



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
January 23, 2025, 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 Currier Elementary School on
Thursday, January 23, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Changes or Additions

APPL presentation was postponed.

An addition of Security and Safety was made to close session.

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 President Rita Balgeman shared her statement: “As I was reading through our book study book for tonight, what resonated with me was the idea that fostering greater community engagement leads to more successful outcomes for our students. In our strategic plan, we have a goal: “to collaborate and communicate with our families and community to build strong relationships and increase equitable opportunities that help students and families thrive.” We have been working on growing community engagement for as long as I can recall. Our presentation at the conference this past November showcased a lot of the work that we’ve put into growing community engagement - through our community school model that provides support and resources for our families and also brings them into our schools through seminars and classes and through the Get Involved D33 initiative where we encourage, measure, and recognize the families that are engaging in our schools.

The book makes the point, though, that it’s not just about engaging families that are in our schools but also about engaging the broader community, most of whom do not have kids in our school. And it’s through telling our story to everyone that we ultimately bring in more support and more opportunities for our students. As a board, we are dedicated to doing the best we can for all students, and to me, this is one more way we can help do that.

I am looking forward to the plans that come out of this book study to see how we can better tell our story to our community.

I’d also like to note that, as a board, we have been committed to being accessible to the community. To that end, we held our first board listening post tonight, before the meeting, where Sandra and I were available to listen to any community members who wanted to share their thoughts with us. While no one came to talk to us tonight, our next listening post is at our next meeting at Gary in early February, and I’m hoping to listen to more community members at that meeting.”

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Recognition - Currier Superintendent for the Day

On January 17, 2025, students Daniel M.T., Alexander C.R., and Anthony M. were superintendents for the Day at Currier School. The students met with Mrs. Davis, toured the school, and observed several classrooms. Anthony could not attend but was looking forward to tonight's meeting. Each student had a question to learn about and shared what they learned. Superintendent Davis thanked the students and their parents and congratulated them on their amazing work.

Currier School Showcase - Using Math Talks to Increase Oracy and Fluency

5th grade teachers Ms. Jessica Wanzung and Ms. Stephanie Spoerl and their students Joey B., Ximena S., Emiliano M., Leonardo A., Bianca R., and Francisco V. presented “Math Talks.” Math Talks are daily class rituals to develop conceptual understanding and efficiency with numbers, operations, and mathematics in 5-10 minutes. Depending on the lesson plan, math talks review and practice procedure concepts, introduce concepts and properties about numbers, reinforce procedural fluency and number concepts, and explore mathematical connections and relationships. The students partnered with Board members and administrations to illustrate how they build their oracy and fluency through a Math Talk called “Number of the Day.” Each group collaborated on getting to the number 16 and shared the different findings.

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: Lisa Burger, Teacher, Wegner School

Submitted by: Dell Agha Sultani, Parent, Wegner School

“Mrs. Burger truly goes above and beyond; she creates a positive impact on students, staff, and the entire district community at Wegner School. She supports all students and lends a hand throughout the school—whether in the hallway or during student pickup. Mrs. Burger handles every interaction with care, even in challenging situations. We are incredibly fortunate to have her at Wegner School.”

Salute to: Julie Garcia, Teacher, Wegner School

Submitted by: Dell Agha Sultani, Parent, Wegner School

“Mrs. Julie truly goes above and beyond for all students at Wegner School. As a second-grade teacher, she supports her students and is very active with parents communicating via Parent Square. She also lends a hand throughout the school—whether in the hallway or during recess. Mrs. Julie handles every interaction with care, even in challenging situations. We are incredibly fortunate to have her at Wegner School.”

E.T.A.W.C. Statement

Deb Taylor, E.T.A.W.C. President, shared a statement. “Throughout the last several months, ETAWC and District 33 admin have held many important dialogues, working together to improve the D33 experience for all stakeholders. A recurring theme in these dialogues has been the overwhelming nature of the teaching profession and ways in which administration can support teachers as we work with our students and community. In recent weeks, administrative decisions have been made that have left teachers feeling heard and validated. Chief among these decisions are the reduced hours of time in meetings outside of the contractual day, being expected from our new staff members and the autonomy to work independently or to collaborate with colleagues as desired if the district were to utilize a remote learning day. ETAWC would like to thank the administration for making these decisions, which allow teachers more personal time after their contractual day ends and provide us the opportunity to work and to make decisions as the educational professionals that we are. ETAWC appreciates that these decisions recognize that our time is valuable and respected. We hope that district administration and ETAWC can continue to hold open and honest dialogues that lead to a stronger educational experience for the students, staff members, and community of District 33.”

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Superintendent News - Currier 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

Strategy #1: They will implement a consistent, multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) across all ages and groups, promoting the holistic development of every student academically, physically, and social-emotionally.

They have implemented the Accountable Talk strategy school-wide to align with the district's focus area of oracy. Accountable Talk structures the art of conversation to increase students' social and academic discourse.

- ❖ Each classroom references and uses agreed-upon rules for conversation.
- ❖ Students in grades K-5 are working towards having meaningful conversations without ongoing mediation from the teacher.
- ❖ Currier teachers have participated in peer observations to get ideas for their own implementation of this strategy.
- ❖ They hope to see an increase in the speaking scores on ACCESS and the writing components of IAR by using this approach.

Goal #4: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships

Strategy #6: They will foster community partnerships in order to minimize non-academic barriers, engage families, and provide experiential opportunities for students.

Our PTO has seen growth in its membership and community outreach.

- ❖ They had two well-attended successful community events (Trunk or Treat in October & Winter Fest in December).
- ❖ Over 200 people attended the Winter Fest and raised nearly \$1000!
- ❖ We also took 3rd place in the Frosty Fest Window decorating contest and earned \$100 for our school.
- ❖ The next charge will be to plan math and literacy night. They hope to see you at Currier for one of the upcoming events.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approved the board meeting minutes of December 19, 2024;
- Approved the list of bills dated January 13, 2025, through January 23, 2025, in the amount of \$1,270,320.20;
- Approved payrolls of December 13, 2024, in the amount of \$1,839,579.78, and December 20, 2024, in the amount of \$2,083,063.92;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education's regular closed session dated June 1, 2023, June 15, 2023, and July 18, 2023. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report;
 - 1 Administration: Nicole Eimer, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations at ESC, effective February 10, 2025;
 - 0 Certified:
 - 0 Classified:
 - 4 Resignations: Wilhelmina Asis-McNelis, Science Teacher at LMS, effective December 20, 2024; Jatin Radadiya, Nurse (Floater) at IK, effective January 31,

2025; Alyssa Parisi, Grants Specialist at ESC, effective January 31, 2025; and Irma Rivera, Clerical Aide at IK, effective January 20, 2025;

0 Leaves:

0 Retirements:

Financial Reports

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of December 31, 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 since the last meeting.
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts for December 31, 2024.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Administrator Benefits Package* - The Board received a 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. The board will review the information and vote at the board meeting on February 6, 2025.
- *Family Liaison Compensation* - The Board received 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. The board will review the information and vote at the February 6, 2025, board meeting.
- *New Security Camera Software* - The Board received information for upgrading the surveillance system software (IPVMS). The board will review the information and vote at the January 9, 2025, board meeting.
- *Stipend/Extra Duty Compensation* - The Board received 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. The board will review the information and vote at the February 6, 2025, board meeting.

Action Items

- *2025/2026 Student Fees*- The Board voted to approve the 2025-2026 student fees to remain at \$50 K-8 Technology Fee and updated the sports fee to a \$50 one-time fee for unlimited sports for the 25/26 school year.
- *Middle School Soccer/Football Field* - The Board of Education voted to approve the grass soccer/football field at Lemay Middle School.

Information Items

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

- Board Book Study;
- County-Wide Institute Day;
- Martin Luther King Recognition;
- Staff Efficiency;
- Wegner Principal Search;
- 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;
- Vandalism Report;
- There are no suggested items for the next board meeting.
- No Board outreach at this time.
- No new items for the Parking lot.

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

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