

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
October 3, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Rita Balgeman at 7:01 p.m. at Lemay Middle School, 238 E. Hazel St., West Chicago, Illinois. On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Rita Balgeman, Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, Mr. Tom Doyle, Mr. Chad McLean, and Mrs. Janette Hernandez. Absent: Mrs. Felicia Gills.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Lea DeLuca, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations; Sarah Burnett, Director of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities; Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services; Catherine Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Matt Ryan, Director of Technology; Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships and Gina Steinbrecher, Assistant Director of Communications.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rita Balgeman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES
TO THE AGENDA**

Item XVI.A action after close session was removed.

SHARED AGREEMENTS

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

No shared agreements at this time.

**RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE
PRESENTATION**

Showcase

Early Literacy Activities

Birth to 3 Supervisor Katey Baldassano presented the Early Literacy Activities to the Board of Education. The presentation included a video of several home visits, the importance of reading to babies at an early age, and feedback from Mrs. Proa about her daughter Kim. Early literacy helps to nourish a positive interaction with children and books. Two books are given each month to families and activities for the month. Parents and babies are encouraged to read books in different ways and create their own

stories. Birth to 3 also hosts several events for families to attend throughout the year.

Board Salutes

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 of the District 33 community - which includes all staff members, students, bus drivers, parents/guardians, and guardians - for actions that build 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: The D33 Tech Team

Submitted by: Matt Ryan, Director of Technology

“Today, I’m honored to take a moment to recognize the incredible work and dedication of our Tech Department. The D33 Tech Team consists of Daisy Fernandez, Debra Foreman, Debbie Fouts, Eddie Fuentes, Emmanuel Ortiz, Raymond Snowden, Leo Toxtel, and Michael Webster. In our ever-evolving landscape, the tech team has been the backbone of our success, navigating challenges with expertise and innovation. Their work every day, especially during the summer and the start of the school year, has been nothing short of outstanding. From solving complex problems to implementing cutting-edge solutions, they’ve demonstrated a level of skill and commitment that truly sets them apart. It’s not just about the big wins, though. The countless hours of troubleshooting, the seamless integration of new systems and equipment, and the constant support they provide have a profound impact on our daily operations. Their resilience, creativity, and collaborative spirit are key reasons we continue to thrive. These accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and ingenuity. But beyond the tangible results, it’s the dedication and passion of each member that truly makes a difference. The D33 Tech Department exemplifies what it means to be a committed and collaborative team. To the entire team: thank you. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Your skills are critical to our success, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do. Let’s continue to push the boundaries of what’s possible and keep driving forward with the same enthusiasm and excellence. Please join me in giving a round of applause to the Tech Department for their outstanding contributions and unwavering dedication.”

E.T.A.W.C. STATEMENT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

Prior Public Comments follow-up

No public follow-up at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT NEWS Birth to 3

The Superintendent News is to update the board and community on some of the many programs and activities occurring in the schools and the departments determined to help us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

Goal #1: Student Growth and Achievement Literacy

In Birth to 3, we look forward to another great year with our young students and families. We are excited about the District's focus on oracy

and how Birth to 3 Staff will help lay the foundation for hundreds of students attending D33 schools one day. It is our privilege to partner with parents in their role as a child’s first, best, and most important teacher. We wanted to highlight some key strategies to continue to embed early literacy skills into every aspect of our work with families.

- West Chicago Library Partnership - We partner with the library for a weekly storytime group for families. Last year, we had over 200 attendees to Library Groups. The program uses grant funds to purchase a copy of the book for each family member who attends the group. We also offer monthly meet-ups at the Story Walk. Families attending the story walk also received a copy of the book. These are 2 ways we increase the number of age-appropriate books in the homes of our families.
- Activity Bags - Our Program distributed over 800 Activity Bags last year. These were curated bags of materials designed to promote parent-child interaction. This year, we plan to continue those bags and include items that promote storytelling and oral language.
- Events and Field Trips - This year, we plan to host a January and May Reading Celebration. We will recognize families for their reading efforts through our book-tracking program. Last year, we recognized multiple families who had read over 1500 books with their children during the 23-24 school year. Our Winter Reading Celebration will include activities aligned with a book, and all families will receive a copy of the book. We also have scheduled a yoga and literacy parent group as well as a music concert with a bilingual storyteller and musician to support parents using books and story telling in different ways. Of course, parents will go home with a yoga book and a music-themed book as well.
- Reading Program - The Birth to 3 gave families over 4000 books last year. Enrolled families will have the opportunity to pick 2 books each month. Unique to our Program is that we let families choose the types of books they think their child will like best. This means they pick the language and the type of book- the voice of the child and the parent is the priority. We use these books to help increase reading frequency, support parents in developing reading behaviors with their child such as asking questions, and support parent-child interactions during visits.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve Current Expenditures

...approved the list of bills dated September 23, 2024, through October 3, 2024, in the amount of \$1,547,723.18;

Approve Personnel Items

...approve the personnel report as follows:

0 Administration:

0 Certified:

0 Classified:

2 Resignations: Jennifer Rodriguez, Family Liaison at Pioneer Preschool, effective October 11, 2024; Daisy Fernandez, Systems Analyst at Leman Middle School, effective October 18, 2024

0 Retirement:

0 Leaves:

Approve Contract Renewals

...approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: US Games-Fitness Gram and 7 Mindsets;

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Finance/Facilities

Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, stated that the district has received \$199,490.00 in Title I Low Income; \$62,169.00 in Title I - School Improvement and Accountability; \$400.00 in Title IVA - Student Support and Academic Enrichment; \$29,922.00 in Title IV - 21st Century Community Learning Centers; \$3,127.00 in Fed. Sp Education IDEA Flow Through; \$3,853.00 in Title III - Immigrant Education Program IEP; \$13,177.00 in Title III - Language Inst. Program Limited English LIPLP; \$15,188.00 in Title II- Teacher Quality; and \$514,934.00 in Other Federal Programs since the last board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Equipment Disposal

Motion by Banasiak, second by McLean, to approve the disposal at Indian Knoll of 1 broken chair, 4 2-drawer file cabinets, 4 metal bookshelves, 2 wooden teacher desks, 2 metal teacher desks, 2 wooden bookshelves, 10 4-drawer file cabinets, 2 sling bookshelves, 1 broken cube chair, 2 student privacy desks, 3 rolling red carts, and 1 rolling metal cart. At Pioneer, 30 child chairs, 118 adult chairs, 30 medium chairs for older primary, 13 rolling cabinets, 3 short file cabinets, 9 tall file cabinets, 2 round tables, 4 student desks, 1 rolling library cabinet, 2 teacher desks, 15 long tables, 2 small shelving units, 6 large shelving units, 1 child oven unit, 1 large rolling cabinet, 17 short stools, 2 desk toppers, and 2 easels. At Turner, 1 2-tier wooden bookshelf, 6 student desks, 1 plug-in wall fan, 1 2-drawer file cabinet, 1 wood teacher desk, 2 metal teacher desks, 1 SEL skeleton/wheel attachment, 5 tall wooden bookcases, 7 gray dividers/partitions, and 1 wooden bookshelf.

McLean, Banasiak, Hernandez, Balgeman, Doyle, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Wrestling Mat Donation

Motion by Banasiak, second by Garciak, to approve donating old LMS wrestling mats to Benjamin Middle School. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Garcia, Doyle, McLean, Hernandez, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Bullying Prevention Activities

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. District 33 will participate in activities throughout the month in all buildings. The Assistant Principals have partnered with the Director of Student Services to develop activities that can be used in all buildings during October. These activities will help schools celebrate Bullying Prevention Month and cultivate a culture of kindness in your school. While one lesson or activity will not end bullying, these activities are part of a broader plan to help reduce bullying in our schools. On October 2, 2024, District 33 held a districtwide Wear it Wednesday, Wear Orange as a visual representation of Bullying.

Curriculum Night Attendance

Curriculum Night is an opportunity for parents and guardians to visit their child’s schools and learn about the curriculum, classroom expectations, etc. It is an opportunity for parents/guardians to meet the building administrators and teachers, ask questions, and gain insight into their child’s educational experience. Curriculum Night fosters communication between parents and teachers, encouraging a collaborative approach to a student’s education. The number of Get Involved, D33 Curriculum Night Check-Ins are as follows: Currier: 72; Gary: 84; Indian Knoll: 86; Turner: 44; Wegner: 33; Leman Middle School: 74; Pioneer PreK (Orientation):184. The structure of curriculum night for Leman was more of an open house format where families could go from class to class to hear from teachers. The building administration also offered a presentation to all families.

Current Job Listing

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

Suggested Items for Next Board Meeting

No suggested items at this time.

Board Outreach

Chad McLean attended the first BTAGG meeting.

Parking Lot

No parking lot at this time.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LEND

Kristina Davis provided information on the first LEND meeting held inperson, regarding polling places held at schools. State Representative Hirschauer will be taking this subject and will be meeting with the clerks.

SASED

Kristina Davis provided information on the first SASED Board of Control meeting. They are asking for districts to look within their districts for space.

Open Comments

Tom Doyle, “To Katey Baldassano’s presentation - we are fortunate to have this program and to have people running it. We appreciate all you do. We are one of a few districts to have the program.”

REVIEW OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to go into closed session at 7:35 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; and (2) Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9). Minutes of meetings held for this reason shall never be released to protect the individual student’s privacy. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Garcia,

Hernandez, Balgeman, and Doyle. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

ROLL CALL

On roll call at 7:48 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, and Hernandez. Absent: Gills.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent, Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services, and Sarah Burnett, Director of Human Resources.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 8:58 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

**ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING
CLOSED SESSION**

Approve Closed Session Minutes

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Tom Doyle