

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (1st Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
January 8, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 p.m. at Turner Elementary School, 750 Ingaltion, 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 Pizinger, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Building and Grounds; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services; 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

No additions or changes at this time.

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

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 in which to conduct board work.

Board Member Rita Balgeman shared her statement: “I always get interesting reactions from family and friends when I talk to them about being on a school board. Many of them are not positive - they don't understand why someone would be on a local government board. They don't typically have positive connotations for local government; they tend to think it'll be boring, there will be infighting, or people will prioritize their personal agendas over the public good.

I typically respond by bragging about our high-functioning board, where we have a wide range of individuals who come together with a common purpose around doing what is best for our students and our community. Our ideological beliefs, our backgrounds, may all be different, but we bring to the board table a common goal, a respect for each other, and respect for our admin team, who provide recommendations to us. We can discuss issues and come to an agreement with this common goal in mind. I recognize that this is not true of every school board or every local government, and I am proud that we are doing the best we can for this community and these kids.”

RECOGNITION SHOWCASE**PRESENTATION**

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 bi-weekly agendas.

Salute to: Diana Graetz - IL Central Bus Driver

Submitted by: Laura Negrete, Parent

“She is the bus driver for special needs (Leman Middle School). She is kind and polite and an example to the community.”

Salute to: Jessica Raiser - Gary Elementary School**Submitted by:** Dan Colwin, Parent

“Jessica Raiser is the best school administrator I have ever had the pleasure to work with. She cares about the children at Gary School like they are her own, but she also cares deeply about her teachers. She seeks the growth of everyone at her school, pushing all to greater things.

She also has a deep heart for parents, rooted clearly in her own parenthood. Every time we have met with or interacted with her, she has displayed immense empathy, taken detailed notes, and created action plans for any changes that may need to take place. She takes seriously our concerns and requests. We feel seen and heard by her, safe in her presence and encouraged in our parenting. My son has benefited multiple times from her leadership and her willingness to lean into any and all challenges. My wife and I tell everyone we know that Gary School is amazing, and it’s largely due to Jessica Raiser. We are incredibly grateful for her.”

E.T.A.W.C. STATEMENT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

No follow-up comment at this time.

**APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA**

Approve Current Expenditures

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

...approved the list of bills dated December 22, 2025, through January 9, 2026, in the amount of \$662,299.21;

Approve Personnel Items

...Approved the following personnel report:

1 Administration: Roberta Wallerstedt, Interim Assistant Principal at Pioneer Preschool, effective January 8, 2026;

0 Certified:

3 Classified: Elvis Sejko, Floater Head Custodian at ESC, effective January 9, 2026; Fernanda Valtierrez, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective January 9, 2026; Ashley Hernandez, Family Liaison at Wegner, effective January 6, 2026;

2 Resignations: Roxann Hunsaker, Assistant Principal at LMS, effective January 23, 2026; Joelle Nelson, Library Media Specialist, effective January 6, 2026;

0 Leaves:

1 Retirements: Doug Orlyk, Library Media Specialist at Currier, effective June 30, 2026;

1 Job Abandonment: Juanita Escamilla, Lunchroom Supervisor at Currier, effective January 8, 2026.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Finance/Facilities

The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stating that the district received \$1,209,173 in Evidence-Based Funding since the last meeting.

Full Service Community School Grant Update

Sarah Norton, Director of Community Partnerships, provided the Board with an update on the FSCS grant. On December 16, 2025, District 33 was notified that its five-year, \$1 million annual Full Service Community School (FSCS) grant would be discontinued effective January 1, 2026. This sudden loss of funding, which supported programming at Wegener Elementary and Leman Middle School based on extensive community feedback, occurred midway through the grant's second year. While the state-scaling recipient, ACT Now, has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Education following a denied appeal, District 33 has been forced to halt all grant-funded programs immediately. District leadership is currently evaluating which initiatives can be sustained through alternative funding and which must be permanently eliminated, pending the outcome of the pending litigation.

New Employee Information and Financial System

Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented recommendations to the board for a new EIS (Employee Information System) and Financial System for the district. The Board will review the information and vote at the January 22, 2026, board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Current Job Listing

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

School Newsletters	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	No Parking lot items at this time.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Open Comments	Sandra asked for an update on the “Bike Bus”. Karen will provide an update at the next board meeting.
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REVIEW OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Banasiak, second by Balgmena, to go into closed session at 7:19 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. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Balgeman, Doyle, McLean, Denton, and Garcia. Nays: None.

ROLL CALL	On roll call at 7:35 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, and Denton. Absentees: Hernandez.
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ALSO PRESENT	Kristina Davis, Superintendent, and Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.
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Out of Closed Session	Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 8:09 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.
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**ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING
CLOSED SESSION**

Approve Dismissal of Custodian Motion by Doyle, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the dismissal of Menfis Martinez. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Doyle, Banasiak, Balgeman, McLean, Garcia, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

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 8:09 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Tom Doyle