

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
January 5, 2023.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Rita Balgeman at 7:00 p.m. at Leman Middle School, 238 E. Hazel St., West Chicago, Illinois. On roll call, the following members were present: Rita Balgeman, Tom Doyle, Phebe Balzer, Morgan Banasiak, Chad McLean, and Sandra Garcia, were present.  
Absent: Felicia Gills.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; John Haffner, Executive Director of Business and Operations; Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations; Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services; Lea Deluca, Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation; Jeff Cowart, Assistant Director of Technology and Infrastructure; Rubi Ortiz, Director of Multilingual Learners; Beth Walrath, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities and Grounds; Gina Steinbrecher, Coordinator of Communication and Community Relations; and Sarah Norton, Coordinator of Partnerships.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Rita Balgeman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**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 purpose of the agreement is to help maintain a positive environment in which to conduct board work. Board Member Chad McLean shared his reflection: “I am reflecting on our shared

agreement of respect for staff and other board members and their opinions. This is very important for school boards so that we can speak with one voice. To get to that one voice, we need to hear staff and board opinions. We also need to hear the opinions of the other stakeholders in our local district, including parents, community members, and students. We do not want to be found in our own little educational district bubble as we discuss and make decisions for the district. At our Joint Conference in November, Amanda Ripley talked about the pitfalls of high conflict that causes division and positive conflict that leads to growth and conflict resolution. We need to guard against the characteristics of high conflict by avoiding the pitfalls of one: us versus them, two being dismissive of those that hold certain opinions, and three, assuming we understand what is being said by a person with a different opinion. Any opinions shared by parents are more important than the opinions of board members and staff. We serve them, and we are not the parents. The parents are responsible for their children.”

**RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE  
PRESENTATION**

- Recognition No recognition at this time.
- Showcase No showcase at this time.
- Presentation No presentation at this time.
- 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:** Robyn Kimmel, Indian Knoll, Music Teacher  
**Submitted by:** Mary Cortez, Puente del Pueblo at Indian Knoll  
 “Fifth grader Ivan Perez really wanted to play the clarinet, but registration was already closed for the band. When I told him this, he was very distraught and kept bringing it to my attention, "Mrs. Cortez, I want to play the clarinet!" Not knowing what to do, I shared this story with Robyn Kimmel, the music teacher at Indian Knoll. She "just happened" to have an extra clarinet in her room. Right away, she sat on the floor and watched YouTube to figure out how to put the clarinet together. She then proceeded to spend 40 minutes after school teaching Ivan the basics. A plan was formed, and he was sent home with sheet music and a recorder. We are still searching for a teacher to come to instruct him at Indian Knoll during Puente's after-school program, but what a joy it was to see Robyn in action. She has a heart for students and a love for learning. She is perfectly placed at Indian Knoll, and she makes all of us better by empowering us with her hope and action!

**Salute to: Amie Correa, Principal & Jessica Raiser, Assistant Principal, Gary School**

**Submitted by: Irene Nelson, Gary School, LBS1**

“Staff at Gary school have endured so many changes with building administration. Gary's staff feels very fortunate to have Amie Correa as an administrator who is in it for the long haul. Amie is very professional and does what is best for children! She has made staff meetings extremely beneficial, having staff work in teams and building new relationships amongst other staff members. Staff meetings are now so exciting to attend as we all actively participate in professional development. She models strategies for staff to incorporate in the classrooms. Jessica Raiser, our assistant principal, works side by side, making Gary a smooth operation each day. The calm demeanor trickles down to staff, making it easier to learn and teach in a rigorous dual language school. There are so many wonderful things to say about our principal and our assistant principal, but visiting Gary school would say it all! ”

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

No statement at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.

**SUPERINTENDENT NEWS**

No Superintendent news at this time.

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

Presentation Follow-up

Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Beth Walrath, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented to the Board an update on the school goals.

Summer Construction Bid

Motion by Banasiak, second by McLean, to approve the summer construction bid. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Balzer, Balgeman, Garcia, and Doyle. Nays: none. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Finance/Facilities

Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, stated that since the last Board meeting, the district has received for Evidence-Based Funding in the amount of \$1,188,210.00; Title IV- 21st Century Community Learning in the amount of \$189,215.00 and Other Federal Programs in the amount of \$690,810.00.

Music Instruments for LMS

Motion by Banasiak, second by Balgeman to approve music instruments for LMS. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Balgeman, McLean, Balzer, Garcia, and Doyle. Nays: none. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.



School Year 2023-2024  
Student Fees

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to approve waiving of all student fees for the 2023-2024 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Balzer, Garcia, and Doyle. Nays: none. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Personnel Report

Motion by Balgeman, second by Banasiak, to approve the Personnel report as follows:

**0 ADMINISTRATION:**

**1 CERTIFIED:** Chantal Gonzalez, PE teacher at LMS, effective January 5, 2023;

**3 CLASSIFIED:** Maricela Cruz, Nurse at Winfield, effective January 5, 2023; Arpita Sutaria, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective January 5, 2023; and Flordelis Liz Rodriguez, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective January 12, 2023;

**0 TRANSFER:**

**2 RESIGNATION:** Layuna Foster, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective December 26, 2022; Karen Vargas, Building Secretary at Winfield, effective December 27, 2023:

**0 RETIREMENTS:**

**0 TERMINATIONS:**

**0 LEAVE:**

**0 FTE Change:**

**0 FTE Change:**

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Current Job Listings

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

Suggested Items for Next  
Board Meeting

The Board would like information on a possible Football program brought to the middle school. Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, will bring information to the January 19, 2023, Board meeting.

Board Outreach

No Board outreach at this time.

Parking Lot

No parking lot at this time.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Committee Update

Board members were provided with an update on all committees.

Open Comments

No open comments at this time.

**REVIEW OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Into Closed Session

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to go into closed session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss 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, Self-evaluation, and purchase or lease of real property. On roll call, the following board members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Balzer, Doyle, and Garcia Nays: none. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

ROLL CALL

On roll call at 7:50 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, Balzer, McLean, and Garcia Absent: Gills

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent, Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, Fred Cadena, Director of Buildings and Grounds, John Haffner, Executive Director of Business and Operations, and Justin Petrarca, School Attorney.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 10:05 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 the 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 10:07 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