

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday)  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
August 21, 2025

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:15 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, 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; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners; Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services; Fred Cadena, Director of Building and Grounds; Tiffany Posey, Interim Director of Partnerships; Jenny Brunke, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning; 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**

1st Day of School Update Presentation was added.

**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*

## **RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE PRESENTATION**

### **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: Custodians, Grounds, and Maintenance Teams**

**Submitted by:** Fred Cadena and Arely Alfaro

“Tonight, we proudly salute the incredible Custodians, Grounds, and Maintenance team of West Chicago School District 33. This summer, you worked long hours, met tight deadlines, and tackled big projects to make sure every school was clean, safe, and ready for our students and staff. From polishing floors, maintenance repairs, and lots of grounds work on hot summer days - you did it all, and you did it with pride. Because of your dedication and teamwork, our schools opened this August looking their very best. You are the behind-the-scenes heroes who help make learning possible every single day. On behalf of the Board, administration, staff, students, and families—thank you for going above and beyond. We see you, we appreciate you, and we celebrate you!”

### **Presentation**

#### ***1st Day of School Update***

Kristina Davis, Superintendent, provided an update to the board on today’s first day of school for first to eighth-grade students. Kristina Davis thanked the staff and families for all their hard work and patience. Kristina acknowledged the bus situation after school and apologized for the inconvenience, stating that district administrators and IL Central will be working to create solutions. It was an overall positive experience for students and staff, and it was wonderful to see all the smiles across the district.

### **Presentation**

#### ***Summer School Presentation***

Jenny Brunke presented on the 2025 summer school program, which centered on the theme of space. For the first time, summer school was organized as a ‘step up’ program, where students attended classes based on their incoming grade for the 2025-2026 school year. This new format allowed incoming kindergarten students to participate.

Kindergarten through 4th-grade students attended Currier School, and 5th to 8th-grade students attended Leman Middle School. Approximately 400 students enrolled in K-8th with an 87% attendance rate. Forty of those enrolled were Kindergarten students. The primary focus for incoming kindergarten students was on non-academic school readiness skills, foundational

reading skills in both English and Spanish, math fluency, and problem-solving. STEM activities were held each Thursday in all grades, and students were able to take home activities each week. Summer school also included acceleration and enrichment groups, 6th- to 8th-grade newcomer groups, and an extended school year. Students had the opportunity to meet special guests throughout the summer weeks. Guests included Fox Valley Astronomical Society, SciTech, College of DuPage, NASA Ambassador Jeremy Benson, and NASA Astronaut Jeannette Epps.

#### Presentation

#### ***Summer Construction Update***

This summer, Fred Cadena and George Demarakis oversaw several construction projects across three schools.

At Lemay Middle School, the front parking lot was expanded, and a new field for football and soccer was built. New lighting was installed, and the area around the building was sealcoated. The school also got a new monument sign and additional directional signs. Turner Elementary now has a new parking lot and new entrances. The school also received a new monument sign, directional signs, and updated lighting.

Finally, at Pioneer Preschool, the parking lot was reconfigured to create a new drop-off and parking area. A new canopy was installed at the front entrance, and inside, the hallways were repainted and new cubbies were installed. Pioneer also received new lighting, monuments, and directional signs.

George also shared that more projects are planned for the fall of 2025, starting with work at McAuley School.

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

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT FOLLOW-UP**

No follow-up comment at this time.

#### **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### Approve Board Meeting Minutes

... approve the board meeting minutes of July 10, 2025, and August 7, 2025;

#### Approve Current Expenditures

... approved the list of bills dated August 9, 2025, through August 22, 2025, in the amount of \$1,157,755.93;

- Approve Current Payrolls** ...approved payrolls of July 15, 2025, in the amount of \$87,408.40; July 31, 2025, in the amount of \$213,971.91;
- Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes** ...approved the disposition of audio tape of the Board of Education regular closed session dated January 18, 2024, February 1, 2024, February 5, 2024, and February 15, 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:  
0 Certified:  
5 Classified: Evelyn Valerio, Paraprofessional at Pioneer Preschool, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Guadalupe Garcia, Lunchroom Supervisor at Pioneer Preschool, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Margaret Bickhart, Paraprofessional at Pioneer Preschool, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Crystal Serrano, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective 2025-2026 School Year; and Juanita Escamilla, Lunch Supervisor at Currier, effective 2025-2026 School Year;  
5 Resignations: Maria Cielo, Paraprofessional at Pioneer Preschool, effective August 11, 2025; Rosaura Munoz, Lunch Supervisor at Gary, effective August 13, 2025; Jessica Iturbe, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective August 14, 2025; Honie Mills, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective August 19, 2025; Mia Smith, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective August 19, 2025;  
1 Leaves: Jobeth Wilson, Leave of Absence at Pioneer Preschool, effective October 23, 2025 - June 4, 2026;  
1 Retirement: Ana Franch, Dual Language Teacher at Wegner, effective June 30, 2028.
- Certified Staff Transfers** ...approve the building and position transfers for the 25/26 school year.
- On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, Balgeman, Doyle, and Denton. Nays: None.  
 Motion carried: 6 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, \$48,706.00 in Stronger Connections, \$32,471.00 in Title I Low Income, and \$52,207.00 in Title IV- 21st Century Comm Learning Centers since the last meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report and Budget Report**

The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Budget Reports as of July 31, 2025, 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 July 31, 2025.

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

Agency Contract    Motioned by Doyle, seconded by Garcia, to approve the contract with Phaxis Staffing Agency and a contract with Clarifi Staffing Solutions for the 25/26 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Doyle, Garcia, Denton, Balgeman, Banasiak, and McLean. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Cardiac Emergency Response Team    Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to approve the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) for the 25-26 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Garcia, Doyle, McLean, Balgeman, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

IGA with West Chicago Park District    The Board received information to update the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the West Chicago Park District. The Board will review the information and vote at the September 4, 2025, board meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

2nd Reading of Policies    Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the 2nd Reading of Policies as follows: Policy 1:10-School District Legal Status; Policy 1:20-District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements; Policy 1:30-School District Philosophy; Policy 2:10-School District Governance; Policy 2:125\_E3-Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements; Policy 2:130-Board-Superintendent Relationship; Policy 2:240-Board Policy Development; Policy 2:80-Board Member Oath and Conduct; Policy 3:30-Chain of Command; Policy 4:180-Pandemic Preparedness, Management, and Recovery; Policy 4:50-Payment Procedures; Policy 4:90-Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds; Policy 5:20\_E-Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harassment; Policy 5:270-Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment; Policy 7:130-Student Rights and Responsibilities; Policy 7:140-Search and Seizure; Policy 7:300-Extracurricular Athletics; Policy 7:325-Student Fundraising Activities; Policy 7:40-Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students; Policy 7:90-Release During School Hours; Policy 8:110-Public Suggestions and Concerns; Policy 8:80-Gifts to the District; Exhibit 2:120\_E1-Guidelines for Serving as a Mentor to a New Board of

Education Member; Exhibit 2:120\_E2-Website Listing of Development and Training Completed by Board Members; Exhibit 2:220\_E4-Open Meeting Minutes; Exhibit 2:220\_-E7-Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings; Exhibit 2:220\_E9-Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration; Exhibit 2:240\_E1-PRESS Issue Updates; Exhibit 2:240\_E2-Developing Local Policy. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Doyle, Denton, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

#### IGA with District 94

Motioned by Doyle, seconded by Garcia, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with West Chicago Community High School District 94. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Doyle, Garcia, Denton, McLean, Banasiak, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

#### Close Session Minutes

Motioned by Doyle, seconded by Garcia, to approve the release of the following closed session minutes: October 19, 2023, and December 11, 2023. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### After-School Programming

The Board received information on the Beyond the Bell Program.

#### Curriculum Night

The Board received information regarding Curriculum Nights.

#### 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 2 new requests since the last board meeting.

#### Short Term Leave

The Board received the short-term leave report.

#### School Newsletter

The Board reviewed the School newsletters.

#### Suggested Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting

No suggested items at this time.

#### Board Outreach

No Board outreach at this time.

#### Parking Lot

Parents are not able to log into PowerSchool if they have a current student at WCCHS.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Open Comments

No open comments at this time.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Into Closed Session

Motion by McLean, second by Garcia, to go into closed session at 8:24 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: Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, Balgeman, Denton, and Doyle. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Roll Call

On roll call at 8:36 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, and Denton. Absentees: Hernandez.

Also Present

Kristina Davis, Superintendent..

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 9:10 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 9:10 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