

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3rd Thursday)  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
January 22, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 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, Mrs. Janette Hernandez, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Absent: None.

**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; Fred Cadena, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships; Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners; Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services; 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**

Item XV. Close Session Reason 3, The setting of a price for the sale or lease of property, was removed.

**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 of these agreements. The Board revised the shared agreements on November 6, 2014. The agreement's purpose is to help maintain a positive environment for conducting board work.

Board Vice President Morgan Banasiak shared her statement: “I believe 2026 will only bring greater things for District 33. Projects and plans are always in the works to improve upon what we already have. One of the things I truly like about this district is its commitment to all parties' input. There are student advisory committees at some of the schools. When a committee is formed to explore options, there is always a wide array of stakeholders invited- administration, teachers, aides, parents, and sometimes students. This allows our school community to work together and understand the obstacles as well as the expectations. A new committee was recently formed to explore what the district’s 5-year plan will be. This committee will meet several times and will look at what we have accomplished and what we still need to do (because there is always more work to be done). I was lucky enough to go to the first meeting and was amazed at the amount of people dedicated to making this plan. Now I can not wait to see what it creates. I would encourage parents to find a committee and get involved in their child’s future. Give your input. This is how our children’s education will continue to flourish. I started on a committee and definitely gave my input. And I found a higher calling in the process. You might not find this, but you will be able to say you had a significant impact on your child’s education and future.”

## **RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE** **PRESENTATION**

Showcase

### ***Indian Knoll Showcase***

Whitnie Del Toro, Principal at Indian Knoll, presented Indian Knoll’s Student Voice in Action. This year, a Student Council was established to provide students with a meaningful voice. Members collaborate to identify opportunities for school improvement and to promote positive change within the school community. Through their participation, Student Council students have developed important leadership skills as they work together to represent their peers and create positive change within the school. In Building Fact Fluency, students learn addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts through real-world contexts, games, and strategic thinking. Several students attended the meeting to demonstrate Fact Fluency in action. Students serving as teachers, while the board and administrators served as students, asked several questions regarding different pictures.

## Superintendent News

### *Superintendent News - Strategic Plan in Action*

The Superintendent News is to update the board and community on the many programs and activities occurring in the schools and departments, all aimed at helping us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

- **Goal #1- Student Growth and Achievement**
  - Layered Math and Reading Intervention with Tier 2 and Tier 3
  - Newcomer student support
  - Podcasts
  - Book Clubs
- **Goal #2- Learning culture of equity, engagement, and agency**
  - Implementing CHAMPS and PBIS
  - Grade Level Community Meetings
  - Den Dollars and Howl of Praises
- **Goal #4- Family Engagement and Community Partners**
  - PTO Events, which include Trunk-or-Treat, Cookies with Santa, and Dia del Niño.

This month, progress has been made in:

- Culture- 4th/5th-grade PAC students defined Ambitious Instruction at IK; PAC is identifying examples of Ambitious Instruction in the classroom and will create a video presentation to share with peers.
- Literacy- K-1 is honing their instruction in UFLI to ensure the program is taught with fidelity; 2-5 worked with coaches to create backward planning documents for Amplify.
- Math- Building Fact Fluency has taught students how to think flexibly in math to better problem solve; targeted small group instruction is focused on meeting student needs.

## Superintendent for the Day

### *Superintendent for the Day*

On January 8th, 3rd-grade students, Gia G. and Ian C., participated in Superintendent for the Day. Continuing the district's safety theme, they visited several classrooms, asked questions, and collected safety data. Feedback included, "Who is someone at school who helps you feel safe?" The top answers were teachers, principals, and friends. "Are there places at school where kids sometimes feel nervous or unsure?" Top answers were in front of everyone, in the lunchroom, where it is loud, when doing something public, and on the playground. "What helps you calm down when you are upset or worried?" Top answers were drawing, taking deep breaths, and talking to friends. "What is one rule you'd make to help everyone feel safe and included?" Top answers were helping others when they feel sad, playing with everyone, helping each other, and not bullying others. Superintendent Davis expressed her gratitude for all of the information they collected and thanked the parents for raising wonderful children.

## 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:** Rose Provenzano - Leman Middle School

**Submitted by:** Kelly Borchering, Teacher

“Tonight, we recognize Rose Provenzano, a dedicated building substitute at Leman Middle School who consistently makes a positive impact on students wherever she’s needed. Her flexibility, compassion, and ability to connect with students across settings show her deep commitment to doing what’s best for kids. Rose’s care and adaptability truly reflect what it means to be All In for our students.”

**Salute to:** Tom Boyk - Wegner Elementary School

**Submitted by:** Julie Garcia, Teacher

“We’re proud to recognize Tom Boyk, a dynamic and super fun Tech Coach at Wegner Elementary who brings creativity and excitement to learning every day. Through innovative, hands-on experiences, Tom engages students deeply while building strong relationships with every child he teaches. His energy, collaboration, and dedication make him an important part of the Wegner community.”

Presentation

***Presentation - 25-26 AAPPL Scores***

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, and Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners, provided information on the Dual Language Program and provided the 2025-2026 AAPPL scores to the Board of Education. Mrs. Ayala reviewed the Dual Language Program goals for both the one- and two-way programs, guided by 3 key pillars: developing bilingualism and biliteracy, emphasizing academic achievement, and promoting sociocultural competence. The goal for all dual students is to become biliterate and bicultural, and to earn the Seal of Biliteracy (a nationally recognized award that appears on their transcript and high school diploma) when they reach high school. Students in grades 3-8 who participate in the One-Way and Two-Way Dual Programs take the AAPPL assessment. AAPPL assesses students’ Spanish proficiency levels. This year, AAPPL added a new test, the Spanish Immersive Assessment, which allows one-way students and advanced Spanish students to take it entirely in Spanish. Mrs. Park also provided a report outlining the number of students who took the test by school and by grade level. Last year, 73 high school students received the seal of biliteracy, including 47 former D33 students. Currently, over 130 students at Leman can achieve that score in high school. Report information and scores were sent to parents in both English and Spanish.

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

E.T.A.W.C. appreciates the district’s willingness to establish a calendar committee for the upcoming year. We look forward to working collaboratively with the district to develop the calendar. We are thankful that this committee will offer a meaningful opportunity for staff input, ensuring that staff members’ perspectives and concerns are heard and thoughtfully considered, and that the resulting calendar is fair and aligned with surrounding districts.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.  
No follow-up comment at this time.

**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approve Board Meeting Minutes

... approve the board meeting minutes of December 18, 2025, and January 8, 2026;

Approve Current Expenditures

... approved the list of bills dated January 12, 2026, through January 23, 2026, in the amount of \$763,260.88;

Approve Current Payrolls

... approved payrolls of December 15, 2025, in the amount of \$2,026,454.06; December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$1,899,268.69;

Approve Imprest

... approved Imprest account from January 1, 2026, to January 15, 2026, in the amount of \$170;

Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes

... approved the disposition of audio tape of the Board of Education regular closed session dated July 11, 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:  
1 Administration: Nikolaos Bubaris, Director of Technology at ESC, effective July 1, 2026;  
0 Certified:  
0 Classified:  
2 Resignations: Fernanda Valtierrez, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective January 9, 2026; Donald Hoener, Learning Behavior Specialist at LMS, effective January 14, 2026.  
0 Retirements:  
 On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, Balgeman, and Doyle. Nays: None.  
 Motion carried: 7 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 and \$3,125.00 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 December 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 December 31, 2025.

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

Property Tax Abatement

The Board received information on the property tax abatement in the amount of \$ 400,000 as an effort to continue supporting the community during these difficult economic times without negatively impacting future district revenue. The Board will vote at the February 5, 2026, board meeting.

2026-2027 School Calendar

Motioned by Doyle, seconded by Garcia, to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Doyle, Garcia, Balgeman, Banasiak, McLean, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

2026/2027 Student Fees

The Board received the student fees for the 26/27 school year. The Board will review and vote on the February 5, 2026, board meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Employee Information and

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the contract with Tyler Technologies as the new Employee Information System (EIS) and Financial System. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Hernandez, Denton, Balgeman, Doyle, McLean, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Bike Bus Update

Karen Apostoli informed the board that, after several discussions with the insurance company and the legal team, they would not be able to start a bike bus for the district. The district will continue to work with the PTOs and community partners to find a similar program.

Countywide Institute Day

The Board received the plan for County Institute Day, scheduled for February 27, 2026.

Martin Luther King Jr. Recognition	The Board received each school’s highlights on how they honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
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 4 new requests since the last board meeting.
Short-term Leave	The Board received the short-term leave report.
Student Chronic Absentee	The Board of Education was provided with information from the Student Chronic Absentee report, which shows that since January 16, 2026, the district-wide chronic absence rate is 20%.
Student Suspension Report	The Board of Education received the Student Suspension report for December 2025, which indicates 13 in-school suspensions, 4 out-of-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions.
Truancy Referral Report	The Board of Education received the Truancy Referral Report for December 2025, indicating that 2 new students were referred to the Regional Office of Education, and 25 students continue to be listed on the Regional Office of Education truancy referral report.
Suggested Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting	No suggested items at this time.
Board Outreach	Rita attended the Faculty Advisory Council. Janette attended the BPAC meeting.
Parking Lot	No parking lot items at this time.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Open Comments No open comments at this time.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Into Closed Session Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to go into closed session at 7:51 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: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Doyle, Denton, Hernandez, and Garcia. Nays: None.

Roll Call

On roll call at 7:58 p.m., the following members were present: Balgmen, Banasiak, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Absentees: None.

Also Present

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Lea Pinzinger, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations; Nicole Eimer, Director of Communications; and Justin Petrarca (via phone).

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 9:28 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 9:29 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