



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 19, 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 19th Day of August, 2025.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 Fiyaz Khan, Katie Marinelli, and Steve Wyent. Member Chris Green was absent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross, Cass Junior High Principal Christine Marcinkewicz, Concord Elementary Principal Katie Doyle, and Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

Mrs. Johnson welcomed the all guests to the meeting and shared that the district received and fulfilled a FOIA request from CT Mills.

D. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Cross welcomed and introduced new staff for the 2025-26 school year.

E. Public Comments

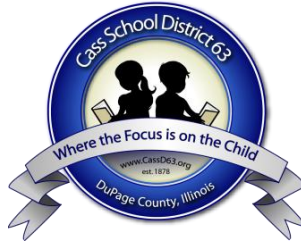
There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the August 19, 2025 Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the June 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of Personnel Recommendations



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Mr. Cross recommended the following new staff for the 2025-26 school year:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelly Henrikson | Cass STEAM Teacher |
| Maddie Canong | Concord Teacher Assistant |
| Nicole Klein | Cass Teacher Assistant |
| Nicole Linarez | Concord Teacher Assistant |
| Danielle Moring | Concord Teacher Assistant |
| Gina Negrete | Bus Driver and Custodian |
| Rubaiyat Tasnova | Concord Teacher Assistant |

D. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

E. Approval of the District Bills

Mr. Cross reviewed the financial reports highlighting the new additional reports for the activity funds at each building as well as the treasurer report signed by the district treasurer, and the additional bills which included a payment to Reed Construction for the summer work. He further noted that ComEd had overcharged the District over a period of time and have been reconciling that overpayment for another period of time. Moving forward the ComEd bills should be accurate.

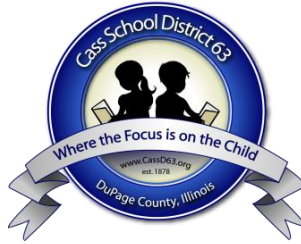
Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Ms. Doyle stated that Orientation Day went well and the later time seems to have been a good fit for families and staff. She reviewed all the summer projects and shared that she has a principal mentor and recently attended the Illinois Principals Association conference. She noted that Assistant Principal



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Megan Conlin and herself attended Popsicles in the Park this past weekend to meet their new kindergarten students and families.

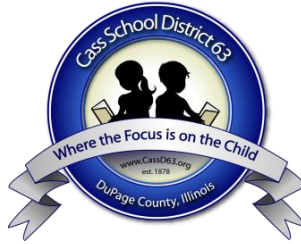
Mrs. Marcinkewicz said that Orientation went well and the parents and teachers both seemed to prefer the later time. She noted that we had some great individuals retire last year and it has been wonderful to see our younger staff now stepping into leadership roles. She shared that teachers have been happy with the change to Skyward for our student management platform.

Mr. Cross commended Mrs. Marcinkewicz, Ms. Doyle, and Ms. Roberts for all of their hard work getting Skyward changed over, Mrs. Dolehide for getting eFunds off the ground and Mr. Pragides for supporting the changeover for all of it. He reviewed the change to curriculum nights this year, sharing that it will no longer be in person and that instead teachers will create videos to provide to parents covering all pertinent information that would be covered at an in person curriculum night. Mr. Cross then highlighted the eBike ordinance and the challenges they have at Concord after hours with kids on the eBikes. Mr. Cross announced that just over \$62,000 was raised for the playground with community donations along with CARE's donation.

Mrs. Johnson suggested we move Item 3.F. up to this spot on the agenda so that the Superintendent search consultants do not need to stay throughout the meeting.

F. Update Regarding the Superintendent Search and Survey Results

Mr. Cross introduced Cathie Pezanoski and Bob Carlo who gave an overview of how they would assist the Board in screening candidates to interview for the position of superintendent. The primary responsibility will be to review the applications, screen the candidates, narrow the applicant pool down based on the characteristics and leadership profile the Board develops, as well as the pre-screening interviews and background checks that will be conducted on the candidates. The Board will be given the candidate pool at the October meeting and interviews will be conducted in early November.



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B. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2026 Tentative Budget

Mr. Cross reviewed the tentative fiscal year 2026 budget, which has a small total deficit of just over \$185,000, excluding planned capital improvements as the district continues to execute its facilities plan. This follows a healthy surplus in the final FY25 fiscal year, as the district has continued to build its fund balances and improve our financial standing over the last several years. Excluding estimated expenditures related to planned facility improvements, the total expenditure budget for FY26 is just under \$15.5 million.

C. Annual Report of Contracts Exceeding \$25,000

Mr. Cross presented the annual report of contracts exceeding \$25,000 which is also posted on the District's website.

D. Annual Report of Salary, Compensation, and Benefits

Mr. Cross presented the annual salary, compensation and benefits report which is required under Public Acts 97-609 and 96-0266 and is posted on the District's website.

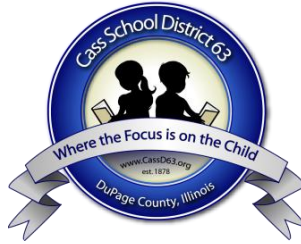
E. Update Regarding Summer 2025 Phase Two Facility Projects

Mr. Cross gave an update on the summer renovation work noting that most of the work is complete with the exception of the Cass Junior High gym where the installation of windows is not yet complete along with some other punch list items in the schools. The new playground at Concord will have a grand opening at the Ice Cream Social on August 22.

IV. Closed Session

Member Wyent moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of reviewing and considering release of closed session minutes from January 21, 2025, February 18, 2025, and May 13, 2025 with exceptions noted when the need for confidentiality remains.

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



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The Board returned from Closed Session at 9:19 p.m.

V. Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Tentative Budget

Member Wyent moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to approve the fiscal year 2026 tentative budget.

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

B. Approval of Date, Time, and Location for the FY26 Public Budget Hearing

Member Wyent moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to approve Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to hold the fiscal year 2026 public budget hearing.

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

C. Approval of 2025-26 Teacher Evaluation Plan

Member Khan moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve the 2025-26 teacher evaluation plan.

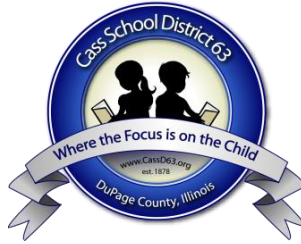
Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Khan, Member Marinelli, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 6 to 0.

D. Approval of Phase Two Facility Project Change Orders

There was no motion as there were no change orders submitted.

E. Approval of Superintendent Search Screening Consultants

Member Khan moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the superintendent search screening consultants Cathie Pezanoski and Bob Carlo at a total cost of \$5,000.



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

F. Approval of Behavioral Threat Risk Assessment Procedures and Team

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the Behavioral Threat Risk Assessment Procedures.

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

G. Approval to Release Closed Session Minutes with Exceptions as Noted

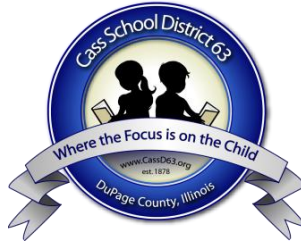
Secretary Tanouye moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve the release of closed session minutes from January 21, 2025, February 18, 2025, and May 13, 2025.

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

H. Authorization of Destruction of Verbatim Audio Records from Closed Sessions Held Prior to January 1, 2024 per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120

Member Marinelli moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to Authorize the Destruction of Verbatim Audio Records from Closed Sessions Held Prior to January 1, 2024 per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120.

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



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VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

B. Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

C. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of August 19, 2025 at 9:33 p.m.

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Khan, 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