



CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 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 19th Day of May, 2026.

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, Secretary Urszula Tanouye and Members Chris Green, Fiyaz Khan, Katie Marinelli, and Steve Wyent. Vice President Rinku Patel arrived at 7:19 p.m.

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 attendees and noted FOIA requests from Matt Cosenza, Lake County Gazette, and Karen Doyle.

D. Student and Staff Spotlight and Recognition

President Lana Johnson and Superintendent Mark Cross recognized Concord speech-language pathologist Jane York who is retiring after 26 years of dedicated service in the school district. President Johnson also recognized Mr. Cross, who is retiring after six successful years as superintendent.

The Board also recognized employees who have reached the following milestone years of service in Cass School District 63. Five Years: Jessica Andujar, Katie Beringer, Caitlin Halleran, Deysi Miranda, AJ Petigo, and Mark Pragides. Ten Years: Denise Pelliccioni. Fifteen Years: Maggie Adelman, Jeff Grand, and Christine Marcinkewicz. Twenty-Five Years: Kristie Miller, Susan Paszkowski, and Amy Pollitz. Thirty Years: Kristina Patrey.



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The Board also recognized the Boys Soccer Team, along with their coach Megan Newton, in recognition of their perfect 13-0 season culminating with a SDEAA conference regular season and tournament championship.

Since the last meeting, the District recognized teachers and staff in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, nurses Katie Beringer and Amy Lesnicki in honor of National School Nurse Day, Sunrise and school district bus drivers in honor of Bus Driver Appreciation Day, Just A Dash employees in recognition of School Lunch Hero Day, and Christine Marcinkewicz and Katie Doyle in honor of National School Principals' Day.

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the May 19, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- B. Approval of the April 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- C. Approval of Personnel Recommendations**
- D. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports**
- E. Approval of the District Bills**

Mr. Cross reviewed the personnel recommendations including the resignation of special education teacher Jenny Kirkpatrick effective at the close of the 2025-26 school year, the leave requests of Megan Conlin from late October to late January and Caitlin Halleran from late September to early January, the approval of summer 2026 extended school year employees, Jenny Kirkpatrick, Haneefah Cummings, Sarah Leganski, Rebecca Greenberg, and Lauren Slomski, summer custodians Jake Monaco, Deysi Miranda, and Aaron Paszkowski, Summer technology help Monique Bell, and bus route coordinator Amy Perez.

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



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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 updated the Board on the end of the year activities at Concord Elementary, highlighting the 4th grade step up activities and the change to the preschool calendar which will better align with the rest of the grades.

With Christine Marcinkewicz on the 8th grade class trip in Washington D.C., Michelle Roberts updated the Board on the end of the year activities at Cass Junior High highlighting all of the 8th grade end of the year celebration events and shared that Cass had two students who qualified for the state track meet: Zander Frasca in long jump and hurdles and Olivia Moon in discus.

Mr. Cross shared that President Johnson suggested that the Board apply for IASB Board Governance Recognition and that he plans to look into the process. Mr. Cross noted that the recognition is tough to attain, but he thinks that even if the Board does not get it this year, they should continue working toward achieving the recognition. Mr. Cross then announced that another successful Rotary literacy project is complete and the bags have all been distributed.

Incoming superintendent Dr. Travis McGuire stated that he may be asking the Board to adjust the March 2027 meeting date so that he is able to attend Impact Aid trip to Washington D.C. with Mr. Cross.

B. First Reading of Recommended Board Policy Updates

Mr. Cross noted that while there are many routine updates in this round of policy updates, the more substantive recommendations are related to changes in with Freedom of Information Act requests as it relates to artificial intelligence, consideration of a member of the general public being able to request that a discussion item be added to the meeting agenda, and updating policy to match current practice as it relates to employee leaves of absence.



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C. Update Regarding Summer 2026 Phase III Facility Projects

Mr. Cross gave a brief update noting that the projects are set to begin on schedule as soon as school is out for the summer. Moving out of classrooms will take place on May 29, and the asbestos abatement and renovation projects will commence on June 1.

D. Previous of Potential Changes to SASSED Articles of Joint Agreement

Mr. Cross provided an overview of potential adjustments to the SASSED Articles of Joint Agreement that largely involve facilities planning and for an opt-out timeline for the 18 school districts who are currently members of the special education cooperative. This is also related to the cooperative's facility planning process prior to the potential acquisition and renovation of a new property. The Board will be asked to act on the new agreement at the June meeting.

IV. Recommended Action Items

A. Approval of 2026-27 Teacher Evaluation Plan

Mr. Cross reviewed the updates to the teacher evaluation plan that was created after a collaborative process with the teacher evaluation committee over the past school year. Everyone was very supportive of the changes that will focus on teacher professional growth.

Member Marinelli moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to approve the recommended teacher evaluation plan.

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

B. Authorization of the Superintendent to Approve Summer 2026 Phase III Project Change Orders Made in Writing, Per the Requirements of 720 ILCS 5/33E-9.

Mr. Cross reviewed the need for this action item which essentially allows the superintendent to approve a change in real time during the summer renovation project without having to call an emergency Board meeting to approve the change. All change orders are eventually approved by the Board.



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Member Wyent moved and Member Green seconded a motion to authorize the superintendent to approve summer 2026 Phase III project change orders made in writing, per the requirements of 720 ILCS 5/33E-9.

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

C. Approval of Date, Time, and Location for the eLearning Plan Public Hearing

Mr. Cross shared that the district's plan must be renewed every three years and includes a public hearing. He stated that there are no substantive changes with the current plan that is in place.

Member Khan moved and Member Green seconded a motion to approve Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the District Community Room to hold the eLearning Plan public hearing.

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.

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

As part of the district's membership in the SASSED special education cooperative, this resolution is necessary to name members of the Governing Board. The superintendent is automatically the Board of Directors main representative. This resolution appoints Katie Marinelli to continue as Governing Board representative and as the alternate to the Board of Directors, and Chris Green will continue to as the alternate on the Governing Board.

Member Green moved and Member Khan seconded a motion to adopt the resolution for appointment of SASSED Governing Board Membership.



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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.

V. Conclusion

A. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

B. Board Member Comments

Mr. Green congratulated the track team on a great season.

C. Adjournment

Member Wyent moved and Vice President Patel seconded a motion to adjourn this Board of Education Meeting of May 19, 2026 at 8:44 p.m.

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

Lana Johnson, Board of Education President

Attest: _____
Urszula Tanouye, Board of Education Secretary