

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3rd Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
October 16, 2025

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m. at Currier Elementary School, 800 Gary's Mill Rd., West Chicago, Illinois. On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Rita Balgeman, Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mr. Tom Doyle, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, Mrs. Janette Hernandez, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Absent: None.

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.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Collective Bargaining was added to close session.

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 for conducting board work.

Board Secretary Tom Doyle shared his statement: “These reflections can give us an opportunity to share what we board members are proud of regarding our relationships with our partners and to share positive experiences in our kids’ lives. But tonight, as I reflect, I think sharing a reflection on our Shared Beliefs can sometimes be difficult because I feel we are so fortunate to have board members who commonly practice ALL of our shared beliefs. We are all pretty much on the same page in agreement that these beliefs are nonnegotiable and pretty much a no-brainer. In my 7 ½ years on this board, we have not had to revisit these shared agreements due to concerns, inconsistencies, or lack of commitment from each other. I feel we all demonstrate why we sought out this opportunity, why we embrace challenges, and why we commit to providing the best that we possibly can for all stakeholders. This team is very inquisitive, compassionate, responsible, and open-minded. We appreciate the background information from all parties, in all situations, so that we can be fair and just in helping make decisions that are “in the best interest”, not only for all students, but for the entire District 33 family. The manner in which this board operates and follows all of these shared beliefs makes me so proud. Although our outside lives, hinder us from different versions of shared leadership, when it comes to joining committees or attending events, we have not had to address concerns about respecting confidentiality or respecting each other, believing in our students and their future, coming together as a team of 8 people, questioning shared leadership and most importantly, putting ALL of our kids first. Our board members strive to adhere to these beliefs because we care and we love this community. We are proud and excited to continue the growth we have seen and been able to be a part of for so many years.”

RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE

PRESENTATION

Showcase

Currier School Showcase - Math Centers

Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Munoz presented on the different activities that take place around math centers. Every day, students participate in math centers. They start with a whole-group lesson, then break into small groups for math centers, and rotate through each center every 6-10 minutes. The rotation between centers helps them practice skills at their own level as they work toward grade-level proficiency and

beyond. Math interventionist Ms. Macias introduced several kindergarten students to demonstrate what takes place during math centers. Students broke into small groups with Board members, modeled and demonstrated what they do and what they have learned. Board members also received “Currier Cash” at the end.

Superintendent News

Currier’s Superintendent News - Strategic Plan in Action

The Superintendent News is to update the board and community on the many programs and activities occurring in the schools and departments, all aimed at helping us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

Goal #1: Strategy 1- Implementing Layered Intervention.

- Currier Literacy Board “Every Kid Reads and Writes, Every Day”
- Illustrates student responses to reading
- Includes special areas & self-contained classes
- Highlights content & language objectives

Goal #4: Strategy 6- PTO

- PTO is in year 3!
- The Trunk or Treat event will be on October 30th.

Goal #5: Strategy 7 Rebrand School Environment

This month, we made progress in:

- Culture- Currier safety plan developed and shared with staff and parents. The Principal Advisory Committee started on 10/15.
- Literacy - CHAMPS has been fully implemented in all classrooms. Introducing the S.T.A.R. technique at the October faculty meeting.
- Math - Posing purposeful questions during PD using accountable talk. Math PD series with built-in coaching cycles. PLC PDSA inquiry cycles incorporating writing into math using IAR proficiency scales.

Superintendent for the Day

Currier’s Superintendent for the Day

On Tuesday, October 13, 3rd-grade students, Elijah S., Yoleyis M., and Jayleen F. participated in Superintendent for the Day. The students visited several 4th- and 5th-grade classrooms to collect data on Safety. The students asked three different questions and provided feedback. “What does it mean to feel safe? Feeling comfortable and wanting to come to school; knowing what to do during drills; trusting adults and safety systems; feeling safe with teachers and classmates; and everyone following the rules.” “When do students feel less safe? Not knowing about drills, seeing someone get hurt on emergency vehicles, bullying situations, and crowded or noisy areas.” “How can you help each other to feel safe? Play with others and show kindness; be a buddy to new students; help and include others; split groups (big and little kids); and assign bus seats to reduce noise and arguments. Elijah also shared that he

learned that being a Superintendent means helping students feel safe and ensuring they are having fun while learning. Superintendent Davis explained the importance of this data and how the district will use it to help all students feel safe.

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: Adriana Medina - Wegner Elementary School

Submitted by: Perla Benitez, teacher

“Mrs. Medina always shows great dedication to evaluating students effectively. She designed the Kindergarten assessment sheet as well as the Avanza assessment sheet to monitor students’ progress on a weekly basis, just as we do in U-FLI. Throughout last year, she supported me in growing and improving as a teacher, and this year she continues to offer her unconditional help. She is always looking for ways to support not only me, but everyone—especially our students.”

Salute to: Jessica Porcayo - Leman Middle School

Submitted by: Geraldine Colorado

“I would like to recognize Jessica Porcayo, secretary at Leman Middle School. Jessica consistently goes above and beyond in all she does. She greets everyone with a warm smile, is always friendly and helpful, and takes the time to find answers and follow up to ensure nothing is overlooked. Her dedication, professionalism, and wonderful personality make a positive impact on our school community every day.”

Salute to: Michelle Hernandez - Pioneer Preschool

Submitted by: Carrie Jodelka, teacher

“Michelle is an amazing asset to our classroom and school! She is quick with a smile and a laugh. She works to build relationships with all of her students. She is a compassionate educator and ends each day with me by celebrating student improvements. I am so lucky to have her as a paraprofessional in my classroom and count myself lucky to work with such a committed educator and wonderful person.”

Presentation

Student Services 3-year Plan

Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services, presented the three-year road map for the Student Services Department. In the spring of 2025, she held listening sessions, and an internal special

education audit was conducted. Identified areas of focus included strengthening inclusive practices, building legal compliance expertise, enhancing data-driven decision-making, and developing consistent service delivery models. Based on the information, the Special Ed Committee developed three key areas (Special Education Procedures, Service Delivery, and Behavior Supports) that will be used for the 3-year plan. In each key area, the committee identified needs, listed next steps, and created year-by-year procedures. Work that has been done includes creating and sharing the PD calendar for special education staff, meeting with job-like groups, providing shared guidance on IEP procedures to promote consistency across the district, conducting sessions with attorneys on legally compliant IEPs, and providing support regarding updated ISBE changes.

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 September 18, 2025, and October 2, 2025;

Approve Current Expenditures

...approved the list of bills dated October 6, 2025, through October 17, 2025, in the amount of \$1,463,772.58;

Approve Current Payrolls

...approved payrolls of September 15, 2025, in the amount of \$1,841,118.46; September 30, 2025, in the amount of \$2,031,239.99;

Approve Imprest

...approved Imprest account from September 8, 2025, to October 8, 2025, in the amount of \$399.00;

Approve Disposition of Closed
Session Audio Tapes

...approved the disposition of audio tape of the Board of Education regular closed session dated March 21, 2024, and April 4, 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:

1 Classified: Bhupindar Mahna, Paraprofessional at Turner, effective October 16, 2025;

2 Resignations: Emmeline Gonzalez, Lunchroom Supervisor at Currier, effective September 30, 2025; John Wojnarowski, Courier at ESC, effective October 28, 2025;

0 Transfers:

1 Retirement: Esther Romo-Ortiz, Family Engagement Specialist at ELC, effective June 4, 2026.

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 \$85,433.00 in IDEA Flow Through, \$580.00 in IDEA PreK, \$682,719.00, in Title I Low Income, \$26,680.00 in Title II Teacher Quality, \$29,308.00 in Title III Immigrant Student Education Program IEP, \$35,710.00 in Title III Lang. Instruction Prog-LimiteEng LIPLP, \$11,636.00 in Title IV 21st Century Comm Learning Centers, and \$18,848.00 in Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrich since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Report

The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Budget Reports as of September 30, 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 September 30, 2025.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Independent Contractor Contract

The Board will review the contract with an independent contractor for speech-language pathologist services, and vote at the November 6, 2025, board meeting.

IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards) Resolutions 2025

The Board of Education reviewed the proposed amendment changes that will be acted upon at the delegate assembly during the Joint Conference on November 22, 2025. The Board will vote at the November 6, 2025, board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Copier Lease

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the renewal of the copier lease with Gordon Flesch Co. On roll call, the

following members voted aye: Banasiak, Hernandez, Denton, Balgeman, Garcia, Doyle, and McLean. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Equipment Disposal

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the following equipment disposal items: Leman Middle School: 4 teacher desks, 15 student desks, 1 microwave, 8 cabinets, 2 tables, 2 standing desks, 7 chairs, 8 stools, and 1 whiteboard. Currier School: 2 file cabinets, 1 paper cutter, 1 wheelchair, 2 bookshelves, 2 student desks, 1 art stand, 1 area rug, 4 student chairs, 1 metal stool, 2 book racks, 1 stand table, and 1 divider. Gary School: 4 carpets, 3 file cabinets, 3 buckets of table legs, 1 black tarp. Preschool: 4 large rolling garbage containers, 4 smaller garbage containers, 1 sensory table, 3 kitchen furniture play pieces, 1 practice steps, 1 light table, 2 small chairs, 1 easel, and 2 file cabinets. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Doyle, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

EEOC Settlement Agreement

Motioned by Doyle, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the settlement agreement with Daisy Castro Murillo. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Doyle, Hernandez, Garcia, McLean, Balgeman, Banasiak, and Denton. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Indigenous Peoples' Day

The Board received information regarding activities in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Transportation Update

Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, provided an update on the ongoing situation with IL Central. There has not been an improvement since the last update. IL Central is currently dealing with a personnel shortage. They lost their safety employee and a dispatch employee at the beginning of the year, and recently lost another dispatch employee. IL Central does not appear to have a handle on which routes are running, which are on time, or which have a driver "no show/no call." On average, 5 routes are 10 or more minutes late each morning. One particular special needs route has been experiencing constant issues, but several other routes have on/off problems as well. IL Central does try to use its drivers who are already in West Chicago, but some of those buses are not equipped to meet the special needs of some students. Karen has a tracking system that IL Central is not updating, but she still tracks information based on administrator feedback and messages. Karen also informed the Board that the district will begin implementing

the penalties outlined in the current contract with IL Central. Karen has also met with the Senior Administrators regarding the inconsistent communication and will meet with the President of IL Central. The President will monitor the sped route and continue to communicate with Karen. Recent legislation allows schools to renew or extend transportation contracts up to 10 years, if desired. 2026 marks the 10th year, and District 33 will go out to bid for transportation service in Spring 2026. The Here Comes the Bus app is still not working, and she is not sure when it will. Karen will provide the Board with an update at the next board meeting.

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 8 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

No suggested items at this time.

Board Outreach

No Board outreach at this time.

Parking Lot

Janette asked for posts on social media, specifically the Listening Posts, to also be shared in Spanish.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Open Comments

Rita reminded the Board of the upcoming Board Workshop on November 5th, and attendance is required.

CLOSED SESSION

Into Closed Session

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to go into closed session at 8:07 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. **(3)** Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their

representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Doyle, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None.

Roll Call

On roll call at 8:18 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Doyle, McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Absentees: none.

Also Present

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business & Operations; and Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 9:20 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 9:20 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Tom Doyle