



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 24, 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 24th Day of March, 2026.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, Fiyaz Khan, Katie Marinelli, and Steve Wyent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Mark R. Cross, Principal Christine Marcinkewicz, 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 Sunlight Access, Lauren Leong, Civic IQ, and CT Mills.

D. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

Since the last meeting, the District recognized our outstanding social workers Rozie Hornig at Cass Junior High and Bridget Gilmartin at Concord Elementary in honor of School Social Work Week. Mr. Cross also highlighted the varsity girls' volleyball team who completed a great season finishing 3rd in the regular season and advanced to the semifinals of the SDEAA conference tournament.

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.



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II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the March 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the February 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of the February 17, 2026 Closed Meeting Minutes**
- D. Approval of Personnel Recommendations**
- E. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports**
- F. Approval of the District Bills**

Mr. Cross reviewed the financial documents and recommended Maddie Ross for the position of Concord Elementary music teacher and Bridget Gilmartin as Concord Elementary social worker effective at the start of the 2026-27 school year.

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

Roll Call Vote – Aye: Member Wyent, Member Khan, 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

Katie Doyle gave an update on Concord Elementary highlighting the most recent Shining Comets awards which celebrated students who exemplify empathy and kindness. She also announced Ready Set Kindergarten, which is a new program which invites incoming students in during a school day to see what school will look like for them next year.

Christine Marcinkewicz gave an update on Cass Junior High highlighting the girls' volleyball team and their performance this year. She was most proud of how well the team worked together and how supportive of each other they were even in the face of the semi-championship loss. She also highlighted the e-car team successes as well as the Mock Newbery participants.



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Mark Cross announced proposed House Bill 4416, which is an unfunded mandate requiring Districts to pay unemployment for staff that do not work 12 months a year. He noted that the bill has a good chance of passing and if successful, it will be costly to districts. Mr. Cross also announced that he will be recognizing Lana Johnson at an upcoming IASA breakfast in honor of her many years of service to the school district and community through multitude of roles throughout the years, culminating in her time as Board President.

B. Student Learning and Academic Growth Report

Principals Christine Marcinkewicz and Katie Doyle shared with the Board details on our student growth from the district's data from the winter NWEA MAP assessment, including the identification of some strengths and areas targeted for further review and improvement. They noted that our student growth is very strong, with all grade level scores above national norms. The growth continues as students move up grade levels, including higher level math preparation at Cass Junior High School.

C. Federal Impact Aid Advocacy and Funding Report

Mr. Cross shared that he recently visited Washington, D.C. as part of the NAFIS conference and to meet with legislators and staffers with other districts representatives to advocate for continued funding of federal impact aid. He feels the future of impact aid is more secure now than it was a year ago. Mr. Cross was also re-elected to the FLISA Executive Board. The two-year term coincides with the plan for him to continue representing the district in that timeframe, while allowing for overlap with our next superintendent Dr. Travis McGuire before he fully takes on the advocacy role for the school district.

D. Update and Review of Summer 2026 Phase III Facility Projects

At the March 6 Facilities Committee meeting, members Urszula Tanouye and Chris Green, along with Mr. Cross and Dr. McGuire, agreed to make some changes to better organize the base and alternate bids with the intention of getting the best pricing and allowing for the most work to get done within the planned budget. The bid opening is scheduled for April 14.



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IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of Employee Requests for Retirement

Mr. Cross shared retirement requests from teachers Jim Bundy and Kristen Orr, both effective at the close of the 2029-30 school year, and from administrative assistant Gayle Wilson effective June 30, 2031.

Member Khan moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the retirement requests for Jim Bundy and Kristen Orr effective at the close of the 2029-30 school year and Gayle Wilson effective June 30, 2031.

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

B. Approval of Sunrise Regular Transportation Contract Extension

Mr. Cross reviewed the success of the current three-year agreement and the recommended two-year contract extension with Sunrise, which is tied to the consumer price index and runs through June 30, 2028.

Member Green moved and Member Wyent seconded a motion to approve a two-year extension for the regular transportation contract with Sunrise Transportation.

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

C. Approval of 2026-27 Federal Funding Consolidated District Plan

This agenda item was tabled until the April Board meeting.

D. Approval of Agreement for 2026-27 Adapted Physical Education Services

Mr. Cross explained that this is for an adaptive physical education teacher that comes in to work with some of our students with the most significant special needs. He shared that the partnership has worked very well this school year.



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Member Marinelli moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve the agreement for 2026-27 adaptive physical education services.

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

E. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Hinsdale School District 86

Mr. Cross reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hinsdale High School District 86, explaining that partner districts collaborated on it to allow for sharing student data as expressed in the agreement and making sure this is done in a legally sound manner. Mr. Cross shared that the goal for our district is focused on getting better data and information on how our students are performing once they get to high school.

Member Green moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Hinsdale School District 86.

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

Member Marinelli moved and Member Khan 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 Marinelli, Member Khan, Member Green, Member Wyent, Secretary Tanouye, Vice President Patel, and President Johnson. Nay: None. Motion carried 7 to 0.

V. Closed Session

The Board returned from Closed Session at 8:55 p.m.



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VI. Recommended Action Items After Closed Session

A. Approval of Settlement Agreement with Former District Administrator

Member Khan moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the settlement agreement with former district administrator Kerry Foderaro.

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

VII. 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 March 24, 2026 at 8:59 p.m.

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