



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
December 19, 2024, Board Briefs

Rita Balgeman, Board President
Morgan Banasiak, Board Vice President
Tom Doyle, Board Secretary
Chad McLean, Board Treasurer

Felicia Gills, Board Member
Sandra Garcia, Board Member
Janette Hernandez, Board Member

The Board of Education's regular meeting was held at Lemay Middle School on Thursday, December 19, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mr. Tom Doyle, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, and Mrs. Janette Hernandez were present. Absent: Mrs. Rita Balgeman and Mrs. Felicia Gills.

Changes or Additions

The Board voted Morgan Banasiak as President Pro Tem.
Close session was postponed to the January 9, 2025, board meeting.

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 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."

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 Lemay Middle School, was nominated by Joseph Ruddy, a Language Arts teacher at Lemay 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 & Patrick Jecmen, Senior Behavior Support Advisor, nominated by Mark Truckenbrod and Sara Gillmar, the administrative team at Wegner School.

Presentation - Strategic Management Overview

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the Strategic Management Pre-Survey information. 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.

Consent Agenda

The Board of Education conducted the following business on a consent agenda as follows:

- Approved the board meeting minutes of November 21, 2024, and December 5, 2024;
- Approved the list of bills dated December 9, 2024, through December 19, 2024, in the amount of \$671,723.89;
- 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.
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education’s 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;
- Approved the 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:

Financial Reports

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of November 30, 2024, along with the financial charts;
- 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.
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts for 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, presented to the Board the 1st Reading of Policies as follows: 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* - The Board voted 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.
- *Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC)* - The Board of Education voted 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.
- *Director/Assistant Director of Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations Job Description* - The Board of Education voted to approve the job posting criteria and title revisions for the marketing, communications, and public relations job.

- *2024 Property Tax Levy* - The Board voted to approve the Property Tax Levy.
- *Property Tax Abatement* - The Board voted to approve the Property Tax Abatement.

Information Items

The Board of Education received/reviewed/discussed the following informational items:

- BEST Program
- Technology Lifecycle Replacement Schedule
- Trimester 1 Academic Acolades
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Freedom of Information Report;
- Out of District placements;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- Student Chronic Absentee Report;
- Student Suspension Report;
- Truancy Referral Report;
- School Newsletters;
- Kristina Davis suggested that a book study starts in January.
- Chad McLean attended the Finance Committee meeting. Morgan Banasiak attended the Faculty Advisory Council meeting.
- Janette Hernandez suggested a Board Salute to Senator Karina Villa and Representative Maura Hirschauer for all the support they have provided to District 33. Updates will be provided regarding McAuley School and after-school programming to Senator Villa and Representative Hirschauer. 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 all of the playgrounds.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- Board members were provided with the committee update slideshow.
- No open comments at this time.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

Adjournment

The above review of action taken by the Board of Education at their regular meeting is provided in an attempt to keep you informed. If you have any questions regarding any of the information provided or wish to discuss any of the items, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Kristina Davis, Ed. S.

Kristina Davis,
Superintendent of Schools