

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (1st Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
November 6, 2025

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 p.m. at Lemman Middle School, 238 E. Hazel St., West Chicago, Illinois. On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Rita Balgeman, Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mr. Tom Doyle, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Absent: Mrs. Janette Hernandez.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Lea DeLuca, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Building and Grounds; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services; Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships; Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners; and Nicole Eimer, Director of Marketing, Communications & Public Relations.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rita Balgeman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

No additions or changes at this time.

SHARED AGREEMENTS

Make decisions according to what is best for ALL District 33 students.

1. *Respect staff and other board members and their opinions.*
2. *Be willing to see things from the eyes of seven (7) people, not just one (1).*
3. *Allow everyone to complete their thoughts.*
4. *Commit to shared leadership.*
5. *Respect confidentiality.*
6. *Adhere to our belief in our students' full potential and successful future.*

Strategic Plan Goals

Goal #1 – Student Growth and Achievement

Goal #2 – Learning Culture of Equity, Engagement & Agency

Goal #3 – Professional Culture of Teamwork & Continuous Improvement

Goal #4 – Family Engagement & Community Partnerships

Goal #5 - Effective and Innovative Use of Resources

SHARED AGREEMENTS REFLECTION

At the July 18, 2013, meeting, the Board of Education finalized their “shared agreements” and agreed to begin each regular board meeting by reflecting on one agreement. The Board revised the shared agreements on November 6, 2014. The agreement's purpose is to help maintain a positive environment in which to conduct board work.

Board Member Chad McLean shared his statement: “I am reflecting on Shared Leadership. As a board, we have committed to a yearly Board self-evaluation that we just completed. We discussed different areas where we have excelled and those areas where we need to improve. Accountability is a key part of shared leadership. Sharing leadership requires the work of coordination and clarification. Shared leadership means being held accountable for an outcome. Leaders can be directly responsible for an activity. In some situations, the leader's job is to provide direct support or consultation about different events. As a board, we often need to be kept informed of what is happening in the district. All these aspects of leadership need to be worked out through communication within the leadership team. How does this relate to elementary education? This shared leadership extends to every student. The shared leadership team for each student's education is their parents, their teachers, and those who support learning in our classrooms.”

RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

Board Salute

The Board Salutes will be a standing item on the agenda starting with the February 3, 2022, board meeting. The Board of Education would like to recognize individuals from the District 33 community, which includes all staff members, students, bus drivers, parents, and guardians, for their actions that contribute to a positive culture and climate in District 33. This “shout-out” will become part of the official Board minutes under Board Salutes on the bi-weekly agendas.

Salute to: Paraprofessional Team - Currier Elementary School

Submitted by: Margaret Laraia, Teacher

“I am incredibly grateful for the wonderful paraeducators (Rosa Ortega, Diana Hernandez, Brenda Martinez, and Veronica Castillo) in my classroom. They bring such genuine love and care to our students every single day. Their respect for every individual shines through in all they do, and they consistently go above and beyond what is asked of them—often anticipating needs before they're even spoken. Even when the work becomes emotionally and physically challenging, they remain dedicated and hardworking. They are reliable, professional, and excellent communicators, helping our classroom run smoothly and with heart. What touches me most is how they often use their own money to purchase preferred items for students, showing just how deeply they

care. I truly appreciate their presence, compassion, and unwavering support—they make a lasting difference in the lives of our students and in mine.”

Salute to: Margaret Laraia - Currier Elementary School

Submitted by: Vicki Hartwig, Behavior Specialist

“I am honored to nominate Margaret Laraia for recognition. For the past 33 years, Margaret has dedicated her career to teaching some of our most at-risk students. She has been here at West Chicago District 33 for the last 23 of those years! Her unwavering commitment and deep sense of purpose have made her an invaluable asset to our school and district. Over the past two school years, Margaret has been faced with particularly challenging situations—yet she didn’t hesitate to rise to the occasion. Rather than simply accepting these demands, she tackled them head-on with professionalism, compassion, and an unwavering focus on student success. She transformed difficult circumstances into opportunities, creating the best possible environment for her students to thrive. Margaret’s self-contained classroom sets the gold standard. It is consistently organized, efficient, and thoughtfully prepared to support learning throughout every part of the day. Her Tier 1 classroom management practices are exceptional, resulting in a calm, predictable atmosphere where students feel safe, supported, and ready to grow. The outcomes speak for themselves—her students experience remarkable academic and personal development. Margaret is also known for her responsiveness and professionalism when new initiatives are introduced. When CHAMPS was presented, for example, she had it fully planned out and implemented—by the very next day! From that point forward, it became an integral and consistent part of her daily teaching practice. Her ability to adopt and sustain new strategies with fidelity is a testament to her commitment to best practices and continuous improvement. Outside of regular school hours, Margaret devotes countless hours preparing materials, visuals, and systems that support her students’ individual needs. She is a fierce advocate for each child, taking the time to understand their unique strengths, challenges, and motivators. Her ability to individualize instruction and support ensures that every student reaches their highest potential. Beyond her classroom, Margaret is an influential leader on Currier’s Building Leadership Team. She collaborates with staff across the building to enhance the school experience not only for her students, but also for general education students and teachers—especially when supporting inclusion in specials and shared spaces. Her impact reaches well beyond Currier’s walls: Margaret is a trusted role model and resource for every self-contained teacher in the district, directly influencing the success of similar classrooms and students in other schools. Margaret Laraia exemplifies excellence in special education. Her passion, dedication, and leadership continue to make a profound difference every single day.”

Salute to: Morgan McCann - Wegner Elementary School

Submitted by: Dafina Krasniqi, Parent

“I just wanted to say how much we appreciate Miss McCann. Our son is really enjoying the class and has been thriving. Thank you for creating such a positive and supportive learning environment!”

Presentation

Summative Designation

Cathy Park, Director of Assessments and Accountability, presented the state report card and the district's summative designation to the Board. The district's strategic plan directly impacts the state summative designation score. Each action plan and goal is designed to work toward the state's final summative designation rating. Each year, the state board of education releases state report card data for each school in the district. Each school receives a summative designation rating based on 8 different indicators. Cathy reviewed each indicator for each school and the difference between growth and proficiency. The information will be shared with staff, and they will continue to monitor the student progress as they work on the building and district-wide goals.

E.T.A.W.C. STATEMENT

No E.T.A.W.C. statement at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

No follow-up comment at this time.

**APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA**

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Approve Current Expenditures

...approved the list of bills dated October 20, 2025, through November 7, 2025, in the amount of \$658,159.56;

Approve Imprest

...approved Imprest account from October 6, 2025, to October 29, 2025, in the amount of \$650;

Approve Contracts

...approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: WeGo Together for Kids and People's Resource Center;

Approve Personnel Items

...Approved the following personnel report:

0 Administration:

0 Certified:

4 Classified: Alyssa Apostoli, Utility Custodian at ESC, effective October 24, 2025; Rosa Benitez de Roskamp, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective November 17, 2025; Juan Santiago, Utility Custodian at ESC, effective November 10, 2025; Javier DelReal, Utility Custodian at LMS, effective November 10, 2025;

3 Resignations: Crystal Serrano, Paraprofessional at IK, effective October 23, 2025; Sabrina Williams, Nurse at Turner, effective January 2, 2026; Patricia Dopp, Learning Behavior Specialist at LMS, effective December 19, 2025;

0 Leaves:

0 Retirements:

On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, Denton, Balgeman, and Doyle. Nays: None.

Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

403b Advisory Agreement	Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, provided the board with the retirement plan advisory agreement with HUB International. The Board will review the information and vote at the November 20, 2025, board meeting.
25/26 Calendar Amendment	Motioned by Doyle, seconded by Garcia, to approve the calendar amendment reflecting the change of parent-teacher conferences from March 12 to March 17, 2026. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.
CLIC Intent to Review	The Board received information on the intent to renew with the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC). CLIC will submit its proposal for Workers' Compensation, Property/Casualty, and Student Accident, and Fiduciary Liability insurance coverage renewal for the school year 2026-2027 in May of 2026. The renewal is effective July 1, 2026, with an annual market review by Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Inc. The Board will review the information and vote at the November 20, 2025, board meeting.
Staffing Contract	Motioned by Doyle, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the contract with independent contractor, Lynne Mathewy, for speech language pathologist services. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Doyle, Banasiak, Balgeman, McLean, Garcia, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.
Finance/Facilities	The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stating that the district received \$1,209,173 in Evidence-Based Funding, \$616,666.61 in Transportation - Regular & Vocational, \$262,617.94 in Transportation - Special Education, \$70,261.92 in National School Lunch Program, \$18,882.44 in School Breakfast Program, \$53,270.00 in Title II Teacher Quality, \$11,133.00 in Title III Lang

Inst Prog-Limite Eng LIPLP, and \$16,164.00 in Title IV - 21st Century Comm Learning Centers since the last meeting.

Health and Benefits
Renewal 2026

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the health, dental, and vision insurance for the 2026 calendar year. The renewal increase rate is 9.94% for health insurance with BCBS, a 27.4% increase with a move back to BCBS, and a 0% increase for vision with BCBS. The insurance committee also approved removing HMO IL as a plan option, as it was a slightly higher premium with no additional benefits to current members. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Doyle, Garcia, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of District 33
Delegate and Alternate
Delegate to the 2025 IASB
Delegate Assembly

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve Tom Doyle as the appointed 2025 IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards) Delegate. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

Motioned by Doyle, seconded by Banasiak, to approve Janette Hernandez as the appointed 2025 IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards) Alternate Delegate. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

Proposed Illinois Association
of School Boards (IASB)
Constitutional Amendments
for Consideration at the 2025
IASB Delegate Assembly

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve the IASB constitutional amendments at the 2025 Delegate Assembly on November 22, 2025. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

Proposed Illinois Association
of School Boards (IASB)
Resolutions at the 2025 IASB
Delegate Assembly

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve the IASB resolutions at the 2025 Delegate Assembly on November 22, 2025. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Current Job Listing

The Board received the most recent posting of available job positions in School District 33.

School Newsletters

The Board reviewed the School newsletters.

Suggested Agenda Items for
Next Board Meeting

No suggested items at this time.

Board Outreach

Molly attended the BTAGG social event and Gary's Fall Fun Fest.

Parking Lot No parking lot items at this time.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LEND Kristina provided an update on LEND.

Open Comments No open comments at this time.

REVIEW OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Banasiak, second by McLean, to go into closed session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss **(1)** the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee(s), specific independent contractors, specific volunteers, or District legal counsel: however, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2c) (1), amended by P.A. 101-459. **(2)** Student disciplinary cases. Any matter involving an individual student. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(10). Minutes of meetings held for this reason shall never be released to protect the individual student's privacy. **(3)** Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Denton, Garcia, Doyle, and Balgeman. Nays: None.

ROLL CALL On roll call at 8:04 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, and Denton. Absentees: Hernandez.

ALSO PRESENT Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations; Lea DeLuca, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; and Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Out of Closed Session Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 9:38 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

**ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING
CLOSED SESSION**

Approve Closed Session Minutes Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve closed session minutes as read. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Tom Doyle