

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
December 19, 2024

Vice President Morgan Banasiak called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m. at Lemay Middle School, 238 E. Hazel St., West Chicago, Illinois. On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mr. Tom Doyle, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, and Mrs. Janette Hernandez. Absent: Mrs. Rita Balgeman and Mrs. Felicia Gills.

**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 Facilities and Grounds; Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services; Catherine Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Matt Ryan, Director of Technology; and Gina Steinbrecher, Assistant Director of Communications.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Morgan Banasiak led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

Motion by Doyle, second by Garcia, to approve Morgan Banasiak as President Pro Tem.  
Closed session was postponed to the January 9, 2025, board meeting.  
Item IV-Shared agreements was moved after action items.

**RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE  
PRESENTATION**

Recognition

*D33 Pride Awards*

The #D33Pride Awards are given to individuals who have significantly impacted the students, staff, and families of the District 33 community. This year, the Recognition Committee added 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:

**Student #D33 Pride Award Winner**

Alex Arvizu was nominated by Jill Cooper. Alex is a second-grade student at Gary School.

**Classified Staff #D33Pride Award Winner**

Annabelle Gonzalez, secretary at Indian Knoll School, was nominated by Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability.

**Rookie Certified Staff #D33 Pride Award Winner**

Lauren Kroscher, a Language Arts teacher at Leman Middle School, was nominated by Joseph Ruddy, a Language Arts teacher at Leman Middle School.

**Certified Staff #D33Pride Award**

Julie Pavon, a social worker at Turner School, was nominated by Patrick Jecmen.

**Team #D33 Pride Award**

Vicki Hartwig, Behavior Specialist, and Patrick Jecmen, Senior Behavior Support Advisor, were nominated by Mark Truckenbrod and Sara Gillmar, the administrative team at Wegner School.

\*Chad McLean arrived at 7:09 p.m.

**Presentations***Strategic Management Overview*

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the information on strategic management pre-survey. The survey is used to build a strong organizational system in the district. District Administrators have been working with a coach to help learn about each area of strategic management, analyze data, and build action steps to improve performance. Mrs. Park also shared past results and the trends of each dimension. The survey window is from late January to early February and will be taken by the Board of Education, Faculty Advisory Committee, and the Administrative Council. Results will be available in early March.

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

Deb Taylor, E.T.A.W.C. President, shared a statement. “Over the course of this school year, ETAWC leadership and district administration have engaged in monthly conversations about critical topics such as teacher retention, communication, trust, and supporting teachers. As a result of the most recent of these ongoing dialogues, district administration amended its agenda for the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) - which comprises ETAWC representatives and administration from each of our buildings - and brought to the table the issue of trust. The FAC members had an honest and informative conversation about the importance of trust between teachers and district administration, and about the feeling from the teachers’ perspective that this trust has eroded over the past several years. ETAWC representatives brought forth concerns and issues around this diminished trust and offered suggestions for district administration on how these concerns and issues can be addressed going forward. ETAWC appreciates the district’s willingness to provide a platform for this type of conversation and their openness to hearing the teachers’ perspectives and ideas for improvement. We hope that this type of communication and collaboration can continue in the months/years ahead, and we encourage district administration to take the ideas heard and use them to drive change and improvement for everyone in District 33.”

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.

**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Garcia, second by Hernandez, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Approve Board of Education Meeting Minutes

...Approved the Board meeting minutes of November 21, 2024, and December 5, 2024;

Approve Current Expenditures

...approved the list of bills dated December 9, 2024, through December 19, 2024, in the amount of \$671,723.89;

Approve Current Payrolls

...approved payrolls of November 15, 2024, in the amount of \$1,881,198.009, and November 30, 2024, in the amount of \$1,859,755.58;

Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes

...approved the disposition of audio tape of the Board of Education regular closed session dated May 4, 2023, and May 18, 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:** Romeel Adde, Enriched Science Teacher at Lemay Middle School, effective January 6, 2025;

**3 Classified:** Emely Garcia, Family Liaison at Pioneer Preschool, effective January 6, 2025; Margaret Uhlarik-Boller, LLC Aide at Currier, effective December 16, 2024; Elizabeth Valerio, Clerical Aide at Pioneer Preschool, effective January 6, 2025;

**3 Resignations:** Claudia Contreras, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective December 4, 2024; Julissa Bustamante, Family Liaison at Pioneer Preschool, effective December 11, 2024; Mariela Valencia, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective January 7, 2024;

**0 Leaves:****0 Retirements:**

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Treasurer's Report and Budget Report

The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Budget Reports as of November 30, 2024, along with the financial charts.

Financial Report

The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stating that the district received \$1,205,673.00 in evidence-based funding, \$26,082.00 in Title I Low Income, \$13,316.00 in Title IV-21st Century7 Comm Learning Centers, and \$90,400 in other Federal Programs since the last meeting.

Student Activity Account Report      The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of November 30, 2024.

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

2025-2026 School Calendar      The Board received the proposed 2025-2026 school year calendar. The board will review the information and vote at the January 9, 2025, board meeting.

2025-2026 Board of Education Meeting Dates      The Board received the proposed 2025-2026 Board of Education meeting dates. The board will review the information and vote at the January 9, 2025, board meeting.

1st Reading of Policies      Sarah Burnett, Director of Human Resources, discussed the 1st Reading of Board Policies to be reviewed: 2:105 - Ethics and Gift Ban; 2:120 - Board Member Development; 4:30 - Revenue and Investments; 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts; 4:150 - Facility Management and Building Programs; 4:170 - Safety; 5:10- Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; 5:20- Workplace Harassment Prohibited; 5:90 - Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; 5:125 - Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct; 5:230 - Maintaining Student Discipline; 6:60 - Curriculum Content; 6:135 - Accelerated Placement Program; 6:270 - Guidance and Counseling Program; 7:10 - Equal Educational Opportunities; 7:100 - Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students; 7:160 - Student Appearance; 7:180 - Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; and 7:200 - Suspension Procedures; 8:10 - Connection with the Community. The board will review the information and vote at the January 9, 2025, board meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

2024-2025 Board of Education Meeting Dates Amendment      Motion by Garcia, second by Hernandez, to approve the revised Board of Education meeting dates to reflect the location changes on the following dates: January 23, 2025, the meeting will be held at Currier School; February 6, 2025, will be held at Gary School; and April 24, 2025, will be held at Wegner School. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC)      Motion by Garcia, second by Hernandez, to approve the intent to renew the contract with Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) for the 2025-26 school year, which begins July 1, 2025. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Garcia, Hernandez, McLean, Doyle, and Banasiak. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Director/Assistant Director of Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations      Motion by McLean, second by Garcia, to approve the job posting criteria, and title revisions for the marketing, communications, and public relations position. On roll call, the following members

- Job Description voted aye: McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, Banasiak, and Doyle. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.
  
- Adoption of Aggregate Property Tax Levy Motion by Garcia, second by McLean to approve the adoption of the aggregate Property Tax Levy. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$51,679,553.00. This represents a 9.49% increase over the previous year. On roll call the following members voted aye: On roll call, the following members voted aye: Garcia, McLean, Doyle, Banasiak, and Hernandez. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.
  
- Property Tax Abatement Motion by McLean, second by Garcia, to approve a property tax levy in the amount of \$\$650,00 to continue to provide some relief to local taxpayers during these difficult economic times. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, Doyle, and Banasiak. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**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 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 Sandra Garcia shared her statement: “Good evening. Adhering to our belief in our students’ full potential and successful future is the agreement I will be speaking about today. As change occurs all around us, from our own board to personnel in our district schools, it is fundamental that we all remain on the same page about believing in our children’s potential. The way the kids are inspired is not always the same for all. Sometimes, what they find inspiring is what they can relate to based on their own lives and experiences. They are each unique in their own way. It is always such a highlight for me to get a glimpse of how the

teachers capture this when they have special presentations with their students for us. As a quote from B.B. King says, ‘The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you.’”

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

BEST Program	Becoming Employee Student Teachers, also known as the BEST Program, supports paraprofessionals and classified staff members as they pursue their teaching certification. The program’s enrollment has continued to increase, allowing staff to pursue their teaching dreams. To date, approximately 20 classified staff members are enrolled in the program. The district website has more information about the BEST program.
Technology Lifecycle Replacement Schedule	Matt Ryan, Director of Technology, provided the board with a technology hardware schedule for students and staff devices. A re-evaluation process has also been added.
Trimester 1 Academic Acolades	The Board received each school's summary of the achievement celebrations.
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 one new request since the last board meeting.
Out of District Placement	The Board received the Special Education report indicating that 22 special education students and 0 general education students have been placed out of the district as of November 30, 2024.
Short Tem 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 since December 11, 2024, the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide is 12.62%.
Student Suspension Report	The Board of Education received the Student Suspension report for November 2024, indicating 4 out-of-school suspensions, 19 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions.
Truancy Referral Report	The Board of Education received the Truancy Referral Report for November 2024, indicating that no new students were referred to the Regional Office of Education, and 15 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	Kristina Davis suggested that the book study start in January.
Board Outreach	Chad McLean attended the Finance Committee meeting. Morgan Banasiak attended the Faculty Advisory Council meeting.

Parking Lot

Janette Hernandez suggested a Board Salute to Senator Karina Villa and Representative Maura Hirschauer for all the support they have provided to District 33.

Senator Villa and Representative Hirschauer will receive updates regarding McAuley School and after-school programming at the January or February board meetings.

Karen Apostoli and Fred Cadena have been working on installing plaques in all of the district's playgrounds in Senator Villas's name in honor of the funds she secured to renovate them.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Committee Updates

The Board of Education was provided with the Opportunity for Influence/Committee Updates slideshow.

Open Comments

No open comments at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by McLean, second by Garcia, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 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