MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (1st Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
February 5, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:16 p.m. at Turner Elementary School, 750 Ingalton, 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, Mrs. Janette Hernandez, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Absent: None.

ALSO PRESENT Kristina Davis, Superintendent, and Justin Petrarca, District Attorney.

CLOSED SESSION Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to go into closed session at 6:16 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. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Doyle, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None.

ROLL CALL On roll call at 6:17 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Absentees: None.

ALSO PRESENT Kristina Davis, Superintendent, Justin Petrarca, District Attorney, Darcee Williamson, District Attorney, and Kayla Bridgeham, Assistant to District Attorney.

Out of Closed Session Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 6:59 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

Reconvene into Open Session The Board reconvened into Open Session at 7:09 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

Approve Resignation Motion by Banasiak, seconded by Balgeman, to approve the resignation of James Heidorn effective immediately. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Balgeman, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

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

ADDITIONS/CHANGES Item X - 2nd Closed Session will be removed from the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Statement

Board President Rita Balgeman read the following statement:
"Good evening, and thank you for being here tonight. Before we begin public comment, I'd like to share a brief statement.
I want to begin by acknowledging the strong emotions many in our community are experiencing. We know that recent events have caused concern, frustration, disruption, and division among families and community members. We hear those concerns, and we take them seriously.
Earlier today, a District 33 staff member submitted a voluntary resignation, effective immediately. This follows the District placing the employee on paid administrative leave pending an investigation related to the impact of a social media post published on their personal account. The District's actions throughout this process have been guided by legal counsel and focused on balancing employee rights and due process with Board policy and the need to minimize disruption to our schools.
The Board voted this evening to accept Mr. Heidorn's voluntary resignation, effective immediately, and to enter into a separation agreement. We believe this action is the most appropriate next step for our school community at this time. Mr. Heidorn's voluntary letter of resignation and separation agreement will be available through the District's Freedom of Information Act process.
Our School Board is made up of parents and community members who hold a range of personal and political views. Throughout our discussions, however, this situation was never about politics. It has always been about our responsibility to keep schools operating normally and to minimize disruption to learning. Over the past two weeks, our schools have experienced significant disruption, and we now look forward to restoring focus, stability, and safe conditions for teaching and learning across the district.
Even though we have reached a resolution in this matter, public comment remains an important part of our meetings, and we value the opportunity to hear from our community. The Board does not engage in dialogue or respond to comments in real time; our role during this portion of the meeting is to listen. If follow-up is needed, the Superintendent or a member of the administration will reach out directly, which is why we ask speakers to include their contact information."

The Spanish version was read by Board Member Sandra Garcia:
"Buenas tardes y gracias por estar aquí esta noche. Antes de que comencemos con el comentario público, quisiera hacer una breve declaración.
Quiero comenzar reconociendo las fuertes emociones que muchas personas de nuestra comunidad están experimentando. Sabemos que los acontecimientos recientes han causado preocupación, frustración, interrupciones y división entre las familias y los miembros de la comunidad. Escuchamos esas inquietudes y las tomamos muy en serio.
Hace unas horas, un miembro del personal del Distrito 33 presentó su renuncia voluntaria, con efecto inmediato. Esto ocurre después de que el Distrito colocó al empleado en descanso administrativo con goce de sueldo, mientras se llevaba a cabo una investigación sobre el impacto de una publicación en redes sociales realizada en su cuenta personal.
Las acciones del Distrito durante todo este proceso han sido guiadas por asesores legales y se han centrado en equilibrar los derechos del empleado con el debido proceso de las pólizas de la Mesa Directiva y la necesidad de disminuir las interrupciones en nuestras escuelas.
La Mesa Directiva votó esta noche para aceptar la renuncia voluntaria del Sr. Heidorn, con efecto inmediato, y formalizó un acuerdo de separación. Consideramos que esta acción fue el paso más apropiado para nuestra comunidad escolar en este momento. La carta de renuncia voluntaria del Sr. Heidorn y el acuerdo de separación estarán disponibles mediante el proceso de la Ley de Libertad de Información (FOIA) del Distrito.
Nuestra Mesa Directiva está compuesta por padres y miembros de la comunidad que mantienen opiniones personales y políticas diversas. Sin embargo, a lo largo de nuestras discusiones, esta situación nunca se trató de políticas. Siempre se ha tratado de nuestra responsabilidad de mantener a las escuelas funcionando con normalidad y disminuir las interrupciones en el aprendizaje. Durante las últimas dos semanas, nuestras escuelas han experimentado interrupciones significativas y ahora esperamos restablecer el enfoque, la estabilidad y las condiciones seguras para la enseñanza y el aprendizaje en todo el distrito.
Aunque hemos llegado a una resolución en este asunto, los comentarios públicos siguen siendo una parte importante de nuestras reuniones y valoramos la oportunidad de escuchar a nuestra comunidad. La Mesa Directiva no participa en el diálogo ni responde a los comentarios en tiempo real; nuestra función durante esta parte de la reunión es escuchar. Si se requiere mayor investigación o acción administrativa, la Superintendente o un miembro de la administración se comunicará directamente con los participantes, por lo que solicitamos a los participantes que incluyan su información de contacto."

Public Comment

There were 12 public comments at this meeting. Nestor Ruiz (on behalf of Senator Villa), Timothy Lorman, Irene Carrillo, Corinne Ingrum, Diana Galvan, Keely Walker, Samantha Reuter, Nathan Klapatch,

Audrey Luhmann, Laura and Clara Finch, Rafael Veyra with Despertar Latino, and Samantha Munoz, all parents and/or community members addressed the board regarding the social media post and employment of the teacher.

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 January 12, 2026, through February 6, 2026, in the amount of $2,050,885.36;

Approve Imprest

…approved Imprest account fromJanuary 16, 2026, to January 28, 2026, in the amount of $300;

Approve Personnel Items

…Approved the following personnel report:
1 Administration:
0 Certified:
0 Classified:
0 Resignations:
0 Leaves:
3 Retirements: Julie King, Monolingual Teacher, at Turner, effective end of 2026-2027 School Year; Margaret Laraia, Self-Contained Teacher, at Currier, effective end of 2025-2026 School Year; Fatmir Seseri, Custodian at Wegner, effective June 30, 2026;
0 Job Abandonments:
On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Balgeman, Doyle, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Finance/Facilities

The Board of Education received a financial report from Kristina Davis, Superintendent, stating that the district received $127,947.00 in IDEA Flow Through, $18,374.00 in IDEA PreK, $18,145.00 in Stronger Connections, $193,816.00 in Title I Low Income, $23,143.00 in Title II Teacher Quality, $31,346.00 in Title III Lnag Inst Prog-Limite Eng LIPLEP, and $131.00 in Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrich since the last meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Property Tax Abatement

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Garcia, to approve the property tax abatement in the amount of $400, 000. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Garcia,

	Banasiak, Balgeman, Doyle, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.
2026-2027 Student Fees	Motioned by Hernandez, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the 26/27 student fees. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Hernandez, Banasiak, Balgeman, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.
Approve Closed Session Minutes	Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve closed session minutes of January 22, 2026. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.
ADJOURNMENT	Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Tom Doyle