

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
April 10, 2025

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, Mr. Tom Doyle, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, Janette Hernandez, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Absentees: Mrs. Morgan Banasiak.

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 Buildings and Grounds; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Matt Ryan, Director of Technology; Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships; Nicole Eimer, Director of Marketing, Communications & Public Relations; Jenny Brunky, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning; Maggie Lay, LMS Principal; Matt Mordini, LMS Assistant Principal; and Hannah Christie, LMS Assistant Principal.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rita Balgeman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADMINISTER THE OATH OF
OFFICE REELECTED
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER**

President Rita Balgeman administered the *Oath of Office* to Sandra Garcia.

**REAFFIRM THE CODE OF
CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD**

Board member Sandra Garcia reaffirmed the Code of Conduct for members of school boards to do their utmost to represent the public interest in education by adhering to specific commitments as outlined by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES
TO THE AGENDA**

No additions or changes to the agenda.

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**

Board president Rita Balgeman thanked the teachers for all they do for our students and the community, with this being Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week.

**RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE
PRESENTATION****Recognition****Spelling Bee Winners**

Each year, Leman Middle School students compete in a school-wide English spelling bee and a Spanish spelling bee competition. This year, the winners for the English spelling bee were David R. and Alan V. The Spanish spelling bee winners were Sarah P. and Livia W. Congratulations to all the students for their outstanding performance.

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: District Instructional Technology Coaches**Submitted by:** Matt Ryan

“Tonight, we would like to recognize our District Instructional Technology Coaches: Carol Barsotti, Thomas Boyk, Diane Hernandez, Stephanie Jaskiewicz, Roxanna Nava, Brenda Silva, and Daniela Vaca. You are the innovators behind the scenes, the champions of digital learning, and the guiding lights of tech integration in District 33. The countless hours of planning and work to bring our first annual STEM fair to District 33 to fruition would not have been a success without your vision and passion. Your dedication to empowering educators, your patience in troubleshooting at all hours, and your creativity in transforming lessons with technology make a profound impact every single day. Whether you're introducing a new app, coaching through a classroom tech challenge, or reimagining what learning can look like, you are shaping the future of education one teacher, one student, one device at a time. We salute and thank you for being the bridge between innovation and instruction.”

Salute to: Jenny Brunke and Instructional Technology Coaches**Submitted by:** D33 Cabinet

“The Cabinet team would like to salute Jenny Brunke and the Instructional Technology Coaches for their efforts in organizing the 1st

Annual District 33 STEM Fair. Thank you for the countless hours you invested in planning, coordinating, and executing the event. The STEM Fair not only showcased our students' creativity and innovation but also inspired our 4th and 7th-grade students to explore new possibilities and embrace new challenges. It was a platform for collaboration, learning, and inquiry, which are all values we wish to instill in our D33 students. Jenny, your vision and organizational abilities were pivotal in bringing this event to life. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to enhancing our students' educational experiences. To our Instructional Technology Coaches, your enthusiastic support and mentorship empower our educators and students alike. We are immensely grateful for the work you did for our students and community. We look forward to next year!"

Salute to: Nancy Godinez

Submitted by: Maria Vargas

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the Godinez family and their unwavering support of their child's education. Nancy has always been a proactive participant in school events, and it's clear that the dedication to their child's success goes beyond the classroom. Thank you for your constant involvement, your positive energy, and the effort you put into working with your student at home to help her improve her skills. Parent-teacher collaboration is truly invaluable, and I'm grateful for everything you do to ensure her continued growth and success. Your commitment makes a meaningful difference, and we are lucky to have you as part of our school community!"

Salute to: Tiffany Kennedy

Submitted by: Michelle Loerzel

"Mrs. Kennedy has been working in my classroom as a para this school year, and she goes above and beyond. She cares for the students at Turner Elementary School, and it shows!"

Presentation

Leman Middle School AVID

Student Aldo H. current 7th grader at LMS, attended a listening post and spoke on including AVID for 6th-grade students. Superintendent Davis and Board President Balgamen asked Aldo to present his information at a board meeting. Tonight, he explained to the Board of Education the benefits of including AVID for 6th-grade students. AVID's mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness and success in a global society. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is both a school-wide system and an elective class that prepares students for success in college-prep courses and future careers. It emphasizes academic excellence, critical thinking, organization, and strong study habits. The AVID Elective provides educational, social, and emotional support in a family-like environment, encouraging students to work hard and support each other in reaching their goals. In Illinois, 94% of AVID seniors have enrolled in college at higher rates than the U.S. average, and are accepted into four-year colleges. At Leman, AVID students outperform their peers on the NWEA MAP tests in reading and math, and help prepare students for high school. Students participate in tutorials, WICOR strategies (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, Reading), college field trips, team building, and career research. They enjoy the supportive, goal-driven environment where they build strong relationships and have fun while preparing for the future. Introducing AVID in 6th grade supports students

in all subjects and helps them develop essential skills for middle school success. It smooths the transition from elementary school and teaches valuable habits like note-taking, time management, and problem-solving. In conclusion, Aldo asked the board to approve AVID for 6th grade and thanked the board for the support.

Presentation

D33 Community Schools

Director of Partnerships Sarah Norton and Community School Administrators Penny Munoz and Tiffany Posey presented the community schools update. Community Schools partner with families and community organizations to offer powerful educational opportunities and support for students' school success. The four pillars of community schools include integrated student supports, expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities, active family and community engagement, and collaborative leadership and practices. In District 33, integrated student support includes a family liaison in every school, WeGo community Market-School Food Pantry, and community mental health clinicians. Expanded and Enriched opportunities include afterschool programming such as MyLearning, CAPE (Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education), Puente del Pueblo, Healthy West Chicago Small Bites, weekend programs, and summer school. There are several Active Family and community engagement opportunities for families, such as Adult ESL classes, practical parenting, Parent Cafes, giving programs, One Community, One Book, and many more. Under collaborative leadership and practices, current staff can join different teams or committees. Parents have the opportunity to join PTOs, District Parent Advisory Council, Bilingual Parent Advisory Council, Black Talented and Gifted Group, A&E Council, and many more committees. A combined funding from local funds, grants, and partnerships makes it possible. The community school leadership team is composed of staff, parents, and community partners. The Asset and Needs Assessment results and their budget will be presented at a future board meeting.

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 comments at this time.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve Current Expenditures

...approved the list of bills dated April 28, 2025, through May 8, 2025, in the amount of \$842,057.52;

Approve Imprest Account

...Approve the current imprest list from April 5, 2025, to April 25, 2025, in the amount of \$230;

Approve Renewal of Contracts

...approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: Frontline Professional Growth, Red Rover, Care Solace, Inc., and FinalSite;

Approve Personnel Items

...approve the personnel report as follows:

2 Administration: Brittany Grzesik, Dean of Students at LMS, effective July 1, 2025; Adam Hague, Dean of Students at LMS, effective July 1, 2025;

10 Certified: Mary Sorenson, Preschool Resource Teacher at Pioneer Preschool, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Maria Garcia, Dual Language Teacher at Wegner, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Soledad Herrera, Dual Language Teacher at Wegner, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Michelle Johnson, Speech Language Pathologist at Leman, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Amy Huetson, Instructional Coach at Indian Knoll, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Ximena Valenzuela, Elementary Orchestra Teacher at ELC, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Chanel Antoshin, Elementary Band Teacher at ELC, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Glenn Long, Science Teacher at LMS, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Emma Franklin, Dual Language Teacher at Wegner, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Eleni Koutsoukos, Instructional Coach at Currier, effective 2025-2026 School Year;

0 Classified:

4 Resignations: Sandra Guerrero, Bilingual Preschool Teacher at Pioneer Preschool, effective end of 24-25 School Year; Patrick Jackson, Student Supervisor at LMS, effective April 29, 2025; Norma Miranda, Lunch Supervisor at Turner, effective April 24, 2025; and Julie Pavon, School Psychologist at Turner, effective end of 24-25 School Year;

1 Job Abandonment: Gizel Gomez Estrada, Lunch Supervisor at Indian Knoll, effective May 8, 2025;

1 Retirement: Humberto Benitez, Head Custodian at Currier, effective June 2, 2025

0 Leaves:

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

Kristina Davis, Superintendent, read the biographies and welcomed Brittany Grzesik and Adam Hague, Dean of Students at Leman Middle School.

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

2025-26 School Treasurer

The Board received information on the resolution to appoint Chad McLean as School District Treasurer for the term of July 1, 2025, to June 20, 2026. Treasurer's bond was set at \$6,000,000.00. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 22, 2025, board meeting.

Confidential Staff Salary Increases

The Board received the recommendation to extend continuous employment to confidential staff for the 2025-2026 school year with a 2.465% salary increase. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 22, 2025, board meeting. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 22, 2025, board meeting.

Finance/Facilities

Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, reported that the district has received \$55,057.00 in Stronger Connections, \$160,085.00 in Title I Low Income, \$7,546.00 in Title II Teacher Quality,

and \$128,273.00 in Title III Lagn. Inst. Program-Limited Eng. LIPLEP since the last board meeting.

SSPA Collective
Bargaining Agreement

The Board received the School Service Personnel Association (SSPA - custodian union) ratified collective bargaining agreement. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 22, 2025, board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

2025-2026 Custodial
Supply BID Results

Motioned by Doyle, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the awarded supply bids to Chemcraft in the amount of \$2,598.00, Staples in the amount of \$7,114.85, The Standard Company in the amount of \$1,249.00, Unipak in the amount of \$3,525.00, and Warehouse Direct in the amount of \$66,449.65 for a total of \$80,936.50. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Doyle, Hernandez, Denton, Garcia, McLean, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Department of Partnerships
Administrative Update

Motioned by Doyle, seconded by McLean, to approve the addition of 1 FTE Community School Administrator to the Department of Partnerships and the promotion of Community School Administrators, Penny Munoz and Tiffany Posey, to Assistant Directors for Partnerships, effective July 1, 2025. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Doyle, McLean, Balgeman, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Impact Kids

Motioned by Hernandez, seconded by Garcia, to approve the partnership with Impact Kids, which provides after-school and summer programming. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Hernandez, Garcia, Denton, McLean, Balgeman, and Doyle. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

PreK-5th Grade Team Leaders

Motioned by Hernandez, seconded by Garcia, to approve the alignment of the preschool and elementary team leaders to have similar expectations to those of the middle school team leaders, along with a stipend for additional work outside of the workday. The team leaders will serve as liaisons between the administration and certified staff. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Hernandez, Garcia, Denton, Balgeman, Doyle, and McLean. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Threat Assessment Plan

Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services, provided the Board with the current threat assessment protocol.

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 agenda items at this time.

Board Outreach

Rita and Janette attended the STEM Fair.

Parking Lot

No new items for the parking lot at this time.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETINGS****Open Comments**

Cathy Park reminded the Board of the Strategic Management Survey and the timeline for its closure.

**REVIEW OF UPCOMING
MEETINGS/EVENTS**

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings.

CLOSED SESSION

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

ROLL CALL

On roll call at 8:07 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Absentees: Banasiak.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Sarah Burnett, Director of Human Resources; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations; and Maggie Lay, Leman Middle School Principal.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, seconded by Garcia, to reconvene to open session at 8:55 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 Garcia, to approve closed session minutes as read. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McLean, seconded by Garcia, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Tom Doyle