



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

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 17th Day of February, 2026.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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, Principal Katie Doyle, and Board Recording Secretary Gayle Wilson

C. Recognition of Audience, Announcements and Correspondence

President Johnson welcomed everyone in attendance and noted that the Board received FOIA requests from Allium Data and Michael Henry.

D. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

In honor of National School Counseling Week, Cass Junior High counselor Lia Lamb was recognized for the critical role she plays in the social emotional growth of our students, as well as assisting in crisis situations.

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the February 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of the January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes



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- C. Approval of the January 20, 2026 Closed Meeting Minutes**
- D. Approval of Personnel Recommendations**
- E. Approval of Financial Reports**
- F. Approval of the District Bills**

Mr. Cross reviewed the financial documents and announced the resignations of Candy Papanicholas and Kali Sheldon which will be effective at the close of the 2025-26 school year. Mr. Cross further noted that the FY26 budget appears to be on track, aside from a continued shortfall in the transportation fund.

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

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.

III. Reports, Updates and Informational Items

A. Administrative Reports

Christine Marcinkewicz reviewed the report for Cass Junior High, announcing that 7th grader Sai Sundaram won the spelling bee for the second year in a row and is competing at the DuPage County spelling bee.

Katie Doyle reviewed the report for Concord Elementary highlighting the second Shining Comets celebrating kids showing strong emotional intelligence, along with upcoming prekindergarten screening and kindergarten roundup.

Mr. Cross shared that school safety planning with district teachers and staff with the Darien police and the student resource officer from Hinsdale South. This is the second recent training for staff that incorporates the police department, ALICE training, and conducting drills with the BluePoint system. Board members suggested that Mr. Cross share some basic information regarding our safety systems with parents, as well as outline recent accomplishments since the referendum.



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B. Federal Impact Aid Advocacy and Funding Report

Mr. Cross provided a report regarding his recent attendance at the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association meeting. This is largely in preparation for the March National Association of Federally Impacted Schools conference and Hill visits with members of Congress and staff to help ensure continued funding and support for federal impact aid. He will share a more detailed report at the March Board meeting.

C. Student Learning and Academic Growth Presentation

Mr. Cross reviewed the results of the high school readiness survey conducted by one of the local school districts. For the most part, our former students agree or strongly agree that they were prepared for the various areas of high school. There was discussion about the data, what it means, and what the district can do to use the data to benefit our students.

The Board reviewed the Overview of Student Learning and Achievement that is based off of MAP testing results. It was noted that in reading and math most of our students are performing above average in comparison to national norms. The data in this report is used in concert with other data we have about individual students to help determine how well they are performing and where they may need more challenge or more assistance.

D. Update and Discussion Regarding Phase III Facility Planning

Mr. Cross shared several updates related to Phase III facility planning noting that we are partnering with the City of Darien for the replacement of the Cass Junior High School parking lots. The alternate bid with the city for our specific project came in at \$175,147.21, which will actually cost the District just over \$125,000 due to a maintenance grant that was awarded the District.

Member Urszula Tanouye shared concerns regarding the materials in the floor tile for the summer 2026 Phase III facility project at Concord to ensure the safety of students and staff. The Board held an in depth discussion about the specifications and product. Mr. Cross will work with the architects and keep the Board informed prior to any recommendation for approval of a bid.



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IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of 2026-27 Registration Fees

Mr. Cross shared with the Board that he is recommending that the fees remain the same for the 2026-27 year and that we increase the transportation fees from \$275 to \$300.

Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve the 2026-27 school year fees.

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.

B. Approval of 2026-27 Assistant Principal Contracts

Member Khan moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the assistant principal contracts for Michelle Roberts and Megan Conlin for the 2026-27 school year.

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

C. Approval of 2026-27 Non-Union Employee Salaries

Member Wyent moved and Secretary Tanouye seconded a motion to approve the 2026-27 non-union employee salaries as presented.

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

D. Approval of Extended School Year Memorandum of Understanding

Member Marinelli moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to approve the Extended School Year Memorandum of Understanding with the Cass Education Association.



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

E. Adoption of Resolution Regarding Declaration and Sale of Surplus Equipment

Member Wyent moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution Regarding Declaration and Sale of Surplus Equipment for the sale of an old school bus that is no longer in operation.

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.

F. Approval of Cass Junior High Pavement Replacement Bid with the City of Darien

Secretary Tanouye moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the Cass Junior High parking lot replacement bid through the City of Darien totaling \$175,147.21 with Builder's Asphalt.

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

G. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Darien for Pavement Replacement Work at Cass Junior High School

Member Wyent moved and Member Marinelli seconded a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Darien for Pavement Replacement Work at Cass Junior High School.

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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Member Khan moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to enter into Closed Session to discuss Information Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific District Employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

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

V. Closed Session

The Board returned from Closed Session at 9:52 p.m.

VI. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

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 February 17, 2026 at 9:53 p.m.

Voice Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Khan, Member Marinelli, 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