



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 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 22nd Day of April, 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 and Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson.

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Johnson welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mrs. Johnson shared the District received FOIA requests from Joe Orozco, Smart 265, Kalah Love, Postal Source, David Arvayo, Painters District Council No. 30, Woo Park, The Data Branch, and 10 requests from ad.cuius.bonum at protom, an anonymous source that made the same requests of many districts.

D. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

Mr. Cross verbally recognized assistant principals Katie Doyle and Michelle Roberts in honor of Assistant Principals week, and in honor of National Library Workers Day, he recognized Beth Dooley and Monique Bell.

Board members and Mr. Cross recognized outgoing member Liz Mitha who has resigned after two years of exemplary service on the Board. Mrs. Mitha ran for and won a seat on the Hinsdale High School District 86 Board, which is why she is resigning from her seat mid-term. We wish her the best as she moves on to represent our community in District 86.



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E. Public Comments

Daphne Kao shared that she wanted to attend the meeting to learn more about the Board and the District, and noted that she is a graduate of District 63.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the April 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the April 9, 2025 Special Meeting 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 outlining the additional bills, noting a significant downturn in the cost of the District's gas bills due to the geothermal installment, and announced the resignations of Concord teacher assistant Meagan Garcia and Cass Junior High permanent substitute teacher Michael Gallagher effective at the close of the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Cross then discussed the 2024-25 budget which will likely need to be amended. With this likelihood in mind, he recommended moving the June Board meeting to June 24 to allow 30 days from when the amended budget is presented in May to when the public hearing is held for the amended budget prior to adoption.

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

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.

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Mr. Cross reviewed upcoming events including the Art & Jazz Show on April 30, staff appreciation week May 5-9, Becky Kriz's last concert in the District



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after 35 years on May 1, 8th grade graduation on June 3, and noted that at next month's meeting the Board will be recognizing our retirees and staff members reaching significant years of service milestones.

Mr. Cross extended his thanks to everyone for all of their support for the Multicultural Celebration. It was an amazing event which garnered much community participation and many compliments. The committee is meeting again soon to start planning for next year.

Mr. Cross also discussed a recent meeting held regarding our procedures and processes with multi-tiered systems of support and special services, and noted 28 special education, student services, and regular education teachers participated in the planning and shaping of the district's future in this area. He commended the staff and Director of Student Services Cathy Fisher in particular for the incredible progress being made to put supports in place for our students and how decisions are made going forward.

B. Update Regarding Summer 2025 Phase Two Facility Projects

Mr. Cross updated the Board on progress and planning for the summer renovation projects. He also updated the Board on potential plans for the new Concord playground, a cooperative effort between the school district, CARE, and local fundraising efforts. More information on the upcoming fundraising efforts with plans to recognize individual as well as any corporate support for the project will be shared soon.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Employment of Recommended Personnel

Mr. Cross announced recommended candidates for the 2025-26 school year, including Cass choral music teacher Gretchen Stanfa, Cass special education teacher Bryan Koh, Cass English language arts teacher Alayna Krajack-Chavez, Cass English language arts teacher Lauren Niedziela, and Cass permanent substitute teacher Rebecca Kondrisack.



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Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the employment of Gretchen Stanfa, Bryan Koh, Alayna Krajack-Chavez, Lauren Niedziela, and Rebecca Kondrisack for the 2025-26 school year.

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 Purchase of Used 28 Passenger School Bus

Mr. Cross reviewed the need to replace one of the district's current smaller buses, and reviewed the specifications and cost of the recommended used bus, a 2020 Chevrolet in excellent condition with 44,000 miles.

Member Green moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the purchase of a 28 passenger school bus from Midwest Transit Equipment for the amount of \$76,340.

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.

C. Approval of Ivy League Kids Three-Year Contract Agreement

Mr. Cross explained that our first three-year contract for before and after school care is coming to an end and since the partnership is working well, he is recommending another three-year contract with Ivy League Kids through the 2027-28 school year.

Member Marinelli moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve a three-year contract with Ivy League Kids effective August 2025 through June 2028.

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



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D. Approval of Smart Oaks Soccer Field Intergovernmental Agreement

Mr. Cross stated that in order for Cass Junior High to use the soccer field in Smart Oaks Park, we maintain an intergovernmental agreement with the Darien Park District. The proposed agreement is for three years and will be in effect through the 2027-28 school year.

Member Mitha moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the Darien Park District for the use of Smart Oaks Park.

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

E. Approval of the Extended School Year Services Intergovernmental Agreement

Mr. Cross shared that SASSED will no longer be providing extended school year services to students, but the District is still required to provide ESY services to students who have it noted in their IEPs. With this in mind, the District has partnered with Woodridge School District 68, and the proposed intergovernmental agreement will allow District 68 to provide ESY to identified students in Kindergarten through 8th grade for the summer of 2025.

Member Marinelli moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement with Woodridge School District 68 for the extended school year program.

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



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F. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association

Mr. Cross explained that ESY for preschool students will be offered in house and due to this, a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted with the Cass Education Association (CEA) to allow for compensation of the ESY staff.

Secretary Tanouye moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association regarding extended school year.

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

V. Organization of the Board of Education

A. Presentation of Certified Results of the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election

The certified results of the April 1, 2025 consolidated election were shared with Chris Green, Urszula Tanouye, and Steve Wyent each reelected.

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

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

Voice 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.

C. Adjourn Sine Die

Member Johnson moved and Member Patel seconded a motion to adjourn sine die and officially conclude the business of the current Board of Education. This will be the final action with Liz Mitha as a member of the Board following her resignation, creating a Board vacancy that must be filled for the remaining unexpired portion of her term of office through April of 2027.



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

D. Roll Call of the Board of Education

Upon roll being called, the following members answered present: Member Green, Member Johnson, Member Marinelli, Member Patel, Member Tanouye, and Member Wyent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross and Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson.

E. Oath of Office for Board of Education Members

Since the Oath of Office is technically for new members, the current six members agreed to postpone the Oath of Office until the new member is appointed and seated, with the intention for this to take place at the May 20, 2025 meeting.

F. Election of Board President, Vice President, and Secretary

Member Patel moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to elect Lana Johnson as President.

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

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to elect Rinku Patel as Vice President.

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



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Member Marinelli moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to elect Urszula Tanouye as Secretary.

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

G. Appointment of Board Treasurer and Recording Secretary

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to appoint Mike McLean as treasurer and Gayle Wilson as recording secretary.

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

H. Approval of the 2025-26 Board Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations

Member Marinelli moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the 2025-26 Board meeting dates, times, and locations.

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

I. Adoption of Resolution for Appointment of SASSED Governing Board Membership

Vice President Patel moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to adopt the resolution for appointment of SASSED Governing Board membership with Katie Marinelli as the Governing Board member and Chris Green as alternate.

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

VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments



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There was no public comment.

B. Board Member Comments

Steve Wyent expressed that he has really enjoyed working alongside Liz Mitha and will miss her. Rinku Patel echoed Mr. Wyent's comments and added how important it is to choose the right replacement to ensure the continued collaborative relationship the Board currently enjoys.

Lana Johnson extended her appreciation for all the hard work Katie Marinelli, Mark Cross, and the entire team put into the Multicultural Celebration.

C. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of April 22, 2025 at 8:52 p.m.

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

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary