



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33
Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
February 6, 2025, Board Briefs

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

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

The Board of Education's regular meeting was held at Gary Elementary School on Thursday, February 6, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

Rita Balgeman, Morgan Banasiak, Tom Doyle, Chad McLean, Sandra Garcia, and Jannette Hernandez were present. Felicia Gills was absent.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

No changes were made.

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.

Vice President Morgan Banasiak shared her statement: “Today, I would like to quickly discuss Shared Agreement 1, ‘Make decisions according to what is best for all District 33 students.’ I would like to talk particularly about safety. Safety is just one area we have to consider for our students to help them with their education. We want all of our students to feel safe so that they can concentrate on their education.

Over the last four years, we have made multiple decisions to address safety issues in our schools. We continue to set up drills for different scenarios, such as tornado, fire, and active shooter, so the children know what to do in these situations and things can be done quickly and efficiently. We have added a Relocation Drill that parents and other community members have participated in, and this has encouraged others to follow suit. A few years ago, we added Blue Point to our school's security. This allows the police and administration to know what is going on if someone unauthorized enters a building and we have added more cameras to fix any blind spots. We recently discussed adding better cameras to the door areas to make the system better. All doors are locked during school hours and only authorized individuals are admitted into the buildings.

We added a second SRO to better serve all the schools in the district, help with education regarding drugs, etc., and cover times when we see increased incidents of trouble.

The district has policies to help protect its children from bullying, fighting, drugs, and weapons. This board has taken any incident involving these issues very seriously. Decisions have involved further education for the students, suspensions, expulsions, and law enforcement when necessary.

We like to consider District 33 buildings one of the safest places for our children to be in this community. We will continue to address any safety issues that come to our attention. We want every child to be comfortable and ready to learn. A good education sets the stage for each child’s future, and we want to see everyone soar.”

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Gary School Superintendent for the Day

On January 29, 2025, students Julieta D., Izzy C. Joshimar, and Alan A. were superintendents for the Day at Gary School. The 3rd grade lead teacher, Mrs. Larson, provided highlights of the day. The students started the day with healthy snacks, wrote on their notebooks, and reviewed freckle goals and growth. The students visited the 3rd-grade classes and explained the purpose of their visit. They praised Mrs. Jirove, Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Meyer, and Ms. Swierenga for their great work. They also shared what they learned about being a Superintendent and what they would like to keep or change. Izzy shared, “When Mrs. Davis came to visit I learned that she is a superintendent and she oversees all the schools in D33. She has two dogs and two children.” Julieta shared, “One thing that I liked about the day was that we got to go to the classrooms and ask questions about Math Goals in Freckle.” Alan shared, “One thing that I love about Gary School and would like to keep forever is all of the events and Clubs.” and Joshimar shared, “In third grade, the teachers have been teaching about tornados and hurricanes. I liked that we saw a live-action tornado.”

Gary School Showcase

Mrs Cruz, lead specials teacher, presented the Parent Involvement Group to the board. As a team, special teachers, Mrs. Cruz, music teacher; Mr. Heidron, PE teacher; Ms. Nelson, Library teacher; Ms. Walker, art teacher; and Ms. Christodoulou, SEL/Health

teacher, developed a SMARTGoal around family involvement and developed a plan that aligned with the District Goals. Music and Library developed events and activities to involve school and community families. SEL and PE teachers brought family members who co-taught things like team building and learning about cultures worldwide. The art department helped prepare materials for the Tiny Art Show and the District's Art Show. PTO parents (Megan W., Karla T., Diana F., Sam R., and Amy O.) spoke on the importance of involvement in the school and different events. Mrs. O'Brien shared the joy of being on the PTO since her oldest was in Kinder (now a senior at WCCHS), being able to have her dad participate in Veteran's Day, and her mom (retired teacher) volunteer to read in different classrooms. Board Member Sandra Garica thanked the PTO parents for all the time and dedication they provide each year. A volunteer board was also displayed so board members and administrators could see different pictures of various events.

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: Senator Karina Villa

Submitted by: The Board of Education and Administration

"On behalf of the Board and administration, we salute State Senator Karina Villa for her unwavering commitment to our schools. Over the past decade, Senator Villa has served in our community in numerous capacities, with our students and families always at the forefront of her mind. In 2018, while serving as our state representative, Senator Villa secured over a million dollars to renovate all of our playgrounds. To honor her contribution, we will be installing plaques at each playground recognizing the children and families of West Chicago. Most recently, Senator Villa was instrumental in acquiring \$925,000 in funding to restore McAuley School in order to increase access to educational programming for our families. McAuley School was formerly part of District 27 and the last fully functioning one-room schoolhouse in Illinois. In 1982, the school was added to the National Registry of Historic Places and annexed to West Chicago in 1992. It was then that District 33 acquired the land to be used for educational and community purposes. For many years, McAuley sat vacant while the district rented space throughout the community to provide educational programming to families in our early childhood program. Due to Senator Villa's efforts, we are excited to announce the restoration timeline of McAuley School, which will become an Early Childhood Family and Community Education Center. We are incredibly grateful for State Senator Villa's advocacy and proudly salute her tonight."

Salute to: State Representative Maura Hirschauer

Submitted by: The Board of Education and Administration Board Salutes State

"On behalf of the Board and administration, we salute State Representative Maura Hirschauer for her tremendous support in expanding extracurriculars, clubs, and sports activities for District 33 students. After-school programs are vital in supporting students' social, emotional, and academic development. Further, they reduce adverse behaviors, promote physical health, and provide children with a safe and supportive

environment. Through State Representative Hirschauer's advocacy, District 33 received \$500,000 in financial support to expand its after-school programming with additional staffing for academic support, sports equipment such as basketball nets and soccer goals, and new uniforms. This has not only expanded programming but instilled pride in our students who participate in these programs. In addition, this funding has made it possible for the District to begin planning for a soccer and football field, which will further expand programming for its students. State Representative Maura Hirshauer, we thank you for your support of our school community."

Salute to: Ms. Yunaisy Siverio, Paraprofessional, Gary School

Submitted by: Lilla Brandt and Viannett Caballero, Teachers, Gary School

We want to recognize Ms. Yunaisy Siverio's dedication to District 33 and Gary's students. As a paraprofessional, she consistently goes above and beyond to support students with their specific needs and build meaningful relationships with them that motivate them to do their best. In addition to her unwavering support for the students, she is a colleague everyone can count on. She always has something to give to others, whether it's a helping hand, a word of encouragement, or a joke to make you laugh. In Miss Brandt's fourth-grade classroom, the students greet her excitedly when she enters every single day. At any given time, Yuni supports up to five students with their classwork, helping them shine with their strengths and strategically supporting their areas for growth. As one fourth grader who has known her since Kindergarten says: "I learned to read from Miss Yuni. Reading is very important." She has a truly special ability to make a lasting impact on all of the students she works with. In Miss Caballero's classroom, the students look forward to seeing Miss Yuni and know they can ask for help with all kinds of tasks. Yuni has created a relationship with all students, but with one student in particular, she has a great bond, and this student looks for her when he struggles to get regulated. Miss Yuni is his comfort, and he always greets her with a big smile. Our classes are thankful for the endless amount of support she has provided academically and emotionally. She deserves to be recognized for her hard work and dedication to the students, staff, and families of Gary Elementary.

Presentation - Summer 2025 Work

George Demarakis from Arcan presented Summer Work 2025. This summer, Leman, Turner, and Pioneer will have work done in their parking lot areas. Pioneer School will have inside work to update the cubbies so younger students can use them more easily. The front entrance will receive an upgrade along with the bus lane to help control traffic. Work will resume at McAuley School. In the fall, phase one was completed, which involved rehabilitating the existing roof and making the building watertight. They also remove all interior surfaces that require environmental demolition to allow for new construction. Phase two will take place this summer and will include working with historic preservation contractors to finish all exterior work, including siding, windows, roofing, fascia, railings, etc. Phase three will take place this fall and will include bringing all utilities (water, gas, sanitary, and electricity) to the site. Phase four will also take place in the fall. They will focus on a new parking lot and asphalt drive onto the property regarding surroundings, providing onsite lighting, and rehabilitating the first floor and basement. Work is expected to be completed in September and will be used for the Birth to Three program.

The Leman Middle School Soccer/Football field will be renovated this summer. Work will include repairing the existing field and building a new field with a long jump pit,

storage building, and perimeter fence. The new field will also include the Lemay logo and the proper markings for soccer and football games.

Presentation - Department goals

Three times a year, district administrators present their department plans and goals. Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, led the presentation with information on the current District 33 scorecard of each Strategic Goal. The current Strategic Goal will end in June 2026, and plans for the new Strategic Plan have begun. Each department has been working together to gather information. Links are available on the district website for the summit designation, strategic plan, and goals updates. Each department has created three goals and plans, to align with the strategic goals. The teaching and learning plan on a page focuses on Goals 1 (Student Growth and Achievement) and Goal 2 (Learning Culture of Equity Engagement and Agency). Their goals will focus on student growth and achievement, a learning culture of equity, engagement, agency, and effective leaders. Student Services also falls under Goals 1 and 2. The special education staff are working to ensure all students meet rigorous academic goals and are constantly searching for new tools and strategies to meet our struggling students. Human Resources focuses on Goal 3 (Professional Culture of Teamwork and Continuous Improvement). The focus goals are collaborative Teachers, ambitious instruction, and effective leaders. Communications and Community Relations and Partnerships departments focus on Goal 4 (Family Engagement and Community Partnerships). Their goals and plans include building strong relationships with families and the community, a new district website, welcome folders to be given to new families, streamlined attendance codes, and much more. Business and Operations focuses on Goal 5 (Effective and Innovative Use of Resources). The business department goals provide a commitment to a more collaborative approach in the budget-building process and more transparency about the district's finances. Facilities and Grounds also focuses on Goal 5. They will soon meet with the Facilities Committee to review the priority list for summer 2026 construction. School Safety is their top priority, and they have developed an in-house monthly safety meeting and audit for each building. Technology will also focus on Goal 5. The Technology Steering Committee has finalized and published a District 33 Artificial Intelligence guideline, and staff training will begin soon. The Tech Titans club has been training to perform in-house repairs on student devices, exposing them to a possible career path in Information Technology. Overall, the pulse survey results show improvements in several areas. Building principals will share their goals and plans at the February 20, 2025 board meeting.

E.T.A.W.C. Statement

No E.T.A.W.C. statement at this time.

Public Comment

No public statement at this time.

Superintendent News - Gary Elementary School

The Superintendent News is to update the board and community on some of the many programs and activities occurring in the schools and the departments determined to help us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

Goal #1: Student Growth and Achievement

Ensure all students meet challenging academic, physical, and social-emotional standards.

Over the last two and a half years, Gary School has built capacity in their school teams to understand the achievement gap and analyze data to identify groups of students who are growing and learning, but not at a pace that will allow them to close the achievement gap.

School Teams

BLT
PLCs
PBIS
Specials Team

School Improvement Plan Goal

12% more students at the 50th percentile for ELA and 6% more students at the 50th percentile in Math

Focus Areas

Oracy and Guided Math

Strategies

TPR
Cooperative Learning
Sentence Stems
Collaboration Rounds
Frayer Model
Accountable Talk
Effective Feedback

Data Monitoring

Benchmark MAP Testing
Growth Focus
Closing the Achievement Gap
CGI
Target Group 1
Target Group 2
Action Plans

Consent Agenda

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

- Approved the list of bills dated January 27, 2025, through February 6, 2025, in the amount of \$280,190.60;

- Approve the current imprest list from December 31, 2024, to January 31, 2025, in the amount of \$300;
- Approved the personnel report;
 - 0 Administration:
 - 2 Certified: Lucy Toledo, Dual Language Teacher at Gary, effective February 1, 2025; Tonya Bontrager, School Psychologist at Pioneer Preschool, effective 2025-2026 School Year;
 - 2 Classified: Eva Barajas, Paraprofessional at Pioneer Preschool, effective February 1, 2025; Irma Gutierrez, Paraprofessional at Indian Knoll, effective February 1, 2025;
 - 1 Resignations: Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services at ESC, effective June 30, 2025;
 - 0 Retirements:
 - 1 Leave:

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- Finance/Facilities Special Ed - Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, reported that the district has received \$44,696.79 in Private Facility Tuition; \$2,075.75 in State Free Lunch & Breakfast; \$172,137.06 in Transportation - Regular & Vocational; \$155,981.63 in Transportation - Special Education; \$101,704.00 in IDEA Flow Through; \$3,629.00 in IDEA PreK; \$169,477.64 in National School Lunch Program; \$63,842.98 in School Breakfast Program; \$47,818.00 in Stronger Connections; \$81,774.00 in Title I Low Income; \$16,606.00 in Title II Teacher Quality; \$62,308.00 in Title III Lang Inst Prog-Limite Eng LIPLEP; \$31,141.00 in Title IV - 21st Century Comm Learning Centers; \$12,406.00 in Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrich; and \$958.00 Other Federal Programs since the last board meeting.
- Staffing Proposal - The Board received information about adding five reading interventionists (one at each elementary school). The Board will review the information and vote at the February 20, 2025, board meeting.
- Staff/Student iPads and Staff Laptops - The board received the technology lifecycle replacement plan and recommendation to lease new iPads for students and teachers and replace all certified staff laptops with MacBooks. The Board will review the information and vote at the February 20, 2025, board meeting.

Action Items

- Administrator Benefits -The Board voted to approve the revised Administrator Benefits Package. The revised package reflects revisions on vacation days to become use it or lose it, vacation rollovers to be eliminated, retirement stipends, and insurance for retirees up to age 65.
- Family Liaison Compensation - The Board voted to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Support Staff Association leadership, stating that newly employed Family Liaison and Family Engagement Specialist will be paid a starting salary of \$35 per hour. No current Family Liaison or Family Engagement Specialist will be paid less than \$35.50 per hour, effective January 1, 2025.
- New security camera software - The Board voted to approve upgrading the surveillance system software (IPVMS).

- Stipend/Extra Duty Compensation - The Board voted to approve an updated schedule for stipend and extra duty payments, which will be three times per year, with the exception of internal substituting, Beyond the Bell, and the Personal Care Differential Stipend for SSA members. Additionally, SSA members who complete extra duties/stipends for the ETAWC Appendix C will receive a \$100 bonus with each of the three(3) trimester payments.

Information Items

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

- Board Book Study
- IASB Presentation Topic Proposals
- Online Registration/Kinder Registration
- Most current postings of available job positions are in School District 33.
- Kristina Davis shared the date for the next Dupage Division Meeting, where boards will receive the Board Governance Recognition.
- No Board outreach at this time.
- No new items for the Parking lot.

Report of District Committee Meetings.

- 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

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