

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (4th Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
May 22, 2025

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 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. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Mr. Tom Doyle and Mrs. Janette Hernandez were absent.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; 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; 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

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by McLean to approve Sandra Garcia, as Secretary Pro Tem.

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

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.

Mrs. Morgan Banasiak shared her statement, "Around this time of year, I usually talk about all the wonderful things that District 33 has accomplished over the years. Tonight I am going to do something a little different. Four years ago, I stood on the Leman Middle School stage and congratulated our 8th-grade graduates. Those graduates included my daughter, so I have been able to follow them as they have moved on to high school. On Tuesday, I became the proud parent of a high school graduate, as well as Chad and Tom. As I sat in the audience, it struck me that I had been to 3/5 of those students' 8th-grade and high school graduations. And I wondered what our portrait of a graduate looked like for this class. This week was filled with recognitions and celebrations of academic success. I asked my daughter to look at the Honors Convocation program and tell me who she remembers from Leman (this is not perfect, obviously).

Tuesday night 14 Leman graduates graduated with Distinction (this recognizes those students with a 4.75-4.999 Grade point average), 21 graduated with Highest Distinction including my daughter (this recognizes those students with a GPA of 5.0 or higher), 11 Leman graduates are Illinois State Scholars (this is based on class rank and ACT/SAT test scores) and 47 received some form of academic scholarship. Two students were named for National Merit Scholarship, and one of those students came from Leman. All of these achievements are far above the average.

In District 33, we have always prided ourselves on being a multicultural community. We have worked hard to have a fabulous dual language program. Tuesday night, the high school recognized those students who have strived to accomplish biliteracy. 5 Leman graduates received the State Commendation Toward Biliteracy, and 35 received the State Seal of Biliteracy.

Departmental awards of excellence were presented to 13 Leman graduates in the humanities, music, career, language arts, mathematics, science, and world languages. To say District 33 was well represented would be an understatement.

I also want to speak about athletics, as we have striven to improve and increase the after-school programs here at Leman. Leman received 2 of the 3 awards in this category. Mia Marin received the Cathy Devereux Memorial Scholarship for swimming, and I would be remiss if I did not mention the Male Athlete of the Year- Judah McLean. Of special mention, the recipient of the Houston J. Pineda Memorial Scholarship is Tomas Doyle.

I consider tonight a night of celebration. We have sent our students on and they have had great success. We will continue to evolve our academic and athletic programs, and I am confident that in the future, we will continue to achieve amazing success. I would like to

thank all the administrators and teachers in District 33 who played a part in these amazing achievements. And I congratulate our past Leman graduates on a job well done and wish them continued success in the future.”

RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

Recognition

D33 Pride Awards

The #D33Pride Awards are presented to individuals who have made a significant impact on the students, staff, and families of the District 33 community. This year, the Recognition Committee introduced a new category: the Rookie Award for Certified and Classified Staff. Staff members who have worked in the district for at least one year but under three years can be nominated for this award. Nominations are accepted and presented at the end of each trimester. The members of the Recognition Committee judge the nominations, and winners are selected in each category. All names are removed from the nominations before being given to the committee members for judging.

A total of 17 nominations were submitted for this award cycle.

The winners are:

#D33Pride Award Certified Staff Winner -

Gaby Mancera, Leman Middle School

“Gaby Mancera is a quiet force of compassion, leadership, and dedication. She creates a safe, welcoming space for newcomer students, celebrates their cultures, and advocates fiercely for their success. From coaching Special Olympics to mentoring colleagues, Gaby brings heart and humanity to every corner of D33. Her impact is felt far beyond the classroom - she truly changes lives.”

#D33 Pride Award Certified “Rookie” Winner –

Julie Odom, Leman Middle School

“In just a short time, Julie Odom has transformed after-school athletics and activities into something vibrant, inclusive, and deeply meaningful for students. She’s a behind-the-scenes powerhouse who brings energy, organization, and heart to everything she does - from launching new programs to personally supporting students in need. Julie leads with joy, kindness, and an unshakable commitment to kids.”

#D33Pride Classified “Rookie” Winner –

Maria Fernandez, Indian Knoll Elementary

“Maria Fernandez is a steady, positive presence who makes a big difference at Indian Knoll. Whether she’s supporting students with complex needs or stepping in to help colleagues, Maria brings calm, care, and a can-do spirit to every situation. She’s known for her

warm smile, her dedication to inclusion, and the extra mile she walks for every child, every day.”

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 from the District 33 community, which includes all staff members, students, bus drivers, parents/guardians, and guardians, for their actions that build a positive culture and climate in District 33. This “shout-out” will be included in the official Board minutes under “Board Salutes” on the bi-weekly agendas.

Salute to: Ballet Folklórico Team – Staff, Students & Families

Submitted by: D33 Cabinet

"The Cabinet team would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the incredible staff, students, and families who made this year's 10th Anniversary Ballet Folklórico performance on May 17th such a vibrant and memorable success. We offer special recognition to Pilar Rocha, Sal Tamayo, LuzMa Fuentes, Jami Murphy, and Gaby Lopez for their creativity, dedication, and countless hours of preparation. From rehearsals and costumes to the energy on stage, every detail of this performance reflected the pride, talent, and rich cultural heritage of our D33 community. This event was more than a performance - it was a powerful celebration of tradition, culture, and student expression. It was a joy to see our students shine as they proudly shared their dancing skills and cultural identity with the entire community. To everyone who contributed, your work brought joy, pride, and meaning to hundreds of families. We are honored to celebrate your efforts and look forward to continuing this beautiful tradition for years to come."

Salute to: Billy Shipp at Indian Knoll Elementary School

Submitted by: Vianney Moreno

"Billy goes above and beyond to assist his fellow co-workers in anything they need. He manages to make time for everyone that needs him, on top of completing his everyday tasks with such detail and care. He has built an amazing relationship with IK's students with his sense of humor and genuine care for everyone. Indian Knoll is so lucky to have Billy as part of our crew."

Salute to: Carli Sabrina Benn

Submitted by: Jobeth Wilson

"Carli is a literal shining star. She brightens up our preschool program and is never afraid to show the staff and students that they should be themselves. If it's her helping a crying student into the building with her Bluey headband on or her sending her coworkers supportive memes about how awesome they are, she's everyone's cheerleader. So I want to celebrate her. She is a strong leader, a passionate educator, and a genuine person. West Chicago is so lucky to have her, and I'm so lucky

I get to work and collaborate with her every day. You can't help but smile when Carli is around, and that's a superpower in itself. Thanks, Carli, for doing all that you do!"

Salute to: Jen Boorsma at Indian Knoll Elementary School

Submitted by: Vianney Moreno

"Jen is a key asset to Indian Knoll due to the many roles she takes on. She builds such caring relationships with our students and our staff. Jen is what we'd like to call our "work mom." Her continuous support of staff, particularly the paras, is beyond amazing. She truly leads with her heart, and you can tell by the way our students and staff confide in her for anything. Boorsma is a problem solver and an amazing leader. Jen is truly such a blessing to Indian Knoll."

Salute to: Jennifer Rutkas

Submitted by: Jobeth Wilson & Carli Benn

"We wanted to salute Jennifer Rutkas because she has been an integral part of building up our preschool program. She is a SPED nerd and actively teaches our SST team on all things SPED. She keeps up to date on SPED laws and any changes, and is always so enthusiastic in wanting to share that with her team so that we are always growing as professionals. She's helped streamline our screening processes and has been such a staple to the SPED team. We appreciate her guidance, collaboration, and support! Thanks for learning and laughing with us!"

Presentation

Facilities Update

George Demarakis, with ARCON, provided the board with an update and results of the facility planning and accomplishments. This plan was created many years ago by the Facility Committee, and the results were used to develop a plan for the next 10 years. In October, they held their 1st Facility Committee meeting. They continued to meet monthly and did building walkthroughs to get updated information. They also identified items on the lists and arranged them in order of priority. The priority list was provided. Most of the items at the top are maintenance items. George also spoke about the 3-year plan and its associated costs. This roadmap is a good way to start and serve as a guide, but things could also change, such as funding, priorities, and other factors that might arise. George will continue to work with Karen and Fred and will be reviewing the list yearly.

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 McLean, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Approve Board Meeting Minutes ... approve the board meeting minutes of April 24, 2025, and May 8, 2025;
- Approve Current Expenditures ...approved the list of bills dated May 12, 2025, through May 23, 2025, in the amount of \$556,333.71;
- Approve Current Payrolls ...approved payrolls of April 15, 2025, in the amount of \$1,281,345.40, and April 30, 2025, in the amount of \$1,255,409.72;
- Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes ...approved the disposition of audio tapes of the Board of Education regular closed sessions dated November 2, 2023, and November 19, 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:
1 Certified: Mara Sventeckis, Learning Behavior Specialist at Indian Knoll, effective 2025-2026 School Year;
3 Classified: Tiara Stroger, Nurse at Gary, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Olid Joya Santana, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective 2025-2026 School Year; Leslie Vargas, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective June 1, 2025;
12 Resignations: Estefany Castro, Custodian at ESC, effective May 20, 2025; Georgina Hernandez, Lunch Supervisor at Gary, effective May 9, 2025; Ruth Bovey, Dual Language Teacher at Wegner, effective June 12, 2025; Sara Gillmar, Interim Assistant Principal at Wegner, effective June 30, 2025; Alexia Flores Garcia, Choir Teacher at LMS, effective June 12, 2025; Ayesha Saher, Lunchroom Supervisor at Currier, effective June 12, 2025; Christy Perez, Language Arts Teacher at LMS, effective June 12, 2025; Viannett Caballero, Dual Language Teacher at Gary, effective June 12, 2025; Caiden Guevara, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective May 23, 2025; Rachel Jankiewicz, Speech Language Pathologist at LMS, effective June 12, 2025; Sevdije Shaipi, Lunchroom Supervisor at Currier, effective June 12, 2025; Linda Sloan, Newcomer Teacher at LMS, effective June 12, 2025;
0 Leaves:
0 Retirements:

On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None.
 Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer's Report and

The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Budget

Budget Report

Reports as of April 30, 2025, along with the financial charts.

Financial Report

Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, provided the Board of Education with a financial report stating that the district received \$1,205,673.00 in Evidence-Based Funding, \$224,054.39 in the National School Lunch Program, and \$90,206.20 in the School Breakfast Program since the last meeting.

Student Activity Account Report

The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of April 30, 2025.

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

1st Reading of Policies

The Board reviewed the 1st reading of the policies as follows: Policy 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; Policy 4:15 Identity Protection; Policy 4:80 Accounting and Audits; Policy 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; Policy 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited; Policy 5:60 Expenses; Policy 5:100 Staff Development Program; Policy 6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction; Policy 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks; Policy 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities; Policy 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; Policy 7:60 Residence; Policy 7:70 Attendance and Truancy; Policy 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; Policy 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; Policy 7:190 Student Behavior; Policy 7:200 Suspension Procedures; Policy 7:210 Expulsion Procedures; Policy 7:250 Student Support Services; Policy 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students; Policy 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools; Policy 7:340 Student Records; Policy 7:255 Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence; and Policy 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure. The Board will review the information and vote at the June 5, 2025, board meeting.

2024 Tax Extension

The Board received information regarding the 2024 tax extension and aggregate refunds, along with a recommendation to begin with the 2024 tax extension and, moving forward, allocate aggregate refunds to the capital projects fund for use in current and future capital projects. The Board will review the information and vote at the June 5, 2025, board meeting.

Aramark Renewal The Board received the 1-year contract renewal with Aramark for the 2025-2026 school year. The Board will review the information and vote at the June 5, 2025, board meeting.

Partnerships Administration The Board was provided with information to appoint Tiffany Posey as Interim Director of Partnerships for a six-month term. The Board will review the information and vote at the June 5, 2025, board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

2025-26 School Treasurer Motion by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve the appointment of Chad McLean as treasurer for the 25/26 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the resolution to purchase the bond for the treasurer. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Denton, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Confidential Staff Salary Increases Motion by McLean, seconded by Balgeman, to approve extension of continuous employment to confidential staff for the 2025-2026 school year with a 2.465% salary increase. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Balgeman, Banasiak, Garcia, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SSPA Collective Bargaining Agreement Motion by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to approve the ratified School Service Personnel Association (SSPA) collective bargaining agreement. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Garcia, Denton, Balgeman, and McLean. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Expanding Self-Contained Programming A seventh self-contained classroom at the elementary level will be added for the 25/26 school year to be housed at Gary School, as well as a 1.0 FTE self-contained teacher and a .5 FTE social worker to support the new classroom.

Summer PD and Curriculum Work The Teaching and Learning Department shared the upcoming summer professional development and summer curriculum work.

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 3 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 on the Student Chronic Absentee report, showing that as of May 14, 2025, the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide is 13.56%.
Student Suspension Report	The Board of Education received the Student Suspension report for April 2025, which indicated 19 in-school suspensions, 10 out-of-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions.
Truancy Referral Report	The Board of Education received the Truancy Referral Report for March 2025, indicating that 0 new students were referred to the Regional Office of Education, and 31 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	Several Board members attended Blooming Fest on May 17, 2025. Molly attended the 1st District Book Study meeting.
Parking Lot	Sandra provided some highlights on an event held at Gary for parents, where LIA students from LMS demonstrated how they work with elementary students.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee Updates	The Board of Education was provided with the Opportunity for Influence/Committee Updates slideshow.
LEND	Kristina Davis provided the Board with an update.
Open Comments	No open comments at this time.

REVIEW OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings.

Motion by Banasiak, second by Garcia, to go into closed session at 8:08 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, Garcia, Denton, Balgeman, and McLean. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

ROLL CALL

On roll call at 8:15 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, and Denton. Absentees: Doyle and Hernandez.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent, and Sarah Burnett, Director of Human Resources.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 9:03 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 9:03 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Tom Doyle