

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3th Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
September 18, 2025

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m. at Lemman 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. Molly Denton, and Mrs. Janette Hernandez. Absent: Mrs. Sandra Garcia.

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; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners; Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services; Fred Cadena, Director of Building and Grounds; Tiffany Posey, Interim Director of Partnerships; 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.

*Sandra Garcia arrived at 7:02 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON
2025 - 2026 OFFICIAL
SCHOOL BUDGET**

Mrs. Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, presented the official 2025-2026 school budget. The Board of Education received no comments or questions from the public. The public hearing was concluded at 7:03 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

No additions or changes at this time.

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 in which to conduct board work.

Board President Rita Balgeman shared her statement: “Tonight, I’d like to take a moment to address the events of this past week. As a Board, we are dedicated to what is best for our families and our community, and I know that I can speak for all of us to share our deepest gratitude for families, staff, and community, and how everyone came together in response to these events.

The increased presence of ICE in West Chicago created uncertainty and concern for many in our community. In response, our schools acted swiftly and responsibly, implementing Secure and Teach to add an extra layer of protection while keeping classrooms calm and learning uninterrupted.

We are grateful and proud of how our staff stepped forward, not only to teach and reassure our students inside the classroom, but also to volunteer at dismissal, riding buses, walking with students, and making sure every child arrived safely home.

We know these events have caused stress for families, and I want to reassure you that the safety and well-being of our students will always be our highest priority. Our schools are safe places, and our staff remain vigilant, prepared, and committed to protecting every child entrusted to us.

It is also important to recognize our families and neighbors who looked out for one another, checked in on children, and showed once again the strength of this community.

This week reminded us that in uncertain times, our community is strongest when we stand together. As a Board, we thank our community for your trust, your partnership, and your unwavering commitment to the children of District 33.”

**RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE
PRESENTATION**

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: Alicia Voss - Pioneer Preschool

Submitted by: Diana Romero, Parent

“Mrs. Alicia is such an amazing person and teacher. My oldest son had the opportunity to be with her when he was in preschool, and he went in her classroom without knowing very good Spanish. He was shy and scared, but she made him feel so comfortable just by being a caring, understanding, and respectful teacher. And now my youngest is in her class, and he loves her. I can honestly say she cares about her students and their families. We are super grateful for Mrs. Alicia.”

Salute to: Sam Battaglia - Student Services

Submitted by: Michelle Olson, Parent

“Sam has gone above and beyond to ensure the needs of our children are being met. She is an absolute delight to work with! She is smart and thorough, an excellent communicator, and has the fastest turnaround time of all! She has been there for our family, helping us navigate new territory, in ways I will never forget. She always prioritizes what is best for each of our children enrolled in the district. She is a true gift and I’m so thankful for her!”

Presentation

Building Goals

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, and Building Principals presented the district’s goals and action plans for the 25/26 school year, which is the final year of its current strategic plan. For this final year of the strategic plan, they are “all in” to achieve the goals by the spring of 2026. In MAP reading, the goal is to have 50% of students at or above the 50th percentile. After successfully meeting last year’s goal, the new target is for 60% of students to be at or above the 50th percentile in MAP math. In culture, the district aims for at least three of the five key areas on the 5Essentials Survey to be rated as “strong”.

Birth to Three is “All in” on literacy and will continue to support and promote an increase in reading, storytelling, and play time with the families. Preschool will continue to prepare 3-5 year olds in letters, sounds, and emotions to ensure achievement gaps are closed, and will also continue to support the five-year-olds in the transition to Kindergarten.

Following a successful pilot last year, all kindergarten through 5th-grade teachers will now implement Amplify, a comprehensive

literacy program that emphasizes comprehension, foundation skills, grammar, spelling, and morphology. In alignment with the “All In for Literacy” theme, every elementary school is adhering to the same action plan.

Leman will continue to focus on aligning their assessments to IAR. They will participate in a year-long writing PD across all content areas, continue to anchor their work in AVID WICOR strategies, and focus on the RACES writing framework. Finally, they will be embarking on a new literacy pilot, MyPerspectives.

To achieve the math goal, a plan has been developed to focus on several key strategies: professional development for teachers, encouraging meaningful conversations about math (known as "math talks"), aligning math vocabulary and learning models from Pre-K through elementary school, and supporting students as they work through challenging problems.

The action plans that guide the Culture Goals are tailored to support the specific needs of each district and building. Each building has developed strategies in response to the highest areas of need, as measured by responses to the 5 Essentials Survey.

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:

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| Approve Board Meeting Minutes | ... approve the board meeting minutes of August 21, 2025, and September 4, 2025; |
| Approve Contract Renewals | ...Approve the contract renewal with the following vendors: Brainpop, Themes and Variations, RoHealth, and Worldbook Online; |
| Approve Current Expenditures | ...approved the list of bills dated September 8, 2025, through September 19, 2025, in the amount of \$2,248,694.74; |
| Approve Current Payrolls | ...approved payrolls of August 15, 2025, in the amount of \$510,749.93; August 29, 2025, in the amount of \$358,069.92; |

Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes

...approved the disposition of audio tape of the Board of Education regular closed session dated March 7, 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:

0 Administration:

0 Certified:

6 Classified: Juanita Escamilla, Lunchroom Supervisor at Currier, effective September 3, 2025; Crystal Serrano, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective August 27, 2025; Diane Polich, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective September 15, 2025; Mason Polich, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective September 15, 2025; Berlyn Polich, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective September 19, 2025; Maria Silva, Lunchroom Supervisor at Wegner, effective September 19, 2025;

0 Resignations:

1 Transfer: Maria Perezchica, Nurse at Gary, effective September 8, 2025;

1 Retirement: Maria De Prado, Social Studies Teacher at LMS, effective end of 2025-2026 School Year.

On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Balgeman, Doyle, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. 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, \$108,379.00 in Early Childhood-PreK for All, \$138,158.00 in Early Childhood-PreK for All Expansion, and \$120,000.00 in Early Childhood-Prevention Initiative 0-3 since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Report

The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Budget Reports as of August 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 August 31, 2025.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

403b

The Board received information on changes to the 403b recommended by the consultants at TCG/HUB. The Board will review the information and vote at the October 2, 2025, board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS**2025 Final Budget**

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the official 2025-2026 school budget. Karen Apostoli also informed the Board that, starting next school year, the Public Hearing for the Final Budget will be held at the first September meeting, and the vote will take place at the second September meeting. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Doyle, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

INFORMATION ITEMS**1st Day Enrollment**

The Board received the 1st day enrollment data.

Constitution Day

The Board received information regarding Constitution Day.

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.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting

Sandra Garcia suggested that Spanish Classes be offered to parents in the district. Tiffany Posey shared that they are working with community partners to schedule classes.

Board Outreach

Several Board members and administrators attended their partnering schools' curriculum nights and the Pioneer picnic. Chad attended BPAC and the cross-country meet. Tom attended the first football game at Leman.

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 Banasiak, second by Hernandez, to go into closed session at 7:42 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. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Hernandez, Garcia, Denton, Doyle, McLean, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Roll Call

On roll call at 7:54 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Absentees: none.

Also Present

Kristina Davis, Superintendent, and Sarah Burnet, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to reconvene to open session at 8:03 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING

CLOSED SESSION

Approve Closed Session Minutes Motion by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve closed session minutes as read. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Tom Doyle