

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3rd Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
September 17, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 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. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, and Mrs. Janette Hernandez. Absent: Mrs. Molly Denton.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Lea Pizinger, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business & Operations; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities & Grounds; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships; Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners; Krissy Goebert, Director of Student Services; Niko Bubaris, Director of Technology; and Jenny Brunke, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

*Molly Denton arrived at 7:02 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

No changes or additions at this time.

SHARED AGREEMENTS

During the meeting, the Board agrees to:

1. *Make decisions according to what is best for ALL District 33 students.*
2. *Respect staff and other board members and their opinions.*
3. *Be willing to see things from the eyes of seven (7) people, not just one (1).*
4. *Allow everyone to complete their thoughts.*
5. *Commit to shared leadership.*
6. *Respect confidentiality.*
7. *Adhere to our belief in our students' full potential and successful future.*

Strategic Plan Goals

Goal #1 – Student Achievement

Goal #2 – Engaged Learning

Goal #3 – Strong Teams

Goal #4 – Family & Community Partnerships

Goal #5 - Smart Resources

**SHARED AGREEMENTS
REFLECTION**

At the July 18, 2013, meeting, the Board of Education finalized its “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 for conducting board work.

Board member Janette Hernandez shared her agreement, “I will be talking about shared leadership. One of the most important things about becoming a board member is accepting the responsibilities that come with that role. All of us are parents. We have children, jobs, families, sports, and all of the day-to-day responsibilities that so many of our families experience. At the same time, we have to navigate committee meetings, board meetings, presentations, policies, and topics that we may not have much experience or knowledge in. Sometimes that means doing our own research, asking questions, and taking the time to understand something before making decisions. But we took on that responsibility. And we do our best to navigate it, learn along the way, and be the best board members we can be. With that in mind, we had Curriculum Night last week, and it was wonderful to see so many of you there. I would like to extend that same invitation to our parents, guardians, and caregivers—to join us in one of our shared agreements, shared leadership, and become an active part of our schools and our community. What does that mean? It means getting involved. It means asking questions. Ask about the committees that are available and how you can become involved in your child’s school. Maybe that means joining the PTO and helping with events and fundraising. Maybe it means joining the BPAC committee, where you have an opportunity to help identify parent education classes and topics that would benefit our families. We have a Finance Committee. We have an Academic Leadership Council. And there are many other committees and opportunities that are equally important. I invite you to commit to being involved — even if it means attending just a few meetings. Your voice is important. Your partnership is valuable. And your leadership is needed. As board members, we cannot do this alone. Schools and communities are strongest when families, staff, administrators, and board members work together. So I encourage our families: Ask how you can help. Ask where your voice is needed. Get involved in whatever way works for you. Because if we all come together, share our ideas, and take an active role in our schools, we can create the greatest possible benefit for our children — not only as a school, but as a community. Thank you.”

**RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE
PRESENTATION**

Presentation

ALC/Summer SAC

Lea Pizinger, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, updated the Board on the Academic Leadership

Committee. The Academic Leadership Council (ALC) is a representative group of stakeholders that advises and makes recommendations to the Board of Education on matters concerning curriculum and instruction through the approved decision-making processes. Lea discussed the long-range plans for Preschool, elementary schools, and Leman Middle School. Mrs. Pizinger also reviewed the 5 Essentials data of Ambitious Instruction.

Jenny Brunke, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, updated the Board on the Academic Committee work conducted over the summer. The Subject Area Committee (SAC) will carry out the work designated by the ALC in alignment with the long-range plan, gather implementation feedback from staff, validate the effectiveness of the curriculum, units, assessments, and resources, and make the necessary adjustments.

Presentation

Dual High School Credit Opportunity for 8th Graders

Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners, presented the board with information about an opportunity for current 7th- and 8th-grade students at Leman. Recently, House Bill 3039, enacted as Public Act 104-0267 in Illinois, amends the school code to expand opportunities for 7th- and 8th-grade students to earn high school credit for required coursework as long as the student passes the end-of-course exam, given at the high school, granting the credit for the same course. West Chicago High School District 94 adopted the board policy on June 16, 2026. The course applies to 7th and 8th grade students who are taking Spanish as a Foreign Language (8-9 students each year, are English-speaking students who do not speak Spanish, and started in Middle School), and 8th grade Advanced Spanish Native Speakers (180 students each year, have been in the One or Two Way Dual Program, and already speak Spanish but want to grow their literacy skills in reading and writing). District 33 and 94 administrators have met to review the curriculum and students' AAPPL scores and have created a plan for this school year. Mrs. Ayala explained the current advanced Spanish course, ACTFL Standards, the High School AP Spanish Language and Literature course, and the 8th grade advanced Spanish Unit. District 33 and 94 will continue to work collaboratively, and Mrs. Ayala will update the board on the progress.

E.T.A.W.C. STATEMENT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment Follow-Up

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 Board Meeting Minutes	... approve the board meeting minutes of August 20, 2026, and September 3, 2026;
Approve Contract Renewals	...approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: Bright Star;
Approve Current Expenditures	...approved the list of bills dated September 7, 2026, through September 18, 2026, in the amount of \$2,079,474.70;
Approve Current Payrolls	...approved payrolls of August 14, 2026, in the amount of \$390,102.92; and August 31, 2026, in the amount of \$372,025.20;
Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes	...approved the disposition of audio tapes of the Board of Education regular closed session dated March 6, 2025. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;
Approve Personnel Items	...Approved the following personnel report: <u>0 Administration:</u> <u>0 Certified:</u> <u>4 Classified:</u> Shamaila Mahmood, Lunchroom Supervisor at Pioneer, effective October 1, 2026; Jasmine Mendoza, Paraprofessional at Indian Knoll, effective September 28, 2026; Jahaira Salinas Solis, Paraprofessional at Indian Knoll, effective September 28, 2026; Blanca Guerrero, Executive Secretary for HR, at ESC, effective: TBD; <u>0 Resignations:</u> <u>0 Retirement:</u> On roll call, the following board members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Hernandez, Denton, McCue, Balgeman, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Report	Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, provided the Board of Education with a financial report stating that the district has received \$1,212,423.00 in evidence-Based Funding, \$752.84 in State Free Lunch & Breakfast, \$148,134.00 in IDEA Flow Through, \$529,081.00 in IDEA PreK, \$17,361.55 in National School Lunch Program, and \$10,000.00 in School Breakfast Program since the last meeting.
Treasurer's Report and Budget Report	The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Budget Reports as of August 31, 2026, along with the financial charts.
Student Activity Account Report	The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of August 31, 2026.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Presentation Follow-up	No presentation follow-ups at this time.
St. Andrew's Art Donation	St. Andrew's would like to donate \$2,500 (\$500 for each elementary school) for art supplies. The Board will review and vote at the October 1, 2026, board meeting.
Classroom Camera	The Board continued discussing installing classroom cameras. Karen Aposoli will get quotes with timelines on both the server upgrade and the cameras, and will bring a recommendation at a future meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

2026-2027 Final Budget	Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak to approve the official budget 2026-2027. On roll call, the following board members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.
Ratification of Issuance of Trespass Notice	Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia to approve the Ratification of Issuance of Trespass Notice. On roll call, the following board members voted aye: Banasiak, Garcia, McLean, Balgeman, Hernandez, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Constitution Day	The Board received information on the activities that took place in honor of Constitution Day.
Current Job Listing	The Board received the most recent posting of available job positions in School District 33.
Freedom of Information Report	The Board of Education received the Freedom of Information Act Report, noting 8 new requests since the last board meeting.
Out-of-District placement of Students with Disabilities	The Board received the Special Education report, indicating that 30 special education students and 1 general education student have been placed out of district as of September 9, 2026.
Short-term Leave	The Board received the short-term leave report.
Suggested Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting	No suggested items at this time.
Board Outreach	Several board members attended their adopted schools' curriculum night.

Parking Lot

No parking lot at this time.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Open Comments

The Board received information from IASB for an upcoming event where they will receive the Governance Recognition. The Board will meet on October 21, 2026, for a special meeting to hold its annual IASB training. The Board received the IASB Resolutions Committee Report and will be discussing the resolutions in the next few meetings. Sandra suggested that schools should run their book fairs during curriculum nights, as it was a great success at Wegner. Lea will bring the curriculum night information, including the West Chicago Park District child care information.

REVIEW OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, 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)** Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Garcia, Balgeman, Hernandez, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Roll Call

On roll call at 8:07 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Garcia, McLean, Hernandez, Denton, and McCue. Absentees: None.

Also Present

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Lea Pizinger, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; and Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 10:03 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 of September 3, 2026, 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 10:03 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Sandra Garcia