

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3rd Thursday)  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
April 23, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. at Pioneer Preschool, 615 Kenwood Ave., West Chicago, Illinois. On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Rita Balgeman, Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Janette Hernandez, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Absent: Mr. Tom Doyle and Mrs. Sandra Garcia,

**ALSO PRESENT**

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Lea Pizinger, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Karen Apostoli, CSBO, Executive Director of Business and Operations; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; 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**

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve Chad McLean as Secretary Pro Tem. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

**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 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 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 President Rita Balgeman shared her statement: “Tonight, I want to say something that may have been implied over the years but not clearly stated.

As a board, we have consistently set high expectations for the outcomes our superintendent is responsible for delivering. In turn, those expectations have been carried forward by our administrators and principals, shaping the work happening across every level of the district. This is intentional. It reflects our shared belief in what our students and staff are capable of achieving.

We have not only encouraged ambitious goals during goal-setting and data discussions—we have asked for them. And just as importantly, we have recognized and celebrated the progress made along the way. These expectations are not abstract; they influence real decisions, real classrooms, and real opportunities for students.

We also recognize a clear urgency in closing achievement gaps and ensuring that every student leaves our district prepared for high school and beyond. That urgency has been a guiding force in our strategic planning over the past five years, and it remains just as strong today. We have asked our administrators to lead with that same sense of purpose and focus.

We also recognize that change can be difficult, especially for teachers and staff who are working every day to meet these expectations. But meaningful progress requires change, and we are committed to supporting our educators through that process so that we can achieve the results our students deserve.

Change may take many forms—staffing adjustments, program modifications, or shifts in how resources are allocated—but these decisions are driven by the evolving needs of the district, both financially and academically. Our responsibility is to ensure that every decision supports student success and the long-term strength of the district.

I want to be explicit: these expectations—for achievement, for growth, for success—are set by this board, as representatives of our community. They come from a deep belief in the potential of every student we serve.

We believe in this district. We believe in its future. And we are committed to continuing the progress we have made together.”

## **RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE** **PRESENTATION**

Showcase

### ***Preschool Showcase***

Brenda Vishanoff, Principal at Pioneer Preschool, presented Pioneer’s Student Voice. Students participate in a literacy circle

every day, which includes a read-aloud and instructional practices that support a love of reading and comprehension. Some examples are realia, rhythm, questioning, visuals, and repeated readings. During or at the end of the story, students participated in an activity to demonstrate their comprehension. To demonstrate this activity, Board members were paired up with students, Miss Talia read a book, and the students and Board Members interacted by building a bridge for a play car to cross during the story.

## Superintendent News

### ***Superintendent News - Strategic Plan in Action***

The Superintendent News is to update the board and community on the many programs and activities occurring in the schools and departments, all aimed at helping us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

- **Goal #1- Student Growth and Achievement**
  - Implementing a layered intervention.
- **Goal #3- Professional Culture of Teamwork & Continuous Improvement**
  - Staff collaboration and teamwork.
- **Goal #4: Family Engagement & Community Partnerships**
  - Meaningful family engagement.

This month, progress has been made in:

- Culture- Students are growing in engaging in extended episodes of cooperative play.
- Literacy- Students are learning to identify letter names and sounds. They are learning that letters make words that have meaning.
- Math- Students are learning one-to-one number correspondence and that numbers represent quantity.

## Superintendent for the Day

### ***Superintendent for the Day***

On April 10, students, Oliver O., Abel C.N., Aracely A., and Valentina R., participated in Superintendent for the Day. Continuing with the district's safety theme, they visited several classrooms and asked their peers questions regarding safety. They even made sure students were cleaning up after themselves. This is the second year the preschool has participated in Superintendent for the Day. Abel and Oliver were present at the meeting. Superintendent Davis expressed her gratitude for the wonderful job they did.

## 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 agendas.

**Salute to: Gaby Lopez - Leman Middle School****Submitted by:** Matt Wood, staff member

“I would like to take a moment to recognize and express my sincere appreciation for my colleague, Gaby Lopez. Gaby brings an extraordinary level of care, professionalism, and dedication to her work, and our students and staff are better for having her as part of our team. One of Gaby’s greatest contributions is her commitment to ensuring that our classroom materials are accessible to all learners, especially our English Language Learners and newcomer students. She consistently works to make sure that texts, instructions, and ideas are not only translated but translated faithfully and thoughtfully so that the meaning and rigor of the original material remain intact. This careful attention allows students to fully engage with the content and feel confident in their ability to participate in the learning process. Gaby also brings valuable insight through her understanding of our subject area, which she skillfully blends with her expertise in language support. Her ability to help bridge language barriers while maintaining academic expectations is an invaluable asset to our classroom and to our students’ growth.

Equally important is the kindness and positivity that Gaby brings with her every day. She is always supportive, approachable, and ready to help both students and colleagues. Our students clearly trust and appreciate her support, and they readily accept the help she provides in the classroom. Her presence helps create a welcoming and encouraging environment where students feel comfortable learning and growing. I am truly grateful to work alongside someone as thoughtful, dedicated, and compassionate as Gaby. Her contributions make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and strengthen our entire learning community.”

**Salute to: Samantha Battaglia - D33****Submitted by:** Leman Middle School Admin Team

“Sam is a force to be reckoned with and a powerful agent of advocacy and inclusion. She has taken on so many roles this year and has done them with a positive attitude and a laser focus on student needs. Sam has a wealth of knowledge and tools that we learn from every day. Sam is an incredible teammate, and she is always willing to lend a hand. We don't quite know how she does it all, but she does and does it with a smile. Sam's creativity is one of her greatest strengths, and we value her insight and approach to solving problems, big and small. She is an invaluable part of our team, and all of D33 is so lucky to have her! We love you, Sam!”

**E.T.A.W.C. STATEMENT**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Guadalupe Aguillon addressed the board regarding the increase in student size in half-day preschool classrooms. Carli Benn addressed the board regarding proposed changes to the preschool program for

the 26/27 school year. Jasmine Donley addressed the board with concerns about the reduction in SST staff and its impact on the remaining SST staff and students. Desiree Krist addressed the board regarding changes to the preschool program for the 2026-2027 school year and student placement by P-Code.

Public Comment Follow Up No follow-up comment at this time.

**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approve Board Meeting Minutes ... approve the board meeting minutes of March 19, 2026, and April 9, 2026;

Approve Contract Renewals ...approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: Semper Fi;

Approve Current Expenditures ... approved the list of bills dated April 13, 2026, through April 24, 2026, in the amount of \$1,235,034.07;

Approve Current Payrolls ... approved payrolls of March 13, 2026, in the amount of \$2,012,616.85; and March 31, 2026, in the amount of \$1,826,746.01;

Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes ... approved the disposition of audio tapes of the Board of Education regular closed session dated October 3, 2024, and October 17, 2024. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;

Approve Personnel Items ...Approved the following personnel report:  
0 Administration:  
1 Certified: Josslyn Torres, Self-Contained Teacher at Currier, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Jaqueline Hernandez Perez, Dual Language Kindergarten Teacher at Currier, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Sarah Sandrok, Learning Behavior Specialist at Lemman, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Abigal Lopez, Monolingual Teacher at Wegner, effective 2026-2027 School Year;  
1 Classified: Amanda Azon, BCBA at ESC, effective 2026-2027 School Year;  
3 Resignations: Cintia Ballines, Clerical Aide at Lemman, effective April 9, 2026; Rosalba Gatica, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective April 10, 2026; Doreen Spagnoli, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective June 4, 2026;  
1 Retirement: Robert Vandermolen, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective June 4, 2026:

Approve Resignation Agreement ... approve the resignation agreement with Jennifer Mogilinski. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Hernandez, Denton, McLean, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 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 received \$1,209,173.00 in Evidence-Based Funding, \$58,057.20 in Special Ed - Private Facility Tuition, \$618,791.89 in Transportation - Regular & Vocational, \$242,804.34 in Transportation - Special Education, \$194,772.00 in Title I Low Income, \$30,691.00 in Title II Teacher Quality, \$7,843.00 in Title III Lang Inst Prog-Limited Eng LIPLEP, and \$3,294.00 in Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrich since the last meeting.

Treasurer’s Report and Budget Report

The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and Budget Reports as of March 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 March 31, 2026.

**DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

1st Reading of Board Policies

The Board received the 1st reading for the following policies: 6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development; 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings; 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure; 2:250 Access to District Public Records; 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; 4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors; 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria; 5:250 Leaves of Absence; 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves; 6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program; 6:145 Migrant Students; 6:170 Title I Programs; 6:180 Extended Instructional Programs; 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools; 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students; 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities; 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education; 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics; 8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs; 2:140-E Exhibit - Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use; 7:220 Bus Conduct; 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities; 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease; Policy 6:65 - Student Social and Emotional Development; and Policy 4:165 - Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 7, 2026, board meeting.

Aramark Renewal

The Board will review the 1-year contract renewal with Aramark Corporation for the 2026-2027 school year. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 7, 2026, board meeting.



aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Denton, and Hernandez. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SASED Lease Agreement

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the 26/27 lease agreement with SASED at Lemman Middle School. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Summer School, ESY, and Camp Ole

The Board was provided with information regarding summer school and ESY. Summer school and ESY will run Monday through Thursday from June 16th to July 16th. This year's theme is Saving Our Planet. Camp Ole will be held at Gay Elementary School from July 13th to July 17th and will follow the theme of Saving the Planet.

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 13 new requests since the last board meeting.

Out-of-District placement of Students with Disabilities

The Board received the Special Education report, indicating that 35 special education students, and 3 general education students have been placed out of district as of April 16, 2026.

Short-term Leave

The Board received the short-term leave report.

Student Chronic Absentee

The Board of Education was provided with information from the Student Chronic Absentee report, which shows that since April 10, 2026, the district-wide chronic absence rate is 17%.

Student Suspension Report

The Board of Education received the Student Suspension report for March 2026, which indicates 17 in-school suspensions, 4 out-of-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions.

Truancy Referral Report

The Board of Education received the March 2026 Truancy Referral Report, indicating that 2 new students were referred to the Regional Office of Education and that 30 students continue to be listed on the Regional Office of Education truancy referral report.

Quarterly Vandalism Report

No incidents to report at this time.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting

No suggested items at this time.



Board Outreach Rita attended the Lion King Musical at Leman and Wegener's Art Night. Molly attended the Preschool parade.

Parking Lot No parking lot items at this time.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Committee Updates Board members were provided with the Opportunity for Influence committee update slideshow.

LEND Kristina provided an update on LEND.

Strategic Planning Cathy Park provided the Board with an update on the Strategic Planning Meeting.

Open Comments No open comments at this time.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Into Closed Session Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to go into closed session at 8:04 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: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None.

Roll Call On roll call at 8:14 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, McLean, Hernandez, and Denton. Absentees: Doyle and Garcia.

Also Present Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Lea Pizinger, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; and Karen Apostoli, Executive Director for Business and Operations.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by Hernandez, to reconvene to open session at 9:58 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

**ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING  
CLOSED SESSION**

Approve Closed Session Minutes

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by Hernandez, to approve closed session minutes of April 9, 2026, as read. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by Hernandez, to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

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President, Rita Balgeman

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Secretary, Tom Doyle