

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3rd Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
November 21, 2024

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m. at Leman 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. 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 and Grounds; Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services; Catherine Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Matt Ryan, Director of Technology; Gina Steinbrecher, Assistant Director of Communications; 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.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

V.B2- Baseline Communication Assessment Results will be postponed.

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**

At the July 18, 2013, meeting, the Board of Education finalized their “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 in which to conduct board work.

Board Treasurer Chad McLean shared his statement: “When considering my reflections on our shared agreements, I went to Alma's handy digital blue folder of information and looked at the IASB school board members' code of conduct.

The first point of the code is to represent all district constituents. We are doing what is best for all students, being fiscally responsible by leveraging all available resources and abating taxes for our constituents. We share leadership, see through the eyes of seven people, and abide by the majority vote. This covers several points in the code of conduct. One of the aspects of the code of conduct that we do not explicitly have in shared agreements is continuous learning. We are following the code and preparing for more intensive learning at the Triple I conference this weekend. I appreciate when Kristina highlights some issues that alert and inform the board.

As a board, we had a great year with our School Board Governance Recognition. I am looking forward to continuing to work with this board.”

RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

Recognition

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: Jose Correa, Paraeducator, Indian Knoll

Submitted by: Robyn Kimmel, Music Teacher, Indian Knoll

“Mr. Jose truly goes above and beyond for all students at Indian Knoll. As a paraprofessional in a self-contained classroom, he supports his students and lends a hand throughout the school—whether in the hallway, at lunch, or during recess. His bilingual skills are invaluable for translating between students and teachers. Kind, patient, and respectful, Mr. Jose handles every interaction with care, even in challenging situations. Plus, he’s pursuing his teaching certification! We are incredibly fortunate to have him at Indian Knoll.”

Recognition

School Board Member Appreciation 2024

Tonight, we take a moment to honor and celebrate the invaluable contributions of our school board members Rita Balgeman, Morgan Bansiak, Tom Doyle, Chad McLean, Felicia Gills, Sandra Garcia, and Janette Hernandez. Our community elects these dedicated individuals to ensure that the aspirations and expectations for our children’s education are met. They are responsible for overseeing the prudent use of resources, preserving our district’s facilities, and setting a clear vision for educational excellence.

School board members provide vital leadership, setting policies that guide our district and entrusting their implementation to our staff and administration. Their countless hours of service, given selflessly and without compensation, reflect their unwavering commitment to the success of every student in our schools.

The leadership of the District 33 Board of Education has been instrumental in fostering student success and maintaining the strength of our educational community. Their decisions not only impact the quality of education but also the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods, serving as a cornerstone of local democracy.

In recognition of their exemplary governance, the District 33 Board of Education has been honored with the School Board Governance Recognition from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). District 33 is one of only 46 school districts in Illinois to receive this prestigious recognition, a testament to the board’s effective governance practices and their commitment to continuous improvement. This recognition highlights the board’s dedication to acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for effective leadership, ensuring the district’s ongoing success. The district administrative team would like to thank the board for their leadership. Embracing the role of a public servant can be very difficult, and you have collectively kept the best interest of our students, staff, and families in mind with every decision you have made. Thank you for ensuring we have the resources and support to do our jobs and make difficult decisions. As a small token of our appreciation, we hope you and your families will enjoy this holiday gift box.

Presentations

ACCESS Scores

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the 2023-2024 ACCESS district scores. ACCESS is an assessment tool for monitoring and reporting English Learner’s’ progress toward English language proficiency. It tests students’ language in the four domains: listening comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing. The ACCESS test and AAPPL assessment also help prepare students to gain the Seal of Biliteracy in high school. A deeper understanding of proficiency levels, exit data, literacy goals, and action plans were also shared.

E.T.A.W.C. STATEMENT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve Board of Education Meeting Minutes

...Approved the Board meeting minutes of October 17, 2024, and November 7, 2024;

Approve Contract Renewals

...Approve the contract renewal with the following vendors: IXL, Quaver Ed, and Mind Education-ST math.

Approve Current Expenditures

...approved the list of bills dated November 11, 2024, through November 21, 2024, in the amount of \$410,212.81;

- Approve Current Payrolls ...approved payrolls of October 15, 2024, in the amount of \$1,887,277.15, and October 31, 2024, in the amount of \$1,901,864.00;
- Approve Imprest ...approve imprest account from October 28, 2024, to November 11, 2024, in the amount of \$185.00;
- Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes ...approved the disposition of audio tape of the Board of Education regular closed session dated April 20, 2023. 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:
2 Certified: Joanna Hernandez, Bilingual Preschool Teacher at Pioneer Preschool, effective January 6, 2025; Rachael Hendricks, Elementary Teacher at Wegner, effective January 6, 2025;
2 Classified: Tanya Sierocuk, Family Liaison at Pioneer Preschool, effective December 2, 2024; Monica Morales, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective December 2, 2024;
0 Resignations:
0 Leaves:
3 Retirements: Salvador Tamayo, Exploratory Teacher at LMS, effective end of 2025-2026 School Year; Elizabeth Walrath, LBS1 at Wegner, effective end of 2025-2026 School Year; Karen Evans, Preschool Teacher at Pioneer Preschool, effective end of 2025-2026 School Year.

On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Balgeman, Doyle, Garcia, and Hernandez. Nays: None.
 Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Treasurer’s Report and Budget Report The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and Budget Reports as of October 31, 2024, along with the financial charts.
- Financial Report The Board of Education received a financial report from Kristina Davis, Superintendent, stating that the district received \$1,205,673.00 in evidence-based funding since the last meeting.
- Student Activity Account Report The Board of Education received a summary of each school’s monthly activity accounts as of October 31, 2024.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Birth to 3 Family Liaison Update Sarah Burnett, Director of Human Resources, provided information to the Board of Education on the current job title and description and the request to update the title to Family Engagement Specialist with a new job description. The board will review the information and vote at the December 5, 2024, board meeting.

- Board Listening Posts** The Board of Education discussed the proposed listening posts and the rotation in buildings based on the student showcase of the month once a month. The board listening posts will allow the community to engage with the Board of Education and district leaders. The attendees will include the board representative for that building, the board secretary, and the Superintendent. The rotation of the board meetings will begin at the first January board meeting.
- Data Backup System** Matt Ryan, Director of Technology, provided the Board of Education with information regarding the current backup system and purchasing a comprehensive backup system to safeguard essential system restoration. The board will review the information and vote at the December 5, 2024, board meeting.
- December 2024 Levy** Motion by McLean, second by Doyle, to approve the resolution of intent to levy taxes. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Doyle, Hernandez, Garcia, Banasiak, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.
- Property Tax Abatement** The Board of Education abated property taxes for the past 6 years. In 2018, the abatement was \$700,00. In 2019, the abatement was \$714,417. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, the abatement was \$400,000. In 2023, the abatement was \$1,000,000. For 2018 and 2019, these amounts represented the CPI (inflation) of 2.1%. In 2020, the BOE abated a smaller amount to step down gradually and free up more dollars for potential Capital Projects. In 2021 and 2022, the BOE abated \$400,000 based on the estimated revenue from new construction. Because of the continuing impacts of high inflation, continuing with a property tax abatement of \$650,00 will provide some relief to local taxpayers during these difficult economic times. Whenever an abatement occurs and is then adjusted upward, downward, or eliminated, it can affect future years' extension amounts. The board will vote at the December 19, 2024 board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- 2nd reading of Policies** Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to approve the 2nd reading of the policies as follows: Policy 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; Policy 5:100 Staff Development Program; Policy 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; Policy 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; Policy 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure; Policy 5:140 Solicitations By Or From Staff; and Policy 7:140 Search and Seizure. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Garcia, Balgeman, Doyle, and Hernandez. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.
- 2025 Employee Health Benefits Renewal** Motion by Banasiak, second by Garcia, to approve the renewal of health, dental, and vision for the 2025 calendar year. The renewal increase rate is 3.96% for health insurance with BCBS, a 0% increase and a 4-year rate guarantee to move to BCBS Vision, and a 7.27% increase to move to MetLife Dental. On roll call, the

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

Participation in SASED

West Chicago District 33 has been a member of SASED, School Association for Special Education in DuPage County, since 1982. Sherri Massa will continue to gather information and bring back information comparing SASED and CASE in January.

ClearGov Budgeting Software

Motion by Balgeman, second by Garcia, to approve the purchase of ClearGov Budgeting Software. Building and district office administrators will use the software for operation budgeting (purchase of goods and services) and personnel budgeting (salaries and benefits). On roll call, the following members voted aye: Balgeman, Garcia, Hernandez, Banasiak, Doyle, and McLean. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Employee Appreciation and Retention Efforts

Motion by Hernandez, second by Garcia, to approve District 33's partnership with Access to provide employees with discounts at many places. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Hernandez, Garcia, Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, and McLean. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Skyward Migration

Motion by Banasiak, second by Hernandez, to approve the cancelation of the contract with Skyward to migrate from the current system (SMS) to Qmlativ. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Hernandez, Garcia, McLean, Doyle, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Taxi Transportation

Motion by Banasiak, second by Hernandez, to approve a contract with a new transportation company, Everdriven, for McKinney Vento students within District 33. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Hernandez, Doyle, Balgeman, McLean, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Proposed Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolutions for Consideration at the 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly

Motion by Balgeman, second by McLean, to approve Tom Doyle authority to vote on the IASB resolutions at the 2024 Delegate Assembly solely in accordance with the consensus of the West Chicago District 33 school board on November 23, 2024. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Constitutional Amendment for Consideration at the 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly

Motion by Balgeman, second by Banasiak, to approve the IASB constitutional amendment at the 2024 Delegate Assembly on November 23, 2024. The President took a voice vote, and declared the motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

American Education Week

The Board of Education was provided information on different activities held throughout the district in honor of American Education Week in each

building. American Education Week occurs from November 18, 2024, through November 22, 2024.

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 no new requests since the last board meeting.

Out of District Placement

The Board received the Special Education report indicating that 20 special education students and 1 general education student have been placed out of the district as of October 31, 2024.

Short Tem Leave

The Board received the short-term leave report.

Student Chronic Absentee

The Board of Education was provided with information on the Student Chronic Absentee report, showing that from August 29, 2024, through November 14, 2024, the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide is 9.94%.

Student Suspension Report

The Board of Education received the Student Suspension report for October 2024, indicating 5 out-of-school suspensions, 9 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions.

Truancy Referral Report

The Board of Education received the Truancy Referral Report for October 2024, indicating that no new students were referred to the Regional Office of Education, and 14 students continue to be listed on the Regional Office of Education truancy referral report.

School Newsletters

The Board reviewed the School newsletter.

Suggested Agenda Items for
Next Board Meeting

No suggested items at this time.

Board Outreach

No board outreach at this time.

Parking Lot

No parking lot at this time.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Committee Updates

The Board of Education was provided with the Opportunity for Influence/Committee Updates slideshow.

Open Comments

No open comments at this time.

**REVIEW OF UPCOMING
MEETINGS/EVENTS
CLOSED SESSION**

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings.

Into Closed Session

Motion by Banasiak, second by Hernandez, to go into closed session at 7:59 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: Banasiak, Hernandez, Garcia, Balgeman, Doyle, and McLean. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

ROLL CALL

On roll call at 8:10 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, and Hernandez. Absent: Gills.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent, and Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 8:59 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

Approve Minutes of Closed Session

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 8:59 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Tom Doyle