

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

D. Special Recognition of Outgoing Board of Education Members

Board President Shelly Camden and Superintendent Mark Cross recognized and thanked outgoing Board Members Jeff McCollian, Brad Carrino (attending via Zoom) and Michael Ockrim for their dedication to the children of Cass School District 63. Each outgoing member was presented with a small token of



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appreciation from the Board of Education and Administration. Member Ockrim presented a gift of a book for members of the Board and administration.

E. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Camden welcomed:

Filomena DeChiara
Jeff McCollian
Carey Ockrim

Gerry Viau
Jack McCollian
Nicholas Ockrim

Deanna McCollian
Nola McCollian
Katie Fujiura

Secretary Esposito announced that the next Cass School District 63 Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There was one FOIA Request from Joe Sutton.

F. Public Comments

Parent Gerry Viau commented that she is concerned about special education and voiced concerns that the District's special education population is not being supported effectively.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of March 16, 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of March 16, 2021 Board of Education Closed Session Minutes

C. Approval of Budget, Cash Flow, Investment and Payroll Reports

D. Approval of District Bills

E. Approval of Request for Employee Leave of Absence

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include Additional Bills as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson



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Member Ockrim
Member Patel

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Principal Anderson stated that the team is in the process of planning the close of the 2020-21 school year and beginning work on the coming year focusing on intervention programs to help bridge the gaps created due to COVID protocols and restrictions. She shared that traditional end of the year activities such as Clap Out, ACES and Field Days will take place in some form. They want to provide all of those opportunities and are planning safe ways to do them.

Principal Christine Marcinkewicz discussed the 8th grade graduation ceremonies to be held on June 3. To ensure plans for a successful and meaningful graduation, the ceremony will not be traditional but it will be much more personal and will allow for the inclusion of family and friends of up to 12 guests per student. Individual family ceremonies will be held throughout the day and evening from noon on into the evening on Thursday, June 3. Additionally, the 8th grade students will be able to participate in the annual bowling trip.

Superintendent Cross added that the decision to not do a full-group graduation was based on ensuring the full participation of our families, avoiding a situation in which students cannot participate due to close contacts in the two weeks prior to the ceremony, and also to avoid weather-related postponements since the move indoors with a large group of people is not an option.

Superintendent Cross updated the Board on the work taking place to find a solution for the B.A.S.E. program for the 2021-22 school year. In addition to the opportunity given to parents to share their interest in working in the program, Mr. Cross has also reached out to the Darien Park District to suggest the idea of partnering with them to continue this service, which they are unable to do at this time. He said the district is considering all options, including outsourcing the program to a third-party entity even though this would come at a higher cost to families. Mr. Cross will continue to explore options and will communicate with the Board and district parents.



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B. CARE Reports and Grant Funding

Lana Johnson stated that CARE held its most recent meeting on April 12 and the primary focus at this time is electing officers for the 2021-22 school year.

C. Updates Regarding HVAC Needs and Long-Term Facility Planning

Superintendent Cross shared several updates with the Board regarding concerns with the district's HVAC issues and summarized his recent meeting with district maintenance staff, architects and engineers. This included various cost estimates for different approaches to resolving HVAC issues going forward. He asked the Board for direction regarding the district's approach to resolving these concerns, while recommending a comprehensive, long-term planning and approach that is cost-effective and will make the best use of potential grant funding, should it be available for this purpose. After some discussion, the Board directed Mr. Cross to commence work the Facilities Committee as well as our school district architect and engineer to start the process.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve employment at the start of the 2021-22 school year of Quinn Csuk, Cass Junior High School Cross-Categorical Teacher, Shannon Wachowski, Cass English Language Arts Teacher, Isabelle Sagat, Concord Teacher Assistant and Kelly Skalnik, Concord Teacher Assistant as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Michael Ockrim

Member Patel

Motion carried, 6 to 0.



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B. Approval of Board Agreements and Protocols

Member Johnson moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the Board Agreements and Protocols as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Member Patel

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

C. Approval of 2021-22 SASSED Classroom Lease Agreements

Member Ockrim moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the 2021-22 SASSED Classroom Lease Agreements as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

President Camden

Vice President Absalonsen

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Ockrim

Member Patel

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

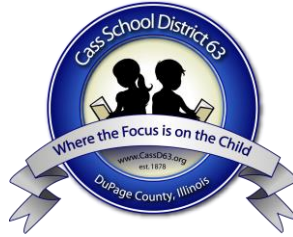
D. Approval of the Consolidated Plan for Federal Funding

Member Ockrim moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Consolidated District Plan for Federal Funding as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay



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

Motion carried, 6 to 0.

V. Organization of the Board of Education

A. Presentation of Certified Results of the April 6, 2021 Election

Superintendent Cross presented the formal results of the April 6, 2021 Election.

B. Appointment of President Pro-Tempore and Secretary Pro-Tempore

Member Johnson moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to appoint Mark Cross as President Pro-Tem and Gayle Wilson as Secretary Pro-Tem.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

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

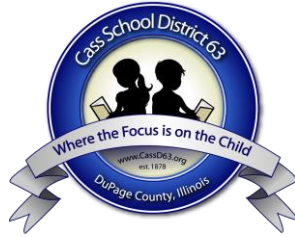
Motion carried, 6 to 0.

C. Adjourn Sine Die

Member Camden moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to adjourn sine die and officially conclude the business of the current Board of Education at 8:57 p.m. Voice vote. All Ayes. Motion carried 6 to 0.

D. Roll Call of the Board of Education

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 p.m. Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: Member Kent Absalonsen, Member Shelly Camden,



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Member Alice Esposito, Member Lana Johnson, Member Rinku Patel, Member Urszula Tanouye and Member Steve Wyent.

E. Oath of Office for Board of Education Members

All sitting and incoming members read the Oath of Office for Board of Education Members.

F. Election of Board of Education President

Member Absalonsen moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to appoint Shelly Camden as Board of Education President.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Absalonsen

Member Patel

Member Camden

Member Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

G. Election of Board of Education Vice President

Member Johnson moved and Member Esposito seconded a motion to appoint Kent Absalonsen as Board of Education Vice President.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Member Esposito

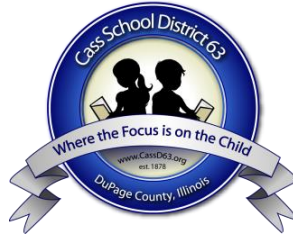
Member Absalonsen

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

President Camden



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Motion carried, 7 to 0.

H. Election of Board of Education Secretary

Member Patel moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to appoint Alice Esposito as Board of Education Secretary.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Patel

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

I. Election of Board of Recording Secretary

Member Johnson moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to appoint Gayle Wilson as Board of Education Recording Secretary.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

J. Election of Board of Treasurer

Secretary Esposito moved and Member Johnson seconded a motion to appoint Mike McLean as Board of Education Treasurer.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Patel

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

K. Establishment of Board of Education Committees and Assignments

Vice President Absalonsen moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to approve the Board of Education Committees and Assignments as presented.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Secretary Esposito

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

L. Establishment of Regular Board of Education Meetings Dates, Times and Locations

Member Patel moved and Secretary Esposito seconded a motion to approve the 2021-22 Board of Education meeting dates as presented.



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Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Patel

Secretary Esposito

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

M. Adoption of Resolution for SASED Board of Control/Governing Board Appointment

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Absalonsen seconded a motion to approve the Resolution appointing Superintendent Mark Cross as the SASED Board of Control representative with Board Member Lana Johnson as the alternate representative and Board Member Rinku Patel as the SASED Governing Board representative with Board Member Kent Absalonsen as the alternate representative.

Roll call

Aye

Nay

Member Wyent

Vice President Absalonsen

Member Patel

Member Johnson

Member Tanouye

Secretary Esposito

President Camden

Motion carried, 7 to 0.

VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

Superintendent Cross announced that after 24 years as a school board member in District 61, Teacher Katie Fujiura has stepped down and Principal Christine Marcinkewicz stepped down from the District 33C's Board after four years.



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B. Board Member Remarks

Member Johnson welcomed Urszula Tanouye and Steve Wyent to the Board and congratulated Kent Absalonsen and Rinku Patel on their election wins.

President Camden added her welcome and congratulations. She then offered her appreciation to Katie Fujiura for her 24 years on the District 61 Board of Education.

Member Tanouye asked questions about graduation, NWEA testing and saliva testing. She requested to discuss, at a later Board meeting, the possibility of conducting saliva testing on district students starting in the fall.

Member Wyent noted concerns about false positives and negatives with testing when parents are able to get PCR tests done whenever needed.

President Camden questioned the purpose of administering the testing noting the workload of the school offices, staffing concerns and if it would be better to allow the staff to focus on education as schools open in the fall.

Secretary Esposito suggested that this question may be better suited for the Return to Learn Committee.

Member Patel added his support for moving this discussion away from the Board meeting and to the Return to Learn Committee for more study. He added his concerns regarding testing that may be done for the wrong purposes, if it is not in compliance with CDC and IDPH guidelines, and also reminded everyone that there will be many changes to guidelines between now and the start of the school year.

C. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Regular Board of Education Meeting of April 27, 2021 at 9:37 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